

**Perinița** (the little pillow)  
Muntenia, Romania

Perinița is a distinctive Romanian dance of the kiss. This version is composed of a *Sârba* dance (with three basic figures) in a mixed circle. Following a brief exchange, decided upon by the dancers, the couple kneels in the middle of the *Sârba* on a little pillow or a handkerchief and shares a kiss. The brief exchange could be a short swirl, a little waltz, or whatever comes to mind. After the kiss, the last person selected will choose a new partner, while the former partner rejoins the circle. *Perinița* was traditionally performed on New Year's Eve or was the last dance of a wedding celebration. Now, every happy event may include it.

**Formation:** mixed circle, handhold in W position

**Pronunciation:** peh-ree-NEE-tsah

**Style:** hands W position doing tiny circles up and toward centre of circle

**Accessory:** one handkerchief; repeat the music or use more than one handkerchief to have more participation

**Meter:** 4/4

Meas **Figure 1**

- Facing centre, slightly moving to the R, hands in W position, make saw-tooth pattern
- 1 Facing diag R of ctr, step on R (ct 1), step on L (ct 2), step on R (ct 3), lift R heel raising L near R ankle (ct 4)
- 2 Repeat meas 1, facing diag L of ctr, with opp footwork, moving backward out of circle
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2, 3 more times (4 total)

Meas **Figure 2: *Sârba pe trei***

- Facing slightly right, moving LOD
- 1 Step R to R, swing arms down in V pos (ct 1), lift R heel raising L ft near R ankle (ct 2), step on L across R, swing arms up in W pos (ct 3), lift L heel raising R ft near L ankle (ct 4)
- 2 Hands in W pos doing small circles, step R to R (ct 1), step on L beside R (ct 2), step on R (ct 3), lift R heel raising L ft near R ankle (ct 4) ("cha-cha-cha")
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opposite ftwk
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4

Meas **Figure 3: *Sârba pe patru***

- 1 Do Fig 2, meas 1
- 2 Hands in W pos doing small circles, step R to R (ct 1), step on L beside R (ct 2), step on R (ct 3), step on L beside R (ct 4)
- 3-8 Repeat measures 1-2, 3 more times (4 total)

**Dance Pattern**

F1 + F2 + F3

Dancers with handkerchiefs choose a dancer from the circle by placing the handkerchief around his/her neck and bringing him/her to the centre. They kneel on the handkerchief and kiss each other on the cheek. The first dancer returns to dance in the circle, while the handkerchief stays with the chosen dancer to repeat the same.