

CSÁRDÁS -- Hungary

[chahr-dahsh]

(Couple dance)

Translation: Couple dance of the csárda (village pub).

Record: Folkraft LP39 (side B band 4)(Melody: "Ritka Buza")

Formation: Couples scattered anywhere.

Starting Position: Partners facing, woman's hands on man's shoulders, man's hands holding woman's waist OR holding her shoulders (with fists open or closed).



Music 4/4

Measure

- 1-8 Four DOUBLE CSÁRDÁS STEPS starting with man's left and woman's right foot. Finish both with right foot free.
- 9-12 In Turn position, $7\frac{1}{2}$ RIDA STEPS (right) TURNING clockwise in place (counts 1-15), SWING left leg in a small arc around to front (count 16).
- 13-16 In Reverse Turn position, $7\frac{1}{2}$ RIDA STEPS (left) TURNING counterclockwise in place (counts 1-15), SWING right leg in a small arc around to front (count 16).

Note: Walking Steps may be used instead of the Rida Steps.

DOUBLE CSÁRDÁS STEP or STEP-CLOSE STEP-TOUCH sideward (left)($\bullet\bullet\bullet\bullet$): Step sideward left on left foot (count 1), step on right foot beside left (count 2), step sideward left on left foot (count 3), touch right foot beside left without taking weight (count 4). DOUBLE CSÁRDÁS STEP (right): same, reversing footwork and lateral direction.

TURN POSITION: Partners facing but turned slightly left so right hips are close, woman's hands on man's shoulders, man's right hand at woman's left waist and his left hand on her right shoulder. REVERSE TURN POSITION: same except reversing direction and hands.

RIDA STEP (right) TURNING ($\bullet\bullet$): Step on right foot across in front of left, bending knee slightly (count 1), step sideward left on ball of left foot with knee straight (count 2), pivoting clockwise in place with a down-up feeling. This is similar to the BUZZ STEP used to swing partners in the American square dance. RIDA STEP (left) TURNING: same, reversing footwork and lateral direction, pivoting counterclockwise.

Note: The csárdás is the national couple dance of Hungary and there are thousands of melodies and step variations. The version above is about the most basic form possible.