

USZÓDI CSÁRDÁS

Pronounced: Oo-soh-dee Char-dahsh.

Uzód is a small village in the Bács-Kiskun County of Hungary just Northwest of the city of Kalocsa. This dance represents the local style of the csárdás, based on the traditional slow and fast sections. It belongs to the general middle Danubian dance family.

Source: E. Berkes, folk dance researcher.

Music: Traditional folk music. Record: VR LP 401, Side 1, Band 1.

Style: General csárdás style.

Formation: Couples in a shoulder-waist position, scattered around the room.

Basic steps and motifs

SLOW CSÁRDÁS

1. Heel-click csárdás ♪♪♪♪
 - 1 Step with the Right foot in place, clicking the Right heel to the Left heel.
 - 2 Take a small step on the Left foot to the Left side.
 - 3 Close the Right foot to the Left foot with a heel-click.
 - 4 Turn the Left heel out with a slight knee-bend. The toes of the Left foot remain touching the floor or are lifted slightly off the floor.Repeat with opposite footwork (symmetrical).
NOTE: This is actually a Man's variation. Lady does the same thing without the heel-clicks.

2. Rida turn
Long: ♪♪♪♪ | ♪♪♪♪ | ♪♪♪♪ | ♪♪♪
 - 1-14 Do seven open rida steps to the Right, turning with partner CCW.
 - 15-16 Step on the Right foot to the side with flexed knee, turning slightly to the Left as a preparation for the repeat.Repeat with opposite footwork (symmetrical).
Short: ♪♪♪♪ | ♪♪♪
 - 1-8 Same as above, except use only three rida steps instead of seven.NOTE: The half note (2 cts.) indicates that the direction change is smooth.

FAST CSÁRDÁS

3. Half turns ♪♪♪♪ | ♪♪♪
 - 1 Step on the Right foot to the Left across in front of the Left foot with bent knees.
 - 2 Straightening the knees, lift the Left foot to the side.
 - 3 Step on the Left foot into 2nd position, feet parallel, knees bent.
 - 4 Pause.

Rida steps are most commonly used in couple turns, either in the slow or fast csárdás sequences. Also, this is a very popular step in girls' circle dances, especially in the fast sections.

The authors would like to point out that the Hungarian rida is closely related to similar steps in other national dance types. The so-called "grapevine" and popular "buzz step" are among them.

(3) The third type of step to be described is also a very common Hungarian dance step--the Cifra, or "Hármas lépés" (three steps).


Cifra



- 1 Leap onto the Right foot to the Right side.
 - 2 Step on the Left foot beside the Right foot.
 - 2 Step on the Right foot in place.
- Repeat with opposite footwork (symmetrical).

All three steps are done on the balls of the feet, and this gives a light quality to the step pattern. The rhythmic pattern can be broken down into a quick, quick, slow relationship. When cifra steps are done in a series, the starting foot alternates. The pattern can be performed in forward, sideward, backward, turning, or zig-zag directions.

Some researchers believe that the cifra originated in shepherd dances. Although the use of this step touches almost every other Hungarian dance type, it is still the most common in the shepherd dances, particularly the "Kanász" dance.

Among the relatives of the Hungarian cifra are the Serbian "threes," the English "set," the "pas de basque" as well as the three-step balances, and other step patterns in  (quick, quick, slow) rhythm.

Recent publications of folk dance books and dance directions in the United States describe another movement or step as basically Hungarian. The Hungarians call it "bokázó," which means "heel-click." These publications contradict each other when they try to describe the bokázó. Hungarian researchers, folklorists, dancers and choreographers use the name, "Bokázó," as a general term for all combinations of heel-click steps. The variations of the bokázó which will be used in selected dances are described separately along with other step patterns in the individual dances.

- 5 Step on the Right foot to the Right side, knees straight.
 6 Step on the Left foot to the Right across in front of the Right foot, knees bent.
 6 Straightening the knees, lift the Right foot to the side.
 7-8 Step on the Right foot into second position, feet parallel, knees bent.

NOTE: Partners are in shoulder-shoulder-blade position and use identical footwork for the CW turn in cts. 1-4, and in the CCW turn in cts. 5-8

4. Lift *dd|dd*
 1-8 During these eight counts, the Man lifts his partner up by holding the Lady's waist. The Lady supports herself on the Man's shoulders. He then turns her around a full turn or less and places her back down on the floor.
5. Turn *dd|dd*
 1-8 With four slow steps (each step is 2 cts.), turn around in a small circle individually. The Man turns Left, CCW, and the Lady turns Right, CW.

THE DANCE

Meas. Movement
 1-4 Introduction.

SLOW CSÁRDÁS

- 1-4 Do four Heel-click csárdás steps (#1).
 5-8 Do a Long Rida turn to the Right, CCW (#2).
 9-12 Do a Long Rida turn to the Left, CW (#2 with opposite footwork).
 13-16 Do four Heel-click csárdás steps (#1).
 17-24 Do four Short Rida turns, Right, Left, Right, Left (#2).
 Repeat the Slow Csárdás two more times.

FAST CSÁRDÁS

- 1-2 Couples still in shoulder-waist position, turn with four closed rida steps, CW (Right foot begins).
 3-4 Do the Half-turns (#3).
 5-8 Repeat Meas. 1-4.
 9-10 Do the Lift motif (#4).
 11-12 Release the hand-hold and do the Turn motif (#5).
 13-16 Rejoin partner in shoulder-waist position and do either four slow single csárdás steps or four double csárdás steps.
 17-24 Repeat Meas. 9-16.

Repeat the whole fast csárdás once more with the exception of the last four measures when partners, instead of doing the csárdás steps, do a fast turn with closed rida steps, CW, until the music ends.