

BERT PAR (The Fortress)  
(Armenia)

- Source: Learned by Tom Bozigian in Armenia in December 1973 from the Armenian State Dance Ensemble, director Vanoush Khanamiryan. This dance is one of the most popular dances throughout Armenia and is even performed by dance groups down to the Junior High School level. Pronunciation: BEHRT par.
- Record: GT 2001-B, Band 1 (# 4). 2/4 meter.
- Formation: Mixed lines, hands joined down at side, body facing slightly LOD. Dancers close together.

PATTERN

FIG I

R to R (ct 1). L over R (ct 2). When step is taken on R, L toe turns L. Repeat until leader calls "HEY"\*

FIG II

Turning to face LOD, R hand on waist, L arm on front neighbor's shldr, do Armenian HSS (Kertsee Step) until leader calls "HEY"\*

FIG III - Hands as in Fig I

Facing ctr and moving R, do Armenian Kertsee variation: L knee raises high in front on ct &, as upper body bends back, and arms raise from elbows to shldr height. Hands down on ct 2. Repeat until leader calls "HEY" \*

FIG IV - Hands back basket hold

Facing and moving to ctr, do Armenian Kertsee step with 8 syncopated "HEY" calls. (1st 6 calls on the "&" of each meas, the 7th and 8th, on the "&" and ct 2).

Do Kertsee in place without calls until "HEY". \*

FIG V

Turn to face RLOD, do Armenian Kertsee steps as L hand (palm up) raises above head and R hand (palm out) extends to R (cts 1, &) and hands lower to in front of chest (ct 2). Repeat until end of music.

\*When leader calls "Hey", continue pattern one more time.

Presented by Tom Bozigian  
Dance Notes by Avis Tarvin