

CIRCLE TAMZARA #1
(Garinzi Tamzara)

TAMZARA was widespread throughout much of Western Armenia with many different regional variations, and is easily recognized by its characteristically Anatolian 9/8 rhythm. TAMZARA is distinct because it is one of the few Armenian dances done by mixed groups of men and women that was done in some areas using a handhold other than the usual "Armenian hold". This traditional Garinzi version is a line dance that does use "Armenian hold". Unlike the couple or trio versions, the line TAMZARAS usually have a set length to each part of the pattern.

Source: Mrs. Margaret Tellalian Kyrkostas of Queens, N.Y.C. and her family. Mrs. Kyrkostas is a former member of the Armenian Folk Dance Society of New York, which, under the direction of Richard Kassabian, was one of the few Armenian performing groups in America that performed authentic traditional dance, rather than today's choreographed STAGE DANCES.

Music: Dance Armenian Side A-band 6, or any good 9/8 TAMZARA. The 9/8 'TAMZARA' rhythm is much slower and heavier than the faster 'upbeat' of the Turkish and Greek 9/8 'KARSHLAMA' (e.g. Rampi Rampi) and should not be confused with it.
NOTE: Any 9/8 rhythm could be counted as (1,2,3,4,-5,6,7,8,9), with each particular rhythm having it's own distinct emphasis. TAMZARA is (1,2,1,2,1,2, -1,2,3), but instead I have noted it the way dancers usually interpret it as, namely (1_,2_,3_,4&_), or (1,&,2,&,3,&,4,&,a), so that a dancer can follow it more easily.

Style: Strong heavy movements.

Formation: The CIRCLE TAMZARAS are usually in an open circle in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shoulder height).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1-4	<u>PART A</u>Keeping knees together, bend knees to left diagonal (ct 1). Straighten knees (ct 2). Bend knees to right diagonal (ct 3). Straighten knees (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
2	1-4	<u>PART B</u>Moving forward, step forward on R (ct 1). Hop on R as L lifts beside right calf (ct 2). Step forward on L (ct 3). Stamp R beside L, no weight (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
3	1-4	<u>PART C</u>Moving backward, step back on R (ct 1). Lift/swing left leg forward (ct 2). Step forward onto L (ct 3). Step back onto L (ct 4). Pause (ct a).

continued.....

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<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
4	1-4	<u>PART D</u>Moving backward, step back on L (ct 1). Lift/swing right leg forward (ct 2). Step forward onto R (ct 3). Step back onto L (ct 4). Pause (ct a).
5	1-4	Repeat <u>PART A</u> .
6	1-4	Repeat <u>PART B</u> .
7	1-4	Repeat <u>PART C</u> .
8	1-4	<u>PART E</u>Moving to left, rock forward onto L as body leans forward slightly (ct 1). Rock backward onto R as body leans backward slightly (ct 2). Repeat (cts. 3-4) Pause (ct a).
9-11	1-12	Repeat <u>PART E</u> three more times.
12	1-4	<u>PART F</u>Moving backward, step back on L (ct 1). Lift/swing right leg forward (ct 2). Moving to <u>right</u> , rock forward onto R (ct 3). Rock back onto L behind R (ct 4). Pause (ct a).

NOTE: This TAMZARA does have a set length to each part of the pattern.
e.g....ABCDABCEEEEF, ABCDABCEEEEF, etc.

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