

Kotchari

An Assyrian dance originally taught by Ricky Holden. "Assyrians" are an ethnic minority living today mostly in Iraq. Historically and geographically "Assyria" refers to northern Mesopotamia, an area today divided between Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey. The "Assyrians" were/are a semitic people indigenous to this area, ethnically distinct from Arabs, Turks, Persians, Kurds and other groups living in this area.

MUSIC: "Kotchari" private recording of "Balkansemblet."

FORMATION: Long line, leader on R. Handhold: Shoulder hold ("T")

STYLE: Rough and energetic for both M and W

METER: 4/4

PATTERN

Meas

I. FIRST FIGURE ("Walk and touch")

- 1 Facing diagonally and moving R, take 4 slightly bouncing steps (1,2,3,4). (Bounce by straightening knees on cts, bend knees on "&'s.)
- 2 Touch ball of R ft diagonally R (1), touch ball of R ft beside L ft (2), stamp R ft beside L ft, without taking weight on R ft (3). Pause (4).
- 3-8 Repeat Measures 1-2 three more times. (Four times in all.)

II. SECOND FIGURE ("Halay with twist")

- 1 Facing diagonally and moving R, leap onto R ft (1), leap onto L ft (2). Turning to face center jump onto both ft (3). Hop on R ft, lifting L knee high in front (4).
- 2 Jump onto both ft (1). Hop on L ft, lifting R knee high in front (2). Hop on L again, twisting lower body to L so R ft swings out to R, lower leg parallel to floor, knees together (3). Hop on L again, this time returning to previous position (4).
(Shout "hey" on both counts 3 and 4.)
- 3-8 Repeat Measures 1-2 three more times. (Four times in all.)

III. THIRD FIGURE ("Throw legs back and forwards")

- 1 Facing forward and moving very slightly to the R the whole time, leap onto R ft, throwing L ft backwards (1), hop on R ft, kicking L ft forward (2), leap onto L ft, throwing R ft backwards (3), hop on L ft, kicking R ft forward (4).
- 2 Leap onto R ft, throwing L ft backwards (1), step on L ft crossed behind R (2), stamp R ft next to L, without taking weight (3), pause (4).
- 3-8 Repeat Measures 1-2 three more times. (Four times in all.)

Repeat from the beginning, four repetitions of each pattern, until the end of the music.

*Dance description by Lee Otterholt
Presented by Lee Otterholt at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2002*