

LATCHI  
(Armenia)

LATCHI is a large class of Armenian dances, often unrelated to each other in structure. This particular Latchi is from the district of Sassoon, in Western Armenia. The dance's basic pattern can be found in many of the dances popular among the Armenian and Kurds in the mountain districts surrounding Lake Van (e.g., Lorge, Mayorge, Sheikhani, Marinoka). Although originally a man's dance, it can be done in mixed lines.

Pronunciation: LAH-tchee

Source: Ethnographic film from Armenian SSR.

Music: Gyondbashi (Tape) 2/4 meter

Style: Strong, solid movements.

Formation: Line or open circle, dancers standing close with arms down and fingers interlocked. Line moves CCW, and the leader on right end of line may wave handkerchief with free hand.

Meas

Pattern

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Facing fwd, step bkwd R (ct 1; lift L beside R knee, leaning back with upper torso (ct 2).  |
| 2   | Moving fwd as body straightens, step fwd on L (ct 3); step R beside L (ct &); step fwd L (ct 4).  |
| 3   | Touch R heel fwd on floor (ct 5); step bkwd on R (ct 6).  |
| 4   | Lean upper torso back lifting L beside R knee (ct 7); step L turning to face RLOD, while putting L hand, still joined, on small of back (ct 8).       |
| 5-6 | Moving fwd in joined line, step R (ct 9); step L beside R (ct &); step fwd R (ct 10); step fwd L (ct 11); step R beside L (ct &); step fwd L (ct 12). |
|     | <u>Note:</u> Cts 9,&,10; 11,&,12 are R-together-R, L-together-L.  |
| 1   | Pivot on L turning body to face ctr again, and begin dance sequence again by stepping bkwd with R (ct 1)  |

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