

SIRTO

Source: This Bulgarian-Macedonian dance exhibits similarities with the Greek Syrto, both in structure of the basic dance pattern and its name. This couple version is from Pirun. It was learned by Jaap Leegwater from dancers of the Pirun State Ensemble in 1975. They originally learned it from their first director and folklore researcher, Kostadin Rujcev. The first melody is from the song to which the dance was originally performed:

Sleznal Pavle ot Balkana or Pavle Came Down from the Balkan mountains.

Rhythm: 7/8 (123 12 12 or 1 23) *Description by:* Jaap Leegwater, 1985 *Introduction:* 10 measures

Style: Macedonian or Pirinski - very light and high on the ball of the foot. There is a slight lift on the ball of the foot before the first step of each measure (basic step). Vertical bouncy character.

Formation: Single circle of couples. The one at the right (in front of LOD) is #1. The couple at the left is #2.

<u>Measures</u>	<u>Counts</u>	<u>PART ONE - Sleznal Pavle</u>
1	1	Facing and moving in LOD, lift on L foot followed by a step on R foot
	2, 3	Step on L foot; Step on R foot
2	1	Lift on R foot followed by a step on L foot
	2, 3	Step on R foot; Step on L foot
3		Keep facing LOD, moving BKWD repeating footwork of measure 1
4	1	Keep facing LOD, step on L foot SDWD R
	2, 3	Step on R foot in front of L foot; Step back on L foot in place
5-7		REPEAT action of measures 1-3
8		Basic step as in measure 2 - couple #1 leads his partner w/his R hand to his L side, partners keep holding hands in front
9-12		REPEAT action of measures 1-4, changing from holding the outside hands in front to holding inside hands (W position) on measure 12
13-16		REPEAT action of measures 1-4, closing the single circle (partners have changed positions in the circle - couple #1 becomes #2 and visa versa)
		<u>PART TWO - Ajdè Ajdè</u>
1	1	Facing center, moving slightly diagonally L FWD, step on R foot
	2, 3	Step on L foot; Step on R foot
2	1	Facing center, moving slightly diagonally R FWD, step on L foot
	2, 3	Step on R foot; Step on L foot in front of R foot
3	1	Facing center, moving BKWD, lift on L foot, followed by a step on R foot BKWD
	2	Momentary pull arms back by slightly bending the elbows and swing them down (arms straight), step on L foot, swinging arms BKWD low
	3	Step on R foot, swinging arms FWD low
4	1	Step on L foot, swinging arms BKWD low
	2	Step on R foot, swinging arms low
	3	Step on L foot, swing arms FWD low
5-8		REPEAT action of measures 1-4

PART THREE (next page)



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PART THREE

- 1-2 Hold hands in W-position, facing and moving toward center, REPEAT footwork of measures 1-2 of PART 1
- 3 1 Lift on L foot, followed by a small step on R foot SDWD R
 2 Step on L foot, across in front of R foot
 3 Step back on R foot in place
- 4 1-3 Make a full CCW turn in place with a basic step, starting with a lift on R foot
- 5-8 Keep facing center, now moving straight BKWD, REPEATING footwork of measures 1-4
- 9-16 REPEAT action of measures 1-8

REPEAT the dance three more times from the beginning, alternating #1 and #2 roles

LAST CHORD - both feet together, slightly bend both knees