

DABKE #2

From "dabak", meaning the sound of stamping or banging, came "Dabke