

Name of dance: Dans Țigănesc Rar, Dans Țigănesc Repede

Pronunciation: dahns tsee-gah-nesk rrahrr, dahns tsee-gah-nehsk rreh-peh-deh

Place of origin: Muntenia, Romania

Source of music: tape provided by Richard van der Kooij

Learned from: Richard van der Kooij, 1998, who learned it from Theodor Vasilescu in 1997

About the dance: The name of this dance means “Slow Gypsy Dance, Fast Gypsy Dance”.

The dance is put together out of traditional Romanian gypsy dance moves, which in their native setting are highly improvised and free-form. While the steps in this choreography are fixed, the arm movements are not at all, and can be used to capture some of the expressive potential of this style. Since the dance is done solo (or even in couples?), the floor pattern of the steps can also be interpreted quite freely.

Rhythm: 6/8 + 2/4

Formation: Circle or semi-circle, facing line of direction.

Direction	Measure	Step
Dans Țigănesc Rar (6/8):		
<u>Introduction:</u>		
	2.	Wait.
<u>Part A:</u>		
→	1	Facing and moving in line of direction, step forward on R (cts. 1, 2), scuff L heel forward (ct. 3), step forward on L (cts. 4, 5), scuff R heel forward (ct. 6).
┆	2	Cross R in front of L (ct. 1), step back on L (ct. 2), step on R next to L (ct. 3), step forward on L (ct. 4), pause (cts. 5, 6).
☀	3	Beginning to pivot 1 ¼ turns CCW in place by looking to the L, step forward without weight on R while leaning over it (cts. 1, 2), step back onto L in place, using the push-off from R to pivot ¼ turn CCW (ct. 3), step again without weight onto R while leaning over it (ct. 4, 5), step back onto L in place, using the push-off from R to pivot ¼ turn CCW (ct. 6).
	4.	Repeat Measure 3 to complete CCW turn but on the last count shift weight onto R instead of back onto L. End facing center.
⊥	5	Step on ball of L foot across in front of R (cts, 1, 2), drop L heel in place (ct. 3), touch R toe out to the R side (cts. 4, 5), lift and drop L heel in place (ct. 6).
	6	Repeat Measure 5 with reverse footwork and direction.
→	7	Step on L across in front of R (cts. 1, 2), step on R to R side (ct.

3), step on L across behind R (cts. 4, 5), step on R to R side (ct. 6).

8 Step on L across in front of R (cts. 1, 2), step on R to R side (ct.

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Dans Țigănesc Rar & Repede (continued):

Direction	Measure	Step
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Part A (continued):

3), step on L across behind R (cts. 4, 5), pause (ct. 6).

Part B:

→	1	Step on R to R side (ct. 1, 2), step on ball of L foot behind R (ct. 3), step on R to R side (ct. 4, 5), scuff L heel across in front of R (ct. 6).
	2	Step on L in line of direction (cts. 1, 2), step on ball of R foot next to L (ct. 3), step on L in line of direction (ct. 4, 5), scuff R heel in line of direction (ct. 6).
↑	3	Turning ¼ turn CCW to face center, take a big step toward center on R (cts. 1 - 3), step on L toward center (cts. 4, 5), rock back onto R (ct. 6).
↓	4.	Take a big step back away from center onto L (cts. 1 – 3), step back onto R (cts. 4 – 5), rock forward onto L (ct. 6).
	5.	Step on R heel diagonally across in front of L (cts. 1, 2), step back on L in place (ct. 3), step on ball of R foot diagonally back to the R (cts. 4 – 5), step forward on L in place (ct. 6).
⊥	6	Repeat Measure 5.
→	7	Moving in line of direction, step on R (cts. 1, 2), flex R knee (ct. 3), step in line of direction on L (cts. 4, 5), flex L knee (ct. 6).
	8.	Repeat Measure 7.

Note: To fit with the recording, Parts A and B of Dans Țigănesc Rar (the slow part of the dance) are sequenced as follows:

AABBA

Dans Țigănesc Repede (2/4):

Introduction:

3. Wait.

Part A:

→ 1 Facing and moving to the R, step R (ct. 1), step L (ct. &), step R

(ct. 2), scuff L (ct. &).

Note: Hands are held freely above shoulder height, and fingers snap to the music.

- 2 Repeat Measure 1 with reverse footwork but in the same direction.
3 Repeat Measure 1.

