DAMAT HALAYI

(Edirne, Turkey)

I learned this dance from Denise Heenan. She told us that this dance was among those danced by a group of young dancers who greeted the ***Trakya 2008*** tour buses after crossing the border into Turkey from Greece. Since the tour members and the dancers did not speak each other's language, the dancers wrote down the name of the dance. Later one of the zourna musicians helped write the dance description. They saw this danced several times at the festive gatherings in Edirne, Turkey. There is one pattern to this dance which has several variations as the tempo increases. On y*outube* there are other variations, and some with shoulder hold.

Pronunciation: dah-MAHT ha-LAH-yee

Formation: Open circle. While performed with a 'pinkie' hand hold joined in W pos, informal video of the dance shows hands in W position and hands in V position. Arms are not rigid, but bounce slightly during the dance.

Meas	4/4 meter	Pattern
Introduction	No action. Dance starts with the drum beats.	
1	Moving CCW, step R (ct 1), L (ct 2), R (ct 3), touch L next to R (ct 4).	
2	Repeat meas 1 with opposite footwork and direction.	
3	Repeat meas 1.	
4	Repeat meas 2.	
5	Step R to R (ct 1), touch L next to R (ct 2). Step L to L (ct 3), touch R next to L (ct 4).	
6	Repeat meas 5.	
7	With weight on L, touch R fwd (ct 1), R to side (ct 2), close R to L (ct 3), hold (ct 4).	
8	Bending at the waist and gradually raising to full height, clap 5 times (cts 1, &,2, &, 3).	

Variations:
As the music gets faster, the steps become runs, and the touches become lifts and/or kicks. Measure 7 can be seen done with jumps, or jumping into place on the last count.

Presented by Loui Tucker
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