

# La Canasta

(Northern Mexico)

192

Mexican dance from the state of Durango.

**FORMATION:** Can be danced in longways sets, or in squares, or even as a polka in couples. This version is done in sets of 4, men on one side, women on the other.

**METER:** 2/4

## PART 1

Measure	Count	Description
measure 1-2	1-2	Each moving to own right, do two side-close steps (side-close side-close).
measure 3-4	1-2	Step forward Rt., pivot L. to face in opposite direction. Repeat pivot to face in original direction.
measure 5-6	1-2	Repeat action of measures 1-2, starting to L and using opposite footwork.
measure 7-8	1-2	Repeat action of measures 3-4, starting with L foot and using opposite footwork.
measure 9-16	all	Repeat measures 1-8.

## PART 2

Measure	Count	Description
measure 1-4	1-2	Cross to opposite side with 4 two-steps, passing by R shoulder. All clap (quick, quick, slow) as you cross. End facing center.
measure 5-8	1-2	With 4 more two-steps, women turn Rt. in place, holding skirt. Men continue to clap, without turning, doing two-step in place.
measure 9-16	all	Repeat back to own place.

## PART 3 (FOUR MEASURES)

Measure	Count	Description
measure 1-4	1-2	Repeat measures 1-4, part 1 (side-close steps to R and L. pivots).

## PART 4

Measure	Count	Description
measure 1-8	1-2	All extend right hand to form a rt-hand-star. Do six two-steps to go around, 2 to fall back to place.
measure 9-12	1-2	Do four two-steps to turn partner by right hand.
measure 13-16	1-2	1st cast-off: #1 & #3 cast out & back (1 place). #2 & #4 fwd. up the center (one place); #1 & #4 change places in the center.
measure 17-32	all	repeat part 4 (star & cast-off) (#1 & #3 started as #2 & #1). They cast out & back, #2 & #4 move fwd.

PART 5

INTERLUDE: Do three stamps (R, L, R) fwd to take partner's two hands.

Measure	Count	Description
measure 1-2	1-2	To man's right, do: side, close, side-close.
measure 3-4	1-2	Do 3 steps to change sides with partner.
measure 5-16	all	Repeat side-close steps and change sides with partner three more times (a total of four times).

SEQUENCE:

- Repeat part 2
- Repeat part 3
- Repeat part 4 (third cast-off)
- Repeat part 4. (fourth cast-off)
- Repeat the three stamps (part 5)

*Presented by Huemantzin Lopez  
Texas Camp 1994*