Steps to Kita Kyushu Tanko Bushi
(Coal Miner’s Dance)

Tanko Bushi is a minyo (Japanese folk) song that was originally sung by coal miners to ease the toil and monotony of their daily lives. The song was later adapted into a communal dance that is performed at Obon (Summer Buddhist festivals), not only in Japan, but also throughout the United States. Minyo songs include vocals, shamisen (three stringed plucked instrument), taiko (drums), and kane (brass bell).
Step your right foot forward and push the coal cart.

Step your left foot forward and push the cart again.

In order to spread coal on the ground, cross your arms in front of you body and then move them to your sides. Slightly bend your knees at the same time.

Put your feet together and clap your hands twice, pause, then clap once.

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**Calendar of Obon Summer Festivals in Southern California** (will be updated in the Spring): http://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=searchresult&t=30

**Minyo vocal and shamisen lessons with Matsutoyo Sato:**
http://www.matsutoyo-kai.org/

**Taiko (Japanese drum) lessons with Rev. Tom Kurai:**
http://www.taikocenter.com/TaikoCenterofLosAngeles/Welcome.html

**CD with Tanko Bushi track available for $10 at:**
http://www.minyostation.com/1st_CD__Cultural_Twist_.html