

SHUFFLE
(Armenia)

The SHUFFLE is a typical example of American-Armenian dance, and one of the oldest. It was created in 1951 in the Merrimack Valley north of Boston. The SHUFFLE quickly established itself among all American-Armenian communities, and is still popular today. The name is derived from the "shuffle" or two-step (R-together-R, L-together-L) that begins the dance. The SHUFFLE is ubiquitous, and has many different regional names, including the glide, slide, two-step, 6/8 and others. Most contemporary dances have no 'official' name.

The SHUFFLE is the most important new dance among American-Armenians, and is only exceeded in popularity by the basic BAR. Unlike most contemporary dances, the SHUFFLE is not strenuous and can be done by young and old alike.

Source: Armenian communities of New England

Music: Barbashi Tape #1 Side A/2 Armenian Folk Dances
Virtually all Armenian-American style records have several "shuffle" selections. 10/16 rhythm SQQS

Style: Erect relaxed carriage and smooth gliding steps.

Formation: Open circle dance in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shldr level).

| <u>Meas</u> | <u>Cts</u> | <u>Pattern</u> |
|-------------|------------|---|
| 1 | 1,&,2 | Facing to R, step R-together-R (cts 1,&,2). |
| 2 | 3,&,4 | Continuing to move to R, step L-together-L (cts 3,&,4). |
| 3 | 5,6 | Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 5); step on L behind R (ct 6). |
| 4 | 7,8 | Step on R to R (ct 7); step on L in front of R (ct 8). |
| 5 | 9,10 | Still facing ctr but moving to L, step on R in front of L (ct 9); step on L to L (ct 10). |
| 6 | 11,12 | Step on R behind L (ct 11); step on L to L (ct 12). |

In some Armenian communities, the arms are swayed during the dance. Sway arms to R (cts 1,&,2); sway arms to L (cts 3,&,4). Swing joined hands down to sides (cts 5,6); swing arms up to orig pos (cts 7,8). The line's leader establishes the use of arms while dancing, with the rest following his example.