

MEZŐSÉGI  
(Transylvania)

The dances of Mezőség are among the most popular dances of the Táncház movement (dance house), both in Hungary and in the United States. This dance cycle is done by ethnic Hungarians living within the borders of Romania and includes a slow couple dance (Akasztós), slow and fast csárdás and men's dances. The following steps are from the slow and fast csárdás portion of the cycle and can be danced in any order and to any recording of a Mezőség dance cycle.

Pronunciation: MEZ oo shāg ee

Formation: Couples, shoulder-shoulder blade position, anywhere on the floor

Cts

Pattern

note: The steps described here are notated as starting on ct 1. When improvising it is not necessary to do so.

"BASIC CROSS"

Footwork M: (step, step, de de da)

- 1 Step on R ft to R.
- 2 Step on L ft across, in front of R ft.
- 3 Step on R ft next to L ft.
- & Step on L ft next to R ft.
- 4 Step on R ft next to L ft.
- 5-8 Repeat cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and dir.

Footwork W: (step, step, de de da)

- 1 Step on R ft fwd and across, in front of M (large step).
- 2 Step on L ft fwd and cont around M (small step).
- 3 Step on R ft next to M.
- & Step on L ft next to Rft.
- 4 Step on R ft next to L ft.

Partner Positions:

- Start with W on M's R side. M's R hand holds W's L upper arm, W's L hand on M's R shoulder blade.

- 1-4 M: Leads W to his L side and reverses above position.  
W: Switch sides by facing M.

"RIDA TURN"

Footwork M & W:

- 1 Step on R ft (outside ft) around ptrn.
- 2 Step on L ft (inside ft) next to ptrn.  
(To do a R "RIDA TURN", do the above any number of Xs. To do a L "RIDA TURN", reverse above ftwk).

MEZŐSÉGI - continued

Cts

Pattern

"RIDA TURN" - continued

Partner Positions

- M and W facing each other, W slightly to M's L side.

M: R hand holding W's L upper arm, L hand holding W's R shoulder blade.

W: R hand holding M's L upper arm, L hand holding M's R shoulder blade.

(To do a R "RIDA TURN", assume above position. For L, reverse above).

"BACK UP"

Footwork M: (step, hop, step, close)

1 Step on R ft bkws.

2 Hop on R ft.

3 Step on L ft bkws.

4 Click both ft tgthr.

Footwork W: (step, step, step, step)

1 Step on R ft fwd.

2 Step on L ft fwd.

3-4 Repeat cts 1-2.

Partner Positions:

- Same as "BASIC CROSS" except that free hands are held low, in front.

"BASIC THROW"

Footwork M: (de de da, step, close)

(cts 1-4 turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  a turn to R)

1 Step on R ft back and diag R.

& Step on ball of L ft behind R ft.

2 Step R ft in place.

3 Step on L ft to L.

4 Close R ft to L ft taking no wt.

Footwork W: (step, step, turn, step)

1 Step on R ft fwd and diag R in front of M.

2 Step on L ft fwd.

3 Step on R heel next to L ft and turn once CCW.

4 Step on L ft slightly fwd. (cts 3-4 are a "HEEL TURN").

Partner Positions:

- W starts on M's R side, ends up on M's R side but both M and W are facing the opp dir from where they started.

- M and W are turned slightly twds each other. Same as "BASIC CROSS".

1-2

MEZŐSÉGI - continued

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Pattern

"BASIC THROW" - continued

Partner Positions: (continued)

3-4

M and W let go of each other.

M: Keep arms at sides.

W: Arms are held low, elbows bent for balance  
as you turn.

"REVERSE THROW"

Footwork M: (de de da, de de da)

(cts 1-4 turn 1 turn to L)

1

Step on L ft in place.

&

Step on R ft next to L ft.

2

Step on L ft next to R ft.

3-4

Repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk.

Footwork W:

1-4

Repeat cts 1-4 of "BASIC THROW" with opp ftwk and dir.

Partner Positions:

- See "BASIC THROW" and reverse positions without  
the  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn. (W is transferred from M's L side  
to R side)

- "REVERSE THROW" is always done with a "SHORT  
ENDING". (See next step)

"SHORT ENDING"

Footwork M & W: (de de da)

1

Step on L ft in place.

&

Step on R ft next to L ft.

2

Step on L ft next to R ft.

("SHORT ENDING" may also be done with the opp ftwk  
depending upon which figure is being ended)

Partner Positions:

- The "ENDING"s are steps used to get back into a  
neutral position with ptrnr after doing a figure.

- The "SHORT ENDING" gives both M and W 1 de de da  
to open the partner position with the W on M's  
side (R or L side depending on which figure  
is being ended).

- The above ftwk is for the W ending on the L side  
of M.

