

Dura

Translation: means “hard” in Romanian, as it does in most Romance languages. Da dura, on the other hand, is a colloquial expression meaning “to roll downhill.” Early notes translated dura as “rolling along” or just “rolling,” and somehow this became “gliding” on Michael Herman’s record, Folk Dancer MH 1121-B. *Source:* Romanian dance teacher Larisa Lucaci introduced Dura to the U.S. at the Hermans’ Folk Dance House in New York in about 1955, and Dick Crum spread it across the country in the ensuing year. *Rhythm:* 2/4

Formation: Circle, hands joined and held shoulder-high. Earliest notes indicate a broken circle, leader at R end. Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference 1966 notes indicate hands down, but those notes are wrong in many places. *Current notes courtesy of:* Ron Houston

Measure	Count	Introduction	Measure	Count	Seven
1-4		No action.	9-10	1	Step to L onto L foot
				&	Step behind L foot onto R foot
		Three two-steps and balance. Facing CCW around circle:	2 &		REPEAT
1-3		Starting onto R foot, dance 3 two-steps CCW around the circle.	1 &		REPEAT
		Two-step (1 per bar):	2		step to L onto L foot
	1	Run forward onto R foot	Stamps		
	&	Step beside R foot onto L foot	11-12	1 2 1 & 2	Stamp 5 times beside L foot with R foot, no weight. If you don’t like numbers, the rhythm is “slow, slow, quick, quick, slow.”
	2	Step forward onto R foot	Face to R and REPEAT bars 1-12 to the end of the music. The non-concordant music, however, occurs in ten, 16-bar phrases, so you will do the dance 13 1/3 times in all, ending with the balance forward and back of bar 4.		
		REPEAT with alternating footwork, 3 times in all.			
4	1	Leap forward onto L foot			
	2	Leap back onto R foot, facing center			
		Note: Handwritten notes from Ogelbay Institute 1955 describe “flying steps—cover much ground.”			
		Four threes in place. Facing center:			
5-8		Dance 4 threes with stamp.			
		Threes with stamp (1 per bar):			
	1 & 2	Step in place onto ball of: L foot, R foot, L foot			
	&	Stamp beside L foot with R heel, no weight			
		REPEAT of step uses opposite footwork.			
		Note: Those Oglebay notes describe a brush instead of a stamp, turning the toe out slightly.			
		They also say “hands in air, fingers snapping.”			

See next page for alternate version >

Dura (alternate version)

Source: Larisa Lucaci presented this dance to folk dancers in the 1950s. Dura is in the hora family of Romanian dances.

Current notes courtesy of: Dick Oakes Translation: Gliding or rolling along Rhythm: 2/4

Formation: Open circle of mixed M and W, w/hands joined and held down in "V" position.

Steps/Style: **Running Two-Step**

Step FWD (ct. 1); short step FWD L (ct. &); step FWD R (ct. 2). While this step resembles three simple running steps, the second step is actually shortened to give it the character of a legitimate two-step. The REPEAT is w/opposite footwork.

Scuff

A light stamp where the foot comes from in back and brushes the floor as it is kicked slightly FWD.

Stamp

The stamp is with the full foot, without weight.

Measure	Counts	Introduction	Measure	Counts	FIG. 3 —SDWD Run, Slow Stamps, Quick Stamps
1-4		No action	1	1, &	Step L SDWD; Close L to R, taking weight
		FIG. 1—Running Two-Steps, Balance	2, &		Step L SDWD; Close L to R, taking weight
1-3	—	Dance three running two-steps to R in LOD, beginning R	2	1, &	Step L SDWD; Close L to R, taking weight
4	1	Step L diagonally into centre	2, &		Step L SDWD; Pause
	2	Step R BKWD in place	3	1	With weight on L, stamp R next to L without weight
		FIG. 2—Threes with Stamp	2		Stamp R next to L without weight
1	1	Facing center and raising hands high w/elbows straight, small step L SDWD	4	1	With weight remaining on L, stamp R next to L
	&	Step R in place next to L	&		Stamp R next to L without weight
	2	Step L in place next to R	2		Stamp R next to L without weight
	&	Scuff R heel in place	&		Pause
					REPEAT entire dance from beginning
2	—	REPEAT action of FIG. 2, measure 1, to L w/opposite footwork			
3-4	—	REPEAT action of FIG. 2, measures 1-2			