

Încâlcita

(Bessarabia, Republic of Moldova)

The Romanian word încâlcita means confusing or unclear. In popular music it refers to a bit of cleverness by musicians (lautari) to surprise both listeners and dancers. The music begins with an introduction in 3/4 time, leading everyone to believe it's a waltz. On the fifth measure, however, the musician turns the rhythm into a 4/4, throwing the disconcerted dancers into a muddle.

Încâlcita in Moldavia, Floricica in Oltenia and Brâuțeul in Muntenia are examples of dances requiring considerable skill and agility. The steps are fast, small and precise, enhanced with many crossing movements forward and back. They are done on the ball of the foot or the heel, in syncopated rhythms.

Pronunciation: eun-keul-TCHEE-tah

Music: *Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu, Special Edition, Band 5.* 4/4 meter

Formation: Mixed circle; hands joined in V position, facing ctr.

Steps & Styling: Knees very loose in Fig I.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

3/4 meter (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7), wait (1, 2), music (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7), wait (1, 2). No action.

I. FIGURE I

- 1 Lift on L ft and bring hands up in W-pos (ct 1); step on R to R, ft and body turning (very slightly) twd the direction (ct &,2); step on L (toes facing ctr) to R in front of R ft (ct &,3); step on R to R (ct &); touch with L ball of ft in front of R and turn body facing ctr (ct 4,&).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- Note:** Rhythm is quick-slow-slow-quick-slow.

II. FIGURE II

- 1 Lift L ft turning ¼ t. to the R, face LOD and swing arms down in V pos (ct 1); step fwd on R (ct &,2); step fwd on L (ct &,3); step fwd on R (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 4,&).
Note: The 4 steps of this meas are done with stamping and moving LOD.
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1, twice (3 in total)
- 4 Stamp on R without wt (ct 1); stamp on R with wt and turning to face ctr (ct 2,&); step L across in back of R (ct 3&); step sdwd on R to the R (ct &); cross L ft slightly in front of R ft (ct 4,&).
Note: Rhythm is quick-slow-slow-quick-slow. Also, the steps in this figure are done with wt on the whole ft, except on the first beat of the first meas.

Încâlcita--continued

III. FIGURE III

- 1 Facing ctr with hands joined in V-pos, step on R in place (ct 1); cross L in front of R ft (ct &); step on R in place (ct 2); step on L slightly to the L (ct &); cross R in front of L ft (ct 3); step on L in place (ct &); small leap onto R to the R and turn body slightly to the R (ct 4,&).
Note: Rhythm is quick-quick-quick-quick-quick-quick-slow.
- 2 Step on L heel with wt in front of R ft and L leg extended (ct 1); fall smoothly onto R to R (ct &); step on L heel with wt in front of R ft and L leg extended (ct 2); fall smoothly onto R to the R (ct &); step on L in front (ct 3,&); step on R in place (ct 4,&).
Note: 3&-4& is one rocking step. Also rhythm is quick-quick-quick-quick-slow-slow.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Presented by Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu