

# Hora din Risipiți

(Romania)

Typical Romanian "hora," or "circle dance." This hora consists of 6 typical figures or variations from the little town of Risipiți in Oltenia. I learned this dance from Teodor Vasilescu. It has also become a very popular dance in international folk dance clubs all over Europe.

**MUSIC:** "Hora din Risipiți" (HOH-rah deen ress-i-PEETS) (also called "Hora ca la caval" or "circle dance played on the pan pipe.")

**FORMATION:** Closed circle of men and women. High handhold ("W"). Hands should continue to make small, controlled circles throughout the dance.

**STYLE:** Dance jauntily, with a springy step, not down in the knees on the beat.

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**METER:** 4/4

**PATTERN**

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Meas

1-4 INTRODUCTION (Begin with pan pipe.)

## **I FIRST FIGURE - "Hora dreapta"**

- 1 Facing and moving twd the center: step on L (1), step on R (&), step on L (2), touch ball of R ft next to L ft (&). Facing but moving away from center: step back on R ft (3), step back on L ft (&), step back on R ft (4), touch ball of L ft next to R (&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.

*(Note: Figure 1 may actually progress a little to the R each time, by going not straight in and out twd the center, but by taking a small "pie-shaped" route diagonally in and out each time.)*

## **II SECOND FIGURE - "Hora in doua parti" - in and out**

- 1 Step in twd the center on the L ft (1), touch ball of R ft next to L (&), step away from center on L ft (2), touch ball of R ft next to L (&). Repeat cts 1&2&, Fig. 1 ("Hora dreapta") twd the center (3&4&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from center, repeat meas 1, Fig 2 with opp dir and ftwk.

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**III THIRD FIGURE - "Hora in doua parti" - side to side**

- 1 Facing center but moving from side to side: Step L on L ft (1), touch ball of R ft next to L (&), step R ft to R (2), touch ball of L ft next to R (&). Facing and moving twd center: Repeat cts 1&2& of meas 1, Fig. 1 ("Hora dreapta") (3&4&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from center, repeat meas 1, Fig. 3 with opp dir and ftwk.

**IV FOURTH FIGURE - "Hora in doua parti" - little jumps**

- 1 Facing center: Jump twd center onto L ft (1), step on ball of R ft next to L (e), step on L ft next to R (&), jump away from center onto R ft (2), step on ball of L ft next to R (e), step on R ft next to L (&). Facing and moving twd center: Repeat cts 1&2& of meas 1, Fig. 1 ("Hora dreapta") (3&4&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from center, repeat meas 1, Fig. 4 with opp dir and ftwk.

**V FIFTH FIGURE - to the L, to the R**

- 1 Facing and moving to the L (RLOD): Step on L (1), step on R (&), step on L (2), step on ball of R (e), step on L (&). Continuing to face L (RLOD): step fwd on R ft (3), step bkwd on L (&), step bkwd on R (4), step bkwd on L (&).
- 2 Turning abruptly twd R (LOD): repeat meas 1, Fig. 5 with opp dir and ftwk.

**VI SIXTH FIGURE - slow in and out**

- 1 Facing and moving twd center: Step fwd on L ft as R ft swings softly fwd, while swinging arms fwd and down (1), step fwd on R ft as L ft swings softly fwd, while swinging arms back up (2). Continuing to face and move twd center: Repeat cts 1&2& of meas 1, Fig. 1 ("Hora dreapta") (3&4&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from center, repeat meas 1, Fig. 6 with opp dir and ftwk. (Note: Softly kick free ft fwd on cts 1 and 2.)

Dancers' standard, shouted response to "strigaturi:"

1    &    2    &    3    &    4  
-    Hey! -    Hey! Yar    a - sha! (phonetic orthography)

*Cont...*

**Terminology:**

*"Hora dreapta" means "straightforward (easy) circle dance pattern" and is a generic term for this most common hora step-pattern: in-2-3-touch, out 2-3-touch. Figure 1 of "hora din Risipiti" is a "hora dreapta."*

*"Hora in doua parti" means "two-part circle dance pattern" and is, again, a generic term for a wealth of steps and patterns which have as their common denominator the fact that they are a combination of an easy 4-count step (1&2&) and a "hora dreapta" step, repeated both on the way in and the way out. (These two parts can also be switched, the "dreapta" part coming before the other part in some dances.) These steps can be improvised in a folk setting, or, as in this case, set in a certain pattern. Figures 2, 3, 4 and 6 of "Hora din Risipiti" are typical "hora in doua parti" patterns.*