

Hora din Risipiti

(Romania)

Typical Romanian “hora,” or “circle dance.” This hora consists of 6 typical steps or variations from the little town of Risipiti 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.

“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 (cts 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 II, III, IV and VI of “Hora din Risipiti” are typical “hora in doua parti” patterns.

Pronunciation:

Music: “Hora din Risipiti” (also called “Hora ca la caval” or “circle dance played on the pan pipe.”)
4/4 meter

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

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

Meas

Pattern

I. HORA DREAPTA

1 Facing and moving twd the ctr: step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2); touch ball of R ft next to L ft (ct &). Facing but moving away from ctr: step back on R ft (ct 3); step back on L ft (ct &); step back on R ft (ct 4); touch ball of L ft next to R (ct &).

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 ctr, but by taking a small “pie-shaped” route diagonally in and out each time.)

II. HORA IN DOUA PARTI—in and out

1 Step in twd the ctr on the L ft (ct 1); touch ball of R ft next to L (ct &); step away from ctr on L ft (ct 2); touch ball of R ft next to L (ct &); repeat Fig I, meas 1, cts 1, &, 2, & twd the ctr (cts 3,&4,&).

2 Facing but moving away from ctr, repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.

Hora din Risipiti—continued

III. HORA IN DOUA PARTI—side to side

- 1 Facing ctr but moving from side to side: step on L to L (ct 1); touch ball of R ft next to L (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); touch ball of L ft next to R (ct &); facing and moving twd ctr, repeat Fig I, meas 1, cts 1, &, 2, & (cts 3,&,4,&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from ctr, repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.

IV. HORA IN DOUA PARTI—little jumps

- 1 Facing ctr, leap twd ctr onto L ft (ct 1); step on ball of R ft next to L (ct e); step on L next to R (ct &); leap away from ctr onto R (ct 2); step on ball of L ft next to R (ct e); step on R next to L (ct &); facing and moving twd ctr, repeat Fig I, meas 1, cts 1, &, 2, & (cts 3,&,4,&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from ctr, repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.

V. TO THE L, TO THE R

- 1 Facing and moving to the L (RLOD), step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); step on L (ct 2); step on ball of R (ct e); step on L (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 3); step bkwd on L (ct &); step bkwd on R (ct 4); step bkwd on L (ct &).
- 2 Turning abruptly twd R (LOD), repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.

VI. SLOW IN AND OUT

- 1 Facing and moving twd ctr, step fwd on L while swinging arms fwd and down (ct 1); step fwd on R while swinging arms back up (ct 2); Fig I, meas 1, cts 1, &, 2, & (cts 3,&,4,&).
- 2 Facing but moving away from ctr, repeat meas 1 with opp direction and ftwk.

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