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Dans Țigănesc Repede (continued):

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Step</u>
		<i>Part A</i> (continued):
┆	4	Coming to a halt, stamp L in place (ct. 1), stamp R in place (ct. &), stamp L in place (ct. 2), lifting or hopping slightly on L, kick R leg forward to bring it across in front of L (ct. &).
←	5	Still facing R but moving backwards to the L, with weight on both feet with R crossed over L, and with torso bent forward at the hips, hop or “chug” back on both feet, extending snapping fingers out or in front of chest (ct. 1), hop or “chug” back again on both feet as in ct. 1 (ct. 2).
	6.	Repeat Measure 5.
→	7	Facing and moving to the R, touch ball of R foot forward (ct. 1), step forward onto R (ct. 2).
	8	Repeat Measure 7 with reverse footwork but in the same direction.
	9-16	Repeat Measures 1-8.
		<i>Part B:</i>
←	1	Facing center and moving with small “grapevine” steps to the L, step on R across in front of L (ct. 1), step on L to L side (ct. &), step on R across behind L (ct. 2), step on L to L side (ct. &).
	3.	Repeat Measure 1 two more times.
	4	Step on R across in front of L (ct. 1), step on L to L side (ct. &), step on R across behind L (ct. 2), pause (ct. &).
⊥	5	Stamp on L across in front of R while clapping hands in front (ct. 1), step back onto R in place (ct. &), step on L next to R (ct. 2), stamp on R across in front of L while clapping hands in front (ct. &).
	6	Step back onto L in place (ct. 1), step on R next to L (ct. &), stamp on L across in front of L while clapping hands in front (ct. 2), pause (ct. &).
☀	7-8	Use these 2 measures to make one full turn CCW in place, leaving the feet on the ground and the hands up. How exactly you do it is a matter of expression and improvisation, but here are 2 options:

(1): On the first count, cross the R foot over the L, and then use the remaining 3 counts to slowly swivel CCW until you are again facing center with your feet crossed L over R. For this option, the hands are best left high and wide apart, and the torso can start and end bent a bit forward, making this a kind of very slow ‘barrel’ turn. (2): Uncrossing your feet to stand R next to L, use each count to “chug” ¼ turn CCW, perhaps ‘chugging’ slightly backward in a very small CCW circle to come back to facing center. For this option, the hands could both be held behind the head, or perhaps

Dans Țigănesc Repede (continued):

Direction	Measure	Step
		<i>Part B</i> (continued): one behind it and the other extended. Again, the torso could be a little bent into a slow roll.
	16.	Repeat Measures 1-8.
		<i>Part C:</i>
←	1	Facing and moving to the L, take a big step on R (ct. 1), take a big step on L (ct. 2).
	2	Take a big step on R (ct. 1), pivot ½ turn CW on R heel to face center, swinging the L leg around and forward (ct. 2).
→	3-4	Repeat Measures 1-2 with reverse footwork and direction.
⊥	5	Step on R in place (ct. 1), clap hands at chest height while flexing R knee (ct. &), turning to face slightly L of center, place L heel without weight diagonally L of center (ct. 2), clap hands at chest height while flexing R knee (ct. &).
	6	Repeat Measure 5 with reverse footwork and direction.
	7	Step on R in place (ct. 1), while flexing R knee, slap R thigh with R hand and then L thigh with L hand (cts. & “uh”), place L heel without weight diagonally L of center while slapping R thigh with R hand (ct. 2), clap hands at chest height while flexing R knee (ct. &).
	8	Repeat Measure 6.
	9-16	Repeat Measures 1-8.
		<i>Part D:</i>
↑	1	Facing center and moving diagonally to the R of center, step R (ct. 1), step L (ct. &), step R (ct. 2), pause (ct. &).
	2	Moving diagonally to the L of center, step L (ct. 1), step R (ct. &), step L (ct. 2), pause (ct. &).

- ↓ 3 Moving back to the diagonal L rear, repeat the steps of Measure 1.
 4 Moving back to the diagonal R rear, repeat the steps of Measure 2.
Note: The steps of Measures 1-4 trace out a diamond shape on the floor that you traverse in a CCW direction, beginning with R diagonal forward, then L diagonal forward, then L diagonal backward, then R diagonal backward.
- ⊥ 5 Jump on both feet apart (ct. 1), jump on R in place, kicking L foot up behind R calf (ct. 2).
 6 Repeat Measure 5 with reverse footwork.
 7 Stamp on R across in front of L while clapping hands in front (ct. 1), step back onto L in place (ct. &), step on R next to L (ct. 2),

Dans Țigănesc Repede (continued):

Direction	Measure	Step
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Part D (continued):

stamp on L across in front of R while clapping hands in front (ct. &).

- 8 Step back onto R in place (ct. 1), step on L next to R (ct. &), stamp on R without weight in front of L while clapping hands in front (ct. 2), pause (ct. &).

Note: Each of the Parts of this fast section of the dance (except for this Part D) repeats before going on to the next step. The recommended sequence for the fast (repede) section is:

ABCDABCDABCD

In other words, the whole fast section repeats 3 times.

dance notes by Jan Knoppers and Richard van der Kooij,
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