"LONG ENDING"

Footwork M & W: (step, step, de de da)

1

Step on R ft (dir depends upon figure that is  
being ended).



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"LONG ENDING" - continued

Footwork M & W: (continued)

- 2 Step on L ft across and in front of R ft.  
 3 Step on R ft slightly twds ptrn.  
 & Step on L ft next to R ft.  
 4 Step on R ft next to L ft.  
 ("LONG ENDING" may also be done with opp ftwk and dir depending upon which figure is being ended)

Partner Positions:

- 1-2 The partner position depends upon which figure is being ended. For example: to end "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ" (see next step) with a "LONG ENDING", M keeps W's L hand and pulls her in (similar to the feeling in the Jitterbug) for the 2 steps, and W finally arrives at M's side for the de de da.  
 3-4 Same as "SHORT ENDING" (W ending on side of M in partner position described in "BASIC CROSS").

"TÖRÖLKÖZŐ"

Footwork M: (de de da, step, close; de de da, de de da; step, tgthr, step, tgthr)

- 1-4 Repeat cts 1-4 of "BASIC THROW".  
 5 Step on R ft slightly to R.  
 & Step on L ft next to R ft.  
 6 Step on R ft next to L ft.  
 7-8 Repeat cts 5-6 with opp ftwk and dir.  
 9 Step on R ft to R.  
 10 Step on L ft next to R ft.  
 11-12 Repeat cts 9-10.

Footwork W: (step, step, turn, step; de de da, de de da; turn, step, turn, step)

- 1-4 Repeat cts 1-4 of "BASIC THROW".  
 5 Step on R ft to R.  
 & Step on L ft slightly behind R ft.  
 6 Step on R ft to R.  
 7-8 Repeat cts 5-6 with opp ftwk and dir.  
 9-10 "HEEL TURN" on R heel (see cts 3-4 of "BASIC THROW").  
 11-12 Repeat cts 9-10.

Partner Positions:

- Törölköző is the word for towel in Hungarian. This word names this step because it should look like dancers are drying their backs with their ptrn. In other words, the step should achieve a "face-to-face, back-to back" look.  
 1-4 Same as "BASIC THROW".  
 5-6 M: takes W's L hand with his R hand, M and W face each other.  
 W: may place R hand on R side of M's body for balance.

MEZŐSÉGI - continued

Cts

Pattern

"TÖRÖLKÖZŐ" - continued

Partner Positions: (continued)

- 7-8 Keep holding hands but turn back-to-back.  
 9-10 M turns W CCW with his R hand, W's L hand.  
 11-12 Repeat cts 9-10.

"UNDER THE ARM"

note: this can be added to "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ".

Footwork M: (step, close, step, close)

- 1 Step on R ft to R.  
 2 Close L ft to R ft, taking no wt.  
 3-4 Repeat cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and dir.

Footwork W: (de de da, de de da)

- 1-4 Repeat cts 5-8 of "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ".

Partner Positions:

- 1-2 M keeps W's L hand in his R hand and holds W's L upper arm with his L hand as he leads W around his back.  
 3-4 M lets go with L hand and leads W to his R side.

"PRETZEL"

Footwork M: (de de da, step, close; de de da, de de da, step, close; de de da, de de da, step, close)

- 1-4 Repeat cts 1-4 of "BASIC THROW".  
 5-10 Repeat cts 5-10 of "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ".  
 11-16 Repeat cts 5-10 of "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ".

Footwork W: (step, step, turn, step; de de da, de de da; turn, step, de de da, de de da, turn, step)

- 1-4 Repeat cts 1-4 of "BASIC THROW".  
 5-10 Repeat cts 5-10 of "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ".  
 11-16 Repeat cts 5-10 of "TÖRÖLKÖZŐ".

Partner Positions:

- 1-4 Same as "BASIC THROW".  
 5-6 M: takes W's L hand with his L hand and W's R hand with his R hand (under L hands).  
 W: turns R shoulder twds ptrn.  
 7-8 Maintain same hand hold, W turns L shoulder twd ptrn.  
 9-10 M raises L hands and begins to turn W's back to him (CCW turn), then raises R hands to complete W's CCW turn and face her to him again with R hands on top.  
 11-12 M: leads W to his L side with L hands extended low, R hands are over M's head.  
 W: Keep facing ptrn.

MEZŐSÉGI - continued

Cts

Pattern

"PRETZEL" - continued

Partner Positions: (continued)

13-14

M: reverses arm position to lead W around his back to his R side.

W: Keep facing ptrn.

15-16

M releases R hands and turns W CCW with his L hand in front of himself.

NOTE: The descriptions of steps here are minimal (attempting to describe the mechanics) and are meant to be a reminder and/or used with a video.

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