

BĂTRÎNESCU

Maramureș Region (Romania)

Bătrînescu (buh-tree-NESS-koo, "old-timers' dance") is a men's circle dance from the village of Ieud (yeh-OOD) in Maramureș, northern Romania. It is one of two exclusively men's dances done in Ieud, the second being *feciorescu* (feh-chor-ESS-koo, "young men's dance"). These two dances are done in succession (*bătrînescu* first) as the opening "set" at a regular dance gathering in Ieud, and then that same set is repeated again later after a set of two couple dances. Dance cycles of this type are typical of Transylvania.

Recording: Fuge Imaginea FI 102-B, *Bătrînescu*.

Rhythm and meter: This dance is conventionally notated in 2/4 meter. Its step patterns have a great variety of rhythm patterns, and these will be given below along with the descriptions of the various figures.

Formation: Men in a circle with hands joined either at shoulder height ("W" position), down at sides ("V" position), or, less often, with arms on each other's shoulders.

| MEASURE | ACTION |
|---------|--------|
|---------|--------|

In the description below, the letter "S" (Slow) will indicate a quarter-note value (♩) and the letter "q" (quick) will indicate an eighth-note value (♪).

Figure 1

Facing very slightly to R of center and with circle moving CCW:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | q Audible step with Rft, with slight flex of R knee q Tap L heel fwd (no wt) q Step Lft beside Rft q Step Rft in LOD |
| 2 | q Audible step with Lft, closing to Rft q Tap R heel fwd q Step Rft in LOD q Step Lft beside Rft, closing to Rft |

Repeat this figure until the leader changes to another figure.

Figure 2

Facing center or very slightly R of center and moving very gradually CCW:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S Audible step with Rft slightly R; Lft is in air a bit out to side q Hop in place on Rft, swinging Lft across in front q Hop again on Rft, leaving Lft across in front |
|---|---|

(continued)

Figure 2 (cont'd)

- 2 q Step Lft in place
- q Tap R heel fwd (no wt)
- q Step Rft slightly R
- q Step Lft closing to Rft

Figure 3

- 1 Same as meas 1 of Figure 2.
- 2 S Step Lft in place, with Rft out a bit to side
- q Hop on Lft moving slightly R and clicking R heel against L heel
- q Hop on Lft again clicking R heel against L heel

Note: This figure can be done without the second click, simply bringing Rft up a bit beside L lower leg.

Figure 4

- 1 Same as meas 1 of Figure 2
- 2 Reverse footwork of meas 1 of Figure 2
- 3 Same as meas 1 of Figure 2
- 4 S Leap to L on both feet together, bending knees slightly
- S Leap to R on both feet together, bending knees slightly
- 5 S Leap to L on both feet together, bending knees slightly
- q Audible step with Rft to R
- q Audible step with Lft closing to Rft

Figure 5

- 1-2 S Jump onto both ft together, knees straight
- q Bounce on both ft together, knees straight
- S Bounce on both ft together, knees bent
- q Bounce on both ft together, knees straight
- S Bounce on both ft together, knees bent

Note: This step can be accompanied by clapping own hands in front on each beat (S-q-S-q-S).

Figure 6

- 1-2 S Land on both ft about 6" apart
- q Click heels together, coming slightly off floor
- S Land on both ft about 6" apart
- q Click heels together, coming slightly off floor
- S Land on both ft about 6" apart

Note: This step can also be accompanied by clapping own hands in front on each beat (S-q-S-q-S).

SEQUENCE: The sequence and length of time for each of the above figures is at the discretion of some individual in the circle who "sets the pace." The other dancers change to whatever figure he does as soon as they can.

Presented by Dick Crum