

ITIK-ITIK

(Visayan)

Philippines

This dance originated from a dance called Sibay which was performed to the tune of *Dejado*. The present form got its name in the following manner:

In one baptismal party in Carmen, Lanuza, Surigao, a young lady called Kanang, (nickname for Cayetana) who was considered the best dancer and singer of her time, was asked to dance the Sibay. She became so enthusiastic and spirited during the performance that she began to improvise movements and steps similar to the movements of ducks as they walk with choppy, short steps and when they splash water over their backs while calling their mates.

The people around who saw her dance liked it so much they all imitated her. The dance has since been called *Itik-Itik* from the word *Itik*, which means duck.

This dance is now very popular among the Visayan settlers of the province of Surigao, especially in the towns of Cantilan, Lanuza, and Carrascal. It is usually performed as a ballroom dance in social gatherings. There are many variations of *Itik-Itik* steps from which the dancers make their selection and combinations.

The description below is for classwork or for demonstration.

COSTUME. Girls wear *patadyong* or *balintawak*, and boys wear *barong tagalog* or *camisa de chino* and white pants.

MUSIC is composed of two parts: A and B.

COUNT one, two, three to a measure.

FORMATION. If performed as a ballroom dance, couples are scattered around about six feet apart, girl at right side of partner when facing audience or front. One to any number of pairs may take part in this dance.

ITIK-ITIK STEPS USED:

No. 1. **STEP, BALL-CLOSE, BALL-CLOSE.** Counts 1, 2, 3, and.

Step L(R) forward (ct. 1), raise heel of L(R) foot and slide R(L) close to L(R) in fifth or third position in rear (ct. 2), small step forward on ball of L (R) foot (ct. 3) and slide R (L) close to L (R) in third position in rear (ct. and). This step is done with one foot leading, going forward.

No. 2. **HEEL, CLOSE-BALL, CLOSE.** Counts 1, 2, and, 3.

Step L(R) heel forward (ct. 1), slide R(L) close to L(R) in fifth or third position in rear (ct. 2), small step forward with ball of L(R) foot (ct. and), slide R(L) close to L(R) in fifth or third position in rear (ct. 3). This is done with one foot leading, going forward.

No. 4. **STEP, SLIDE-CLOSE, SLIDE-CLOSE.** Counts 1, 2, 3.

Small step R(L) forward (ct. 1), twist trunk slightly to right (left) side, bring L(R) foot in fourth in front and slide backward with ball of same foot and simultaneously with a spring slide R(L) forward to close with L(R) in first position (ct. 2), repeat ct. 2 (ct. 3). The L(R) foot bears no weight on cts. 2, 3. This step is done with alternate foot, going to any direction.

No. 5. **CROSS-STEP, SLIDE-CLOSE- SLIDE-CLOSE.** Counts 1, 2, 3. Same as No. 4 except that the step on ct. 1 is done across the other foot in front.

No. 6. **CROSS-STEP, SLIDE-CLOSE, CROSS-STEP, SLIDE-CLOSE, CROSS-STEP.** Counts 1, and 2, and 3.

Step R(L) across L(R) in front (ct. 1), slide with ball of L(R) foot close to heel of R(L) foot (ct. and), short slide or small step with R(L) foot sideward left (right) across L(R) in front (ct. 2), repeat ct. and, (ct. and), short slide or small step with R(L) foot sideward left (right) across L(R) in front (ct. 3).

Note: The numbering of the steps in the *Fundamental Steps and Music* is followed. *Itik-Itik* step No. 3 is not used in this dance.

Continued...

Introduction

Music Introduction.

- Partners face front.
- Bow to audience. Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 1 M

- I -

Music A.

Partners face right so that L shoulders are toward front.

- (a) With R foot leading, take seven Itik-Itik steps No. 1 moving forward. Arms sideward at shoulder level, moving up and down as if flying, at every measure. Bend trunk slightly forward on ct. 1 and straighten on cts. 2, 3 of every measure. 7 M
- (b) Step R foot in place (ct. 1), pause (cts. 2, 3). Lower arms down at sides. 1 M
- (c) Face left about. With L foot leading, repeat (a) and (b), going to proper places. 8 M

- II -

Music B.

Partners face front.

- (a) Starting with inside foot (L for girl and R for boy), take seven Itik-Itik steps No. 2 to partner's place, girl passing in front of boy. Arms are bent forward with elbows at shoulder level, fists slightly closed and near each other. Move elbows up and down as if flapping wings at every measure. Move trunk as in figure I (a). 7 M
- (b) Step in place with outside foot (now) (ct. 1), pause (cts. 2, 3). Arms at sides. 1 M
- (c) Repeat (a) and (b), finishing in proper places. 8 M

- III -

Music A.

Partners face each other.

