

DEBKI B'ALABKIA

(Syrian)

Source: Learned from members of the San Francisco Syrian colony by Vilma Matchette and presented by her at the 1958 California Kolo Festival. B'Alapkia is danced in Syria, Lebanon, and other parts of the Near East. Notes written by Ruth Ruling.

Record: FEZ 705-A "Debki" -- 2/4 time.

Formation: Broken circle, leader at R end. Dancers stand shoulder to shoulder, facing ctr. Hands are joined palm to palm, fingers interlocking. Joined hands are held firmly down. Free hands of end men are on hip. Women may dance in line but the ends must be men.

Styling: There is a slight flex of knees on each step.

Meas.

Pattern

- 1 Stamp L (no wt) a little fwd and almost in front of R ft (ct. 1). Repeat stamp (ct. 2).
- 2 Cross L in front and to R side of R, toe pointing twd ctr (ct. 1). Small step to R side with R (ct. 2).
- 3 Repeat action of meas. 2. During dance L ft remains a little fwd and nearer ctr than R.

Variation: (May be used as dance progresses)

- 1 Same as basic.
- 2-3 On each step add a chug on the following & ct. When stepping on L, chug fwd; when stepping on R, chug bwd.