

Kerekes

(Gyimes, Transylvania, Romania)

The name of this dance is derived from the word “kerek” meaning round. This is one of a grouping of dances from Gyimes collectively known as the “Aprók” (little) dances. This kind of archaic circle dance can no longer be found in most of the regions where Hungarians live. Opinion differs as to whether it exists in Gyimes because the Csángo people learned these dances from neighboring Romanians or whether they kept this earlier style of dancing. In other Hungarian regions, this dance style was lost when the wave of couple dances arrived. The archival footage we used to recreate this dance was collected in 1980 in Gyimes by Gyorgy Martin, et al.

Pronunciation: KEH-reh-kehsh

Music: 4/4 meter *Dénes Dreisziger and Gissella Santayana*
Hungarian and Gypsy Dances from Transylvania CD, Band 5, 8

Formation: With a small number of couples, form a single circle. With a larger number, form two concentric circles. If there are fewer M than W, M form the inner circle and W form the outer circle; if there are fewer W, they form the inner circle and M form the outer circle. If there are two circles, they move in opp directions (i.e., inside circle moves CCW when outside circle moves CW, and vice versa).

Styling: Soft knees. Arms are held at eye level with elbows bent. Slight downbeat bounce on each count. Body slightly facing LOD, except when noted. Arms pulling slightly to create energy in circle (i.e., all dancers dancing from their core). Outside ft tends to take larger steps than the inside ft.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Ct</u>	<u>4/4 meter</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
		<u>INTRODUCTION</u> : 2 meas. No action.	
		Variation: Stomp with R near L ct 7.	
		<u>Inside Circle</u>	
1	1-2	Three steps moving CCW (R-L-R) facing LOD, with slightly smaller steps than on cts 3-4 (below)	
	3-4	Three steps moving CCW (L-R-L) facing LOD, with slightly larger steps than on cts 1-2 (above)	
2	1-2	Three steps moving CCW (R-L-R) facing ctr and actually backing up a little. Note: W can begin facing center and backing up on ct 4 of the prior meas.	
	3-4	Stomp L next to R without wt, then hold (ct 4).	
3	1-4	Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.	
4	1-2	Repeat meas 2, cts 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.	
	3-4	Stomp R twice next to L without wt (once each ct).	
5	1-4	Repeat meas 1.	
6	1-2	Repeat meas 2.	

Kerekes — continued

- 3-4 Stomp L three times next to R without wt (cts 3,&,4).
 7 1-4 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
 8 1-2 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk and direction.
 3-4 Stomp R three times next to L without wt (3,&,4).

Outside Circle

Same as M's pattern but always with opp ftwk and opp direction.

Presented by Dénes Dreisziger and Gissella Santayana

Note: At the beginning of any new melody, begin from ct 1 in meas 1 or 3. With some tunes there are more than 32 cts, in which case you repeat meas 5-6 and 7-8 until the new tune starts. Depending on the length of the previous tune, the sequence may need to be opp ftwk and opp direction.