

BRÂUL

de la Bisoca -Muntenia

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The word *Brâul* has several meanings. One of them is "belt" but means specifically the belt that is part of the Romanian traditional costume. It could be made out of leather or woven wool and is decorated with folk patterns. Another meaning refers to a decorative line of geometrical or stylized floral patterns used as embroidery on the sleeves of women's traditional blouses. It could be also a decorative pattern on the outside or inside walls of the peasant houses. *Brâul* represents the third big class of line dances and the name suggests, as above, a line of dancers or it may come also from the hand position which could be a belt-hold. The etymology of this word leads us to a similar word, *bres*, existing in the Albanian language. As this language is the sole survivor of the old Illyro-Tracian language, the same as the language of the Romanians' ancestors (Dacians), it results that this word could have a very old origin. *Brâul de la Bisoca* represents the type of Carpathian *Brâu* which is the most challenging dance in the mountain villages of Vrancea and Buzău (south of Moldavia and north of Muntenia). Generally, it is a virtuosic dance performed by men. Nevertheless, women can also participate in the men's line or they can have their own *Brâu* (*Brâul femeilor* or *Brâul fetelor*). The variant described here has 5 parts: A (16 meas) + B (8 meas) + C (8 meas) + D (8 meas) + E (8 meas).

Pronunciation: BREH-ool deh lah bee-SO-kah

Formation: men or mixed circle or open circle with hands in V-pos, on shoulders or belt hold.

Rhythm: 2/4 meter

Videotape: Lia & Theodor Vasilescu, 17 Romanian Folk Dances.

INTRODUCTION: None - dance starts with music

PART A

- meas. 1 Facing diag R of ctr, leap on both ft stamping in place (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 2 Hold (cts 1,2).
- 3 Facing diag R of ctr and moving in LOD, step on R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct &); step on R (ct 2).
- 4 Step on L across R (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct &); step on L across R (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4.
- 7 Facing ctr, click R heel on L heel, L ft raising sdwd (ct 1); click L heel on R heel, R ft raising sdwd (ct 2).
- 8 Click R heel on L heel, the wt remains on L ft (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 9 Facing ctr and moving sdwd in RLOD, step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across L (ct 2).
- 10 Step on L to L, raising R ft with knee slightly bent (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 11-14 Repeat meas 3-4 twice.
- 15-16 Repeat meas 7-8.

PART B

- meas. 1 Facing ctr and moving sdwd in LOD, long step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); circle in CW L ft over R (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L across R (ct 1); raise R ft diag R with knee slightly bent (ct 2).
- 4-6 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 7 Facing LOD, step fwd on R (ct 1), step fwd on L (ct 2).
- 8 Step fwd on R (ct 1); stamp on L next to R with wt, facing ctr (ct 2).

PART C

- meas. 1 Facing ctr, heel-lift-drop on L (ct 1); step on R across L (ct &); step on L behind R (ct 2); step on R next to L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L across R (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct &); step on L in place while R ft is kicking fwd (ct 2).
- 3 Heel-lift-drop on L while R ft is kicking fwd (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct &); step on L in place while R ft is kicking fwd (ct 2).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

PART D

- meas. 1 Facing ctr, heel-lift-drop on L (ct 1); step on R across L (ct &); step on L in place while R ft raises fwd with knee slightly bent (ct 2).
- 2 Facing ctr and moving bkwd, leap on both ft, R behind L (ct 1); leap on both fl, L behind R (ct 2).
- 3 Repeat meas 2.
- 4 Facing ctr and moving fwd, hop on L (ct 1); step on R (ct &); stamping step on L (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas. 1-4.

PART E

- meas. 1 Facing ctr, leap on both ft slightly apart (ct 1); leap on L, raising R in front of L (ct 2).
- 2 Jump on R next to L (ct 1); step on L across R (ct &); step on R behind L (ct 2); step on L diag L (ct &).
- 3 Step in place on R (ct 1); step on L across R (ct &); step on R behind L (ct 2).
- 4 Step on L next to R (ct 1); step on R across L (ct &); step on L behind R. raising R ft in front with knee slightly bent (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

SEQUENCE: Repeat pattern 4 times.

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