

# Învârtita din Căstău

From Hunedoara county, Romania  
Presented by Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

*Învârtita* dances (turning dances) are thought to have developed after the *Purtata* dances (walking dances). The most basic version of *Învârtita* involves only turning 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.

**Formation:** mixed circle

**Position:** facing center, V pos.

**Pronunciation:** eun-veur-TEE-tah deen KUHS-tuh(oo)

**Music:** *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 1*, Band 5

**Style:** knees are soft in a very slight bending and extending motion

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Meter : 2/4                      Description of *Învârtita din Căstău*

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Meas.	Count	<b>Figure 1: Legănatul</b> (facing center, hands joined in V pos.)
<b>1</b>	1	Step on R to the right
	2	Step on L close to R
<b>2</b>	1	Step on R to the right
	2	Step on L close to R without wt
<b>3</b>	1	Step on L to the left
	2	Step on R close to L
<b>4</b>	1	Step on L to the left
	2	Step on R close to L without wt
<b>5-24</b>		Repeat meas. <b>1-4</b> , five more times (6 total)

## **Figure 2: Plimbarea**

(facing line direction LOD, Women: hands on waist, A pos.)

Men : R hand up in front and over head, L hand in back)

(Rhythm: Slow-quick-quick)

<b>1</b>	1&	Step on R fwd
	2	Touch with L ball close to R, lift R heel
	&	Drop R heel
<b>2</b>		Repeat meas. <b>1</b> , with opposite ftwk
<b>3-8</b>		Repeat meas. <b>1-2</b> , three more times (4 total)
<b>9</b>	1&	Step on R fwd
	2	Touch with L ball close to R
	&	Pause

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Meter : 2/4                      Description of *Învârtita din Căstău* (continued)

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Meas. Count **Figure 2: *Plimbarea*** (continued)

10 1& Step on L bkwd  
2 Touch with R ball close to L  
& Pause \*

11-12 Repeat meas. 9-10 \*\*

13-16 Repeat meas. 1-4

**Figure 3: *Șchioapa***  
(hands joined in V pos.)

1 1 Step on R to the right turning 1/8 t. to the left (body slightly diag. to the right)  
& Pause  
2 Step on L close to R  
& Step on R to the right

2 1 Scuff with L heel  
& Step L across in front of R  
2 Scuff with R heel  
& Step on R to the right, facing center

3-4 Repeat meas. 1-2, with opposite ftwk and direction

5-6 Repeat meas. 1-2

7 1 Lift R heel, raising L leg (knee straight) in front at 45°  
& Drop R heel, L leg doing ¼ circle in the air to the left  
2 Step L across in back of R  
& Step on R to the right

8 Repeat meas. 2

9-16 Repeat meas. 1-8, reversing ftwk and direction

**Figure 4: *Legănatul dublu***  
(facing center)  
(Rhythm: Slow-quick-slow-quick-slow)

1-2 1& Step on R to the right  
2 Step on L close to R  
&3 Step on R to the right  
& Step on L close to R  
4& Step on R to the right and bend R knee slightly

3-4 Repeat meas. 1-2, opposite ftwk and direction

5-16 Repeat meas. 1-4, three more times (4 total)

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Meter : 2/4 Description of *Învârtita din Căstău* (continued)  
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Meas. Count **Figure 5: *Fecioreasca***  
(facing center, free hands)

- |      |                  |   |
|------|------------------|---|
| 1    | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Step on L bkwd<br>Pause<br>Step on R close to L<br>Step on L  |
| 2    | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Step on R fwd<br>Pause<br>Scuff with L heel<br>Step on L fwd  |
| 3    | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Pause<br>Step on R fwd<br>Pause<br>Step on L fwd  |
| 4    | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Step R across in front of L, turning (¼ t.) to the left<br>Pause<br>Step on L bkwd, turning (¼ t.) to the right<br>Step on R bkwd |
| 5-16 |                  | Repeat meas. 1-4, three more times (4 total) (for women)<br><b>except</b> last step, touch R beside L (ct &)                      |

**Figure 5': Varianta** (for men)

- |      |                  |  |
|------|------------------|--|
| 1-2  |                  | Repeat meas. 1-2, fig. 5   |
| 3    | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Pause<br>Step on R fwd<br>Pause<br>Step on L fwd, slapping R heel with R hand  |
| 4    | 1<br>&<br>2<br>& | Close R to L with a sharp click ( <i>pinten</i> )<br>Pause<br>Clap both hands in front (chest level)<br>Clap both hands in front |
| 5-16 |                  | Repeat meas. 1-4, three more times (4 total)   |

Note: optional pattern for men

**Figure 6**

(couple position: facing each other, hands on partner's shoulders)

- |      |  |                                   |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1-16 |  | Execute fig. 1 in couple position |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|

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Meter : 2/4

Description of *Învârtita din Căstău* (continued)  
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|-------|-------|---|
| Meas. | Count | <b><u>Figure 7</u></b><br>(couple position) |
|-------|-------|---|

- |      |  |                                   |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1-16 |  | Execute fig. 4 in couple position |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|

**Figure 8**  
(couple position)

- 1-15                      Execute fig. 3 meas. 1-15 in couple position
- 16                      1                      Close R to L with a sharp click (*pinten*) in couple position  
                            2                      Pause

*Strigături* (calls)

\* **Figure 2** meas. 9-10 : *Și n-ainte și n-apoi măi* (SHEE nah-EEN-teh SHEE nah-POY may)  
Translation: Forward and back.

\*\* **Figure 2** meas. 11-12 : *C-a șai jocul pe la noi măi* (KAH shy DZHOH-kul PEH lah NOY may)  
Translation: That's how our dances go.

Final pattern:

F1 + F2 + F1 + F2 + F3 + F4 + F3 + F4 +  
F5 or F5' + F6 + F7 + F8 .