

BAR
(Armenia)

Although literally BAR refers to any circle dance, it is ordinarily used for this, the oldest and most popular of all Armenian dances. The BAR is the "national dance", in that it is the only dance common to all Armenians in Armenia and the diaspora. The basic pattern of "3 and 1" is related to many ancient dances of the Balkans and the Near East.

Source: Armenian community of Watertown, Mass.

Music: Virtually any dance melody in 2/4 meter, e.g.,
Barbashi #1, Side A/2 Armenian Folk Dances 2/4 meter

Style: Steps should be small and restrained, with a relaxed, erect carriage. (It is not a hora/dabka).

Formation: Open circle dance in "Armenian hold" (little fingers interlocked with hands held at shldr level). Leader at R end often flourishes a handkerchief loosely "Armenian style."

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Cts</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
		<u>Basic BAR</u>
1	1-2	Facing slightly to R, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L over R (ct 2).
2	3-4	Step on R to R (ct 3); point L toe in front (twd ctr of circle) (ct 4).
3	5-6	Step on L beside R (ct 5); point R toe in front (ct 6).
		<u>CLAP</u>
1-3	1-6	Steps are same as in BASIC BAR. Clap on each ct.

Note: Clapping as one dances the BAR is frequently seen at parties. After dancing the basic BAR for a time, the leader will often begin clapping which the rest of the line emulates. As the line claps, the leader (a male) will select a woman from the line to solo dance with him. The line will continue to clap in encouragement as it circles the couple.

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