

INVIRTITA <sup>dim</sup> LUNA-TURDA  
( Transylvania - Romania )

I learned this *învîrtita* from Costea Costantin a dance researcher at the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore in Bucharest, Romania. He found the dance in the village Luna-Turda in Judet Cluj in 1957. Compared with other more fully developed and complex *învîrtitas* this one is fairly simple with only three figures.

In most of the *învîrtitas* (from the verb *învîrtare*=to turn) I've seen, the woman is forcefully directed by the man. She may appear passive but in fact she is quite busy being wound up, thrust, twisted, and turned. Her turns are often done as pirouettes on the heels, a skill requiring a fair amount of practice to master. The woman usually carries her free arm down at her side or at her waist. She moves in a controlled way. She is strong but modest in her demeanor. The peasants I've seen dance, though very active, are not flamboyant. Their concentration seems to be more on what each is doing rather than on each other. The man's role is to direct his partner, prepare her for turns. Of the two, the Man is the improviser.

*continued...*







RECORD: MUZICA POPULARA TRANSILVANIA  
 Electrocord EPE 0108  
 Side 2 Band 10 - "Invirtita lui Macrea"  
 or any other Invirtita in 2/4.

Formation - scattered couples or double circle facing CCW.

Position: "V" 









Music: 2/4

FIGURE I (4X)

<u>rhythm</u>	<u>measure</u>	<u>count</u>
	1	hold
		+
		2+
	2	1
		2
		+
	3-4	

step in place L.  
 repeat 1 + with R.  
 step L in place  
 step R in place  
 step L in place

repeat meas 1-2 on opposite foot but move back slightly  
 (note: M must help W around by leading her. His free left hand is held either up or behind his back.)

<u>rhythm</u>	<u>measure</u>	<u>count</u>
	1	1
		+
		2+
	2	
		1
		+2
		+
	3	1

hold  
 step forward R (moving in front of man)  
 repeat 1+ with L.  
turn 2 full turns (pirouettes) C.W.  
 step out on R  
 pivot around on both heels  
 end on R; facing partner,  
 hold

*Continued...*

Figure I (continued)

<u>rhythm</u>	<u>woman</u> <u>measure</u>	<u>count</u>
	4	+
		2+
		1
		+

step on L toward M, R side  
 step on R continuing toward M, R side.  
 Step L in place (turning toward R to face forw.)

step R }  
 step L } cont. turn to face forward

On fourth repetition, during the last measure  
 W remains facing M and change to shoulder-waist  
 position.

Figure II 2times

Formation: W facing M in shoulder-waist position.

Steps are described for M; W opposite

<u>man</u>	<u>count</u>
	1
	2
	+
	3
	4
	+

basic walk forward begin L

step forward on L

back on R

back on L

basic walk backward on R

step back on R

step forward on L

step fwd on R

On last repetition, M must leave out the last step  
 so as to change footwork for Figure III.

Continued...

FIGURE III

1 time

Formation: Same as Figure II. Steps are for M and W.

<u>Rhythm</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Count</u>	
7d'7d'	1	1 2	Do a basic walk moving CW around partner - (modified "buzz" turn action) starting crossing with R
	2	1 2	4 quick steps continuing around. The 4th is a little bigger than the rest.
	3	1 2	Another basic walkstep starting R
	4	1	Step on R in place
		2	cross L over R
		+	step R to R, to start the turn CCW
	5-8		repeat turning CCW  on last count M breaks at step R to switch feet, and he leads the W over to his R to repeat the dance.

Many thanks to Stan Masada who composed this description.

Sunni Boland