

## BAR

Although literally "BAR" (pronounced 'bahr') refers to any circle dance, it is ordinarily used to refer to this, the most common and probably the most ancient of all Armenian dances. The basic pattern of '3 and 1' is related to many ancient dances of the Balkans and the Near East (e.g. DABKE, HORA, KASAP, ORO, ARKON, etc.).

Source: Armenian community of Watertown, Ma.

Music: Dance Armenian Side A-band #1 and #3, Side B-band #1.  
Armenian Party Time: Side A-band #1, Side B-band #3 and #6,  
or any good 2/4 'BAR' music.

Style: Steps should be small, and gliding, with a relaxed, erect carriage. It is not a hora or dabke.

Formation: Open circle dance in "Armenian hold" (little fingers are interlocked with hands held at shoulder height). Leader at right end (usually a man) often flourishes a handkerchief loosely "Armenian style".

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movement</u>
		BASIC-BAR
1	1-2	Facing slightly to the right, step R to right (ct 1). Step L across R (ct 2).
2	3-4	Step R to right (ct 3). Point left toe to front (ct 4).
3	5-6	Step L beside R (ct 5). Point right toe to front (ct 6).

		<u>BAR VARIATION #1 - CLAP AND TURN</u>
1	1-2	Turn 360 degrees CW while continuing to move to right as step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2).
2-3	3-6	Steps are the same as in BASIC BAR, meas 2-3. <u>Note:</u> Clap hands at chest height on each count. Dancers remain close together.

		<u>BAR VARIATION #2 CLAP</u>
1-3	1-6	Steps are same as in BASIC BAR. Clap on each count but do <u>not</u> turn. <u>Note:</u> This variation is often done at modern parties. After dancing the BASIC BAR for a time (with or without variation #1) the leader will often begin this variation. As the line begins to clap he will select a woman from the line and dance a duet with her in the center of the circle as the line continues to clap in encouragement, until the music ends.