

CHERKESSIA (Cheh-kiz-seea)
(Now considered Palestinian)

This dance was believed to originally be a man's dance of Circassia. In Czarist days the Mohammedans of that region were persecuted, & as a result, migrated to other lands, to settle in Syria & parts of Palestine. An Arabian to whom I have talked told me it was a dance from Trans-Jordan.

RECORD: "Cherkessia", Kismet Album #3 (twice through)
Sonart Album M-303 (once through)

FORMATION: Original two lines facing each other, hands at each other's waists, leader at each end, or a broken circle. Generally done now in a circle, with hands held.

DANCE: (No introduction). Each pattern is preceded by the chorus.
CHORUS: Moving to left, step forward with a stamp on right foot in front of left. Bring left foot to right. Step back on right foot, bring left foot to right. Repeat three more times. When stepping forward, bend body forward, when stepping back, lean body back as far as possible.
1. Moving to right (16 steps). Step to side on right foot with the left leg extended to side, bring left foot behind the right with both knees slightly bent.

CHORUS:
2. Facing right, do eight step-hops in line of direction of circle, with trailing leg straightened at each step hop.

CHORUS:
3. Moving to right (Susey-Q), keep feet close together, all move both toes to right, both heels to right. Continue for 8 measures.

CHORUS:
4. Starting with right foot, all kick forward 16 times, leaning backward.

CHORUS:
5. Starting with right foot, all kick backward 16 times, leaning forward.

CHORUS:
6. All turn to right & move in line of direction (CCW) in semi-crouch position with 16 shuffle steps.

Finish dance by thrusting joined hands upwards.