

Kritikos Syrtós
(also known as Cretean Syrto or Georgi's Cretean Syrto)
Crete, Greece

Pronunciation: KRI-ti-kos Syr-TOs

Source: Georgi Papadapolis , restaurateur and dancer of Santa Barbara, CA

Music: Any good Syrto from Crete will do. My favorite is Festival 3506 or Haniotikos Syrto (epcon.gr)

Rhythm: 4/4; The first three measures are danced as Slow, quick, quick, in typical Syrto rhythm. When there is no step on a count, there is a lift on the supporting foot; this lift is usually syncopated on ct 1&. This helps the feel of the dance to be very happy, vertical, and lively and with very precise footwork.

Formation: Mixed Line, arms up in W position; leader on right end of line. Variations are called to their liking by the leader.

Meas. Pattern

Basic Step

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|---|---|
| 1 | With weight on Right foot, brush left foot forward (ct1), left foot continues ...
Slight lift on Right foot (ct 2) as left continues to circle to end up behind right foot.
Step Left behind Right (ct 3). Step Right to right side (ct 4). |
| 2 | Continuing to the right, Step Left across in front of right (ct 1 & 2).
Step Right to right side almost leaving Left foot in place (rocking to right) (ct 3). Step Left to left (rocking back to left) - basically where it was on count 1 (ct 4). |
| 3 | Step across left with Right foot (ct 1 & 2). Step back on Left foot (ct 3).
Step Right next to left (ct 4). |
| 4 | Step Left across right foot (ct 1 & 2). Step Right across left foot (ct 3 & 4). |

Variations are called by the leader as they choose. There is no 'prescribed order' or specified time to do these. All variations begin in the same first measure as the Basic Step.

Me'sa (into/within) pronounced as in English 'mesa'

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|---|---|
| 1 | No change to measure1, do as in Basic step. |
| 2 | Moving into the center of the circle, walk Left (ct 1 & 2). Right (ct 3). Left (ct 4). |
| 3 | Step Right foot into center (ct 1 & 2). Moving out (backing out) of center step
Left back (ct 3), and Right back (ct 4). |
| 4 | No change to measure 4 of basic, cross Left and Right. |

Kritikos Syrtós, cont.

Variations, cont.

Striza (twisted) pronounced STREE- tza

- 1-3 Same as Me'sa above for first 3 measures
- 4 Step across Right foot with Left to start a counterclockwise solo tum (letting go of hands; pivoting on supporting foot is necessary) (ct 1 &2); Continue turning, step Right (pivoting) to face center again (ct 3 & 4).

Psalidi or Psalidios (scissors) pronounced Sah-LEE-dee-os

- 1-4 Same as Basic step
- 5 Repeat measure 4 - continue crossing, stepping Left and Right again.