

Învârtita din Căstău

(Romania, Humedoara County)

Învârtita dances (turning dances) are thought to have developed after the *Purtata* dances (walking dances). The most basic version of Învârtita involves turning only in one direction or the other. Unlike the *Purtata* family of dances, the Învârtita is found among Romanians beyond Transylvania and is not restricted to Hungarian-ruled areas; it has a universal name covering many regional versions. Învârtita din Căstău is from the family of *Învârtita șchioapa*, danced in the southern part of Transylvania. Each zone has its own particularity.

This dance is divided in two parts, the first one is made up of the basic steps danced in the primitive traditional way. The second part is the couple form. The characteristic of the music of Învârtita is an asymmetrical rhythm.

Pronunciation: eun-veur- TEE-tah deen KUHS-tuh-oo

Music: 2/4 meter

Formation: Mixed circle, facing center, hands joined in V-pos.

Styling: Knees are soft in a very slight bending and extending motion.

Steps: Pinten (stirrup) is the Romanian dancer's expression for close 1 ft to the other with a sharp click.

Meas

Pattern

FIGURE I *Leganățul*

- 1 Facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R, no wt (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2).
- 4 Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct 2).
- 5-24 Repeat meas 1-4 five more times (6 total).

FIGURE II *Plimbarea*

- Facing LOD, W V-pos, M with R hand in front over head, L hand in back. Rhythm: SQQ
- 1 Step fwd on R (ct 1); touch ball of L ft next to R, lift R heel (ct 2); drop onto R heel (ct &).
 - 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
 - 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three more times (4 total).
 - 9 Step fwd on R (ct 1); touch ball of L ft next to R (ct 2); pause (ct &).
 - 10 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); touch ball of R next to L (ct 2); pause (ct &).
 - 11-12 Repeat meas 9-10.
 - 13-16 Repeat meas 1-4.

FIGURE III *Șchioapa*

- 1 Hands joined in V-pos, step on R to R turning 1/4 to L (CCW) (body slightly diag to R) (ct 1); pause (ct &); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R to R (ct &).
- 2 Stamp L heel, no wt (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct &); stamp R heel, no wt (ct 2); step on R to R, facing ctr.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.

Învârtita din Căstău—continued

- 7 Lift R heel, raising L leg (knee straight) in front at 45° (ct 1); drop R heel, L leg doing 1/4 circle in the air to L (ct &); step on L across behind R (ct &); step on R to R (ct &).
- 8 Repeat meas 2.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and direction.

FIGURE IV Leganățul dublu

Facing ctr. Rhythm SQSQS

- 1-2 Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2); step on R to R (cts &,1); step on L next to R (ct &); step on R to R and bend R knee slightly (cts 2,&).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (4 total).

FIGURE V *Fecioreasca* (Variation for Women)

- 1 Facing ctr, hands free, step bkwd on L (ct 1); pause (ct &); step on R next to L (ct 2); step on L (ct &).
- 2 Step fwd on R (ct 1); pause (ct &); stamp L heel, no wt (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct &).
- 3 Pause (ct 1); step fwd on R (ct &); pause (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct &).
- 4 Step on R across in front of L, turning 1/4 L (CCW) (ct 1); pause (ct &); step bkwd on L turning 1/4 R (CW) (ct 2); step bkwd on R (ct &).
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (4 total) (for W).

FIGURE V *Varianta* (Variation for M) (optional)

- 1-2 Same as Fig V, Variation for W, meas 1-2.
- 3 Pause (ct 1); step fwd on R (ct &); pause (ct 2); step fwd on L, slapping R heel with R hand (ct &).
- 4 Close R to L with a sharp click (pinten) (ct 1); pause (ct &); clap both hands in front (chest level) (ct 2); clap both hands in front (ct &).
- 5-16 Repeat meas three more times (4 total)

FIGURE VI

- 1-16 Repeat Fig I in cpl pos, facing each other, hands on ptr's shldr.

FIGURE VII

- 1-16 Repeat Fig IV in cpl pos.

FIGURE VIII

- 1-15 Repeat Fig III, meas 1-15 in cpl pos.
- 16 Close R to L with a sharp click (pinten) (ct 1); pause (ct 2).

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Fig III, Fig IV,
Fig V (or Variation), Fig VI, Fig VII, Fig VIII.