- (a) With R foot leading, take four Itik-Itik steps No. 1 to form one line at center, girl in front of partner, both facing front. Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 4 M
- (b) Join both hands, R hand of girl with R of boy, and L hand with L hand of the boy. The boy's hands are under the girl's hands. Palms of partners are together.
- With R foot leading, take three Itik-Itik steps No. 2 moving sideward right. Move trunk as in figure I (a). Raise L arms high. 3 M
- (c) Step R foot sideward (ct. 1), point L obliquely forward left (cts. 2, 3). Reverse position of arms (R arms high). 1 M
- (d) Repeat (b) and (c), starting with L foot, moving sideward left. R arms high in (b) and reverse position in (c). 4 M
- Drop hands. Face toward direction of proper places. 4 M
- (e) Repeat (a), going to proper places. 4 M

- IV -

Music B.

Partners face each other.

- (a) Starting with R foot, take two waltz steps forward to meet at center. Arms in lateral position, moving sideward right and left, fingers fluttering. 2 M
- (b) Hold in open ballroom dance position, stretched arms toward the front and both facing front. 2 M
- (c) Girl starts with R and boy with L foot. Take three Itik-Itik steps No. 2 moving toward front. 3 M
- (d) Step forward, R of girl and L of boy (ct. 1), face opposite direction without changing position of hands and point forward with free foot (cts. 2, 3). On cts. 2, 3 stretched arms are raised at head level. 1 M
- (e) Repeat (c) and (d) starting with other foot, moving away from front. Lower stretched arms in (d) 4 M

continued...

Release hold, partners face front.

- (f) Starting with outside foot, take one *Itik-Itik* step No. 1 (cts. 1, 2, 3).
Three-step turn outward (cts. 1, 2, 3). Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 2 M
- (g) Repeat (f) starting with inside foot. Reverse turn. 2 M
- Boy immediately transfers weight to L foot after the last count.

— V —

Music A.

Partners face front. As the following steps are being done partners are moving little by little forward.

- (a) Take eight *Itik-Itik* steps No. 6, R and L foot across in front alternately. R arm in reverse "T" position and back of L hand supporting R elbow when R foot is across in front; reverse position of hands when L foot is across in front. ... 8 M

- (b) Starting with R foot, take four step-point steps moving backward to proper places. Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 4 M

Partners face each other.

- (c) Execute four waltz steps sideward, R and L alternately. Arms in lateral position, moving sideward right and left alternately, fingers fluttering. ... 4 M

— VI —

Music B.

- Partners face left so that R shoulders are toward each other. With R foot leading, take sixteen *Itik-Itik* steps No. 1, moving clockwise. Arm positions and trunk movements as in figure II (a). Finish in proper places. 16 M

— VII —

Music A.

Partners face each other.

- (a) With R foot leading, take four *Itik-Itik* steps No. 5, meeting at center. Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 4 M

Partners face front.

- (b) Starting with R foot, take four *Itik-Itik* steps No. 4 forward. Trunk is slightly twisted to right and left side alternately on cts. 2, 3 of every measure, R and L arm in reverse "T" position alternately, free hand on waist. 4 M

Turn right about.

- (c) Repeat (b). 4 M

Face toward direction of proper places.

- (d) Repeat (a) going to proper places. 4 M

— VIII —

Music B. Play last two measures slowly.

Partners face each other.

- (a) With R foot leading, take four *Itik-Itik* steps No. 1 toward center. Finish in one line, girl in front. Arm position and trunk movement as in Figure II. ... 4 M

Partners face front.

- (b) Take four waltz steps sideward, R and L alternately. Arms in lateral position, moving sideward right and left alternately, fingers fluttering. 4 M

- (c) Boy holds waist of partner. With R foot leading, take six *Itik-Itik* steps No. 1, going clockwise once. R arm of girl in reverse "T" position, back of L hand under the R elbow. Partners finish facing front, girl at right side of boy. 6 M

Join inside hands, outside hands down at sides.

- (d) Boy stands still while girl executes a three-step turn right in place, passing under arch of arms (1M). Both bow to audience (1M). 2 M

Continued..

ITIK-ITIK

A. Itik-itik, diin ka guican?

Aliwaros, sa pandagitan.

Itik-itik, kinsay uban mo?

Aliwaros, ako ra mismo.

B. Itik-itik, nâg unsa ka dinhe?

Aliwaros, nag sulì-sulì

Aliwaros, nag sulì-sulì

Kon nia ba ikao dinhe.

Translation

A. Duckie-duckie, where did you come from?

Aliwaros, from the river bank.

Duckie-duckie, who's your companion?

Aliwaros, I am alone.

B. Duckie-duckie, why are you here?

Aliwaros, I'm trying to see

Aliwaros, I'm trying to see

If you are really here.

—Literal translation by
Miss Candida Silay

Aliwaros is the name of a boy and Itik-itik
is the girl partner.