

CIRCLE TAMZARA #2
(Yerzingatzi 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 line dance TAMZARA done by the Armenians of Yerzinga does use "Armenian hold". Unlike the couple or trio versions, the line TAMZARAS usually have a set length for 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 DANCE.

Music: Armenian Party Time Side B-band #5, or any good slow 9/8 TAMZARA. The 9/8 'TAMZARA' rhythm is much slower and heavier than the faster 'upbeat' of the Turkish and Greek 9/8 'KARSHLANA' (e.g. Rampi Rampi). Many of the modern Armenian bands mix the Armenian and Turkish rhythms, unfortunately. These 'modern' TAMZARAS are much too fast to do the old traditional versions to. This Yerzinga TAMZARA requires a slow tempo to do properly, or the subtle styling will be lost.

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>In place, with R forward, point R to left diagonal by pivoting it to its heel, with heel remaining on floor (ct 1). Point R directly forward by pivoting it on its heel (ct 2). Repeat (cts 3,4). 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 left leg (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>FAHT D</u>Moving backward, step back on L (ct 1). Lift right leg (ct 2). Moving to <u>right</u> , step R to right (ct 3). Step/leap onto L behind R, as right leg extends forward with leg straight (ct 4). Keeping right leg straight, 'beat' leg in air twice (cts &,a). <u>Note:</u> The 'beat' is a slight down and up motion of the foot/leg.

Note: The pattern for CIRCLE TANZARA #2 is ABCDABCD...

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Photo by Shadi Damon

Armenian Lace, made by Mrs. Vartanoush Shapenderian Samourkashian in 1911