

Mom Bar

Armenia (Eastern)

Mom Bar (MOHM BAHR) means “candle dance,” the final dance of a wedding festivity which is traditionally three days long. In his right hand the groom (and sometimes others) carries a candle, which he blows out at the end of the dance. It is a polite signal that festivities have ended and that everyone should leave. The dance was learned from Haigas Mgrditchian, a native of Mardooni village on the southern coast of Lake Sevan in eastern Armenia, by Gary Lind-Sinianian, who presented it at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1986. Here we follow the slightly different version, observed at wedding celebrations in Armenia by Tineke van Geel, who presented the dance at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1992 and 2003.

Music: LP: Ararat - Armenian Dances, Side B/18.

Rhythm: 10/8 meter = 3/8+2/8+2/8+3/8, counted here as 1, 2, 3, 4 or S, Q, Q, S.

Formation: Mixed open circle of dancers facing center with leader on right. Hands are joined in low W-pos with pinky hold. Candle is held between thumb and forefinger of right hand.

Styling: To minimize the fire hazard, hands and forearms move only in the horizontal plane, as elbows remain in place.

Meas

Pattern

12 meas

INTRODUCTION

DANCE

- 1 Step on R to R, with knee bent and forearms moving R (cts 1-2); step on L beside R, forearms moving to L (ct 3); step on R beside L, forearms moving R to ctr (ct 4).
- 2 Take a small step fwd on L with knee bent, as forearms move slightly fwd L (cts 1-2); step back on R into initial position, forearms moving to R (ct 3); step on L beside R, forearms moving L to ctr (ct 4).
- 3 Turning upper body to face slightly L of ctr, touch ball of R ft to floor across in front of L, bending L knee just before and stretching on the touch (cts 1-2); turning to face slightly R of ctr, touch ball of R ft diagonally fwd to R, again bending L knee and stretching (ct 3-4).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.

Repeat dance from beginning until music ends.