

CA LA BALTA

(Romania)

This dance, from the region of Oltenia near the Danube river (southwest Romania), is known by several different names and danced to different melodies in a group of villages around the town of Băilești. Dances done in short lines, with arms crossed in back and composed of fast crossing steps in place, stamps, and surging movements forward, back and diagonally, are characteristic of this area. *Ca la balta* (kah lah BAHl-tah 'as in the marshland') is an excellent example of this dance type and was described by Gheorghe Popescu-Județ, who first collected it in 1955, as "one of the most typical stamping line dances done by the Oltenians of the Danubian plain."

Recording: Folkraft LP-33, A-3, *Ca la balta*

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Dancers, originally men only, in lines of no less than three and no more than five or six, hands joined in back-basket (back "X" position).

MEASURE	ACTION
<u>Part 1</u>	
1	Facing diagonally R of ctr and moving fwd in this direction, step Rft (1); step Lft fwd, turning to face diag L of ctr (2).
2	Moving diagonally bkwd/R, take one 2-step RLR (1 & 2).
3-4	Repeat movements of meas 1-2 with opposite footwork and direction.
5-8	Repeat movements of meas 1-4.
Dancers sometimes shout the following <i>strigătură</i> during Part 1:	
M 1:	<i>Uite-o, uite-o</i> (WEE-toh WEE-toh) "There is, there is,
M 3:	<i>Nu-e, nu-e</i> (NOO-yeh NOO-yeh) There isn't, there isn't
M 5:	<i>Și-nc-odată</i> (SHEENK-o-dah-tuh) Once more
M 7:	<i>Trei acuu!</i> (TRAY ah-KOO) Now three times!"
<u>Part 2</u>	
9	Step Rft in place (1); stamp Lft (no wt) fwd (&); step Lft in place (2); stamp Rft (no wt) fwd (&).
10	Step Rft in place (1); step Lft across in front of Rft (&); step Rft in place (2); step Lft beside Rft (&).
11-12	Repeat movements of meas 10 two more times.
13	Step Rft across in front of Lft (1); step Lft in place (&); step Rft beside Lft (2); step Lft across in front of Rft (&).
14	Step Rft in place (1); step Lft beside Rft (&); step Rft across in front of Lft (2); step Lft in place (&).
15-16	Repeat movements of meas 1-2.
17-22	Repeat movements of meas 9-14 reversing footwork.
23-24	Repeat movements of meas 3-4.

Notes by Dick Crum

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