

BERT PAR (The Fortress)
Armenia

SOURCE: Learned by Tom Bozigian in Armenia in December 1974 from the Armenian State Dance Ensemble, director VANOUSH KHANAMIRYAN. This dance is one of the most popular dances throughout Armenia and even performed by dance groups down to the Junior High school level.

RECORD: Music for Dances GT 2001-B, band 4

FORMATION: Mixed lines, hands joined down at side, body facing slightly LOD. Dancers close together.

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PATTERN

FIG I

R to R (ct 1) L over R (ct 2)
Repeat until leader calls "HEY"

FIG II

Turning to face LOD, R hand on waist, L arm on front neighbor's shldr, do Armenian Kertsee step until leader calls "HEY"
Kertsee Step: Jump onto both ft, leap on to R, leap onto L. On leap, kick free ft high in back.

FIG III

Facing ctr and moving R, do Armenian Kertsee variation: crossing L over R, leap onto both ft, leap slightly to R with L, leap R to R. Arms down to sides. Repeat until leader calls "HEY".

FIG IV

Facing and moving to ctr, do 4 Armenian Kertsee steps with 3 syncopated "HEY" calls. (1st 6 calls on the "&" of each meas, on 7th and 8th, on the "&" and ct 2) Repeat until "HEY". Arms in back basket hold.

FIG V

Turn to face RLOD, do Armenian Kertsee steps as L arm raises above head, palm horizontal to ceiling and R arm extends to R, palm out (cts 1,&) hands lower to in front of chest (ct 2)
Repeat until "HEY"

NOTE: "HEY'S" are called at will of leader. After "HEY" is called, do one more step-pattern before starting next figure.