

Ropotelul

(Bucovina, Romania)

Ropotelul (roh-poh-TSEH-lool) is a traditional dance from the village of Vama in the Bucovina region of Romania. The name comes from *ropot*, which means “tramp,” “clatter,” or “thundering,” such as the sound of hooves or rain on a roof. *El* is a Romanian diminutive suffix and *ul* is the article “the.” This dance was presented by Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the summer of 2025.

Music: 4/4 Meter CD: Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu Romanian Realm Vol. 13, Band 5.
The CD can be obtained by contacting Sonia Dion at sonia_dion@hotmail.com.

Video: Cristian and Sonia produce their own videos, which can be purchased by contacting sonia_dion@hotmail.com. If you attended Stockton Folk Dance Camp and purchased the video package, you will have access to the videos.

Formation: Mixed circle of dancers in a shoulder hold facing center. If a shoulder hold is uncomfortable, arms should be down in V-position.

Steps and Styling: Joyful, bouncy, relaxed.

Meas	Meter 4/4	PATTERN
2 meas		INTRODUCTION. No action.
1	I.	IN PLACE; TO THE RIGHT AND BACK TO THE LEFT. Step R in front of L (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); step R beside L (ct 3); lift L in front (ct 4).
2		Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
3-4		Repeat meas 1-2.
5		Sway R to R (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 3-4).
6		Repeat meas 5.
7		Step R to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L behind R (ct 4).
8		Repeat meas 7, cts 1-2 (cts 1-2); step R to R (ct 3); kick L fwd (ct 4).
9-10		Repeat meas 7-8 with opp ftwk and direction.
11-12		Repeat meas 5-6 (sways).
1	II.	TRAVELING RIGHT. Step R to R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); lift L fwd with bent knee (ct 4).
2		Step L across R (ct 1); lift R behind (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L beside R (ct 4).
3		Step R to R (ct 1); lift L fwd with bent knee (ct 2); step L across R (ct 3); lift R behind (ct 4).
4-6		Repeat meas 1-3.
7		Step R to R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); lift L fwd with bent knee (ct 4).
		Note: the same 6-count pattern is done four and a half times; the pattern crosses the measures.
1-12	III.	IN PLACE; TO THE LEFT AND BACK TO THE RIGHT. Repeat Fig I with opp ftwk and direction.
1-7	IV.	TRAVELING LEFT. Repeat Fig II with opp ftwk and direction.

Sequence: Repeat as set forth above three times, then Fig I, Fig II, Fig III meas 1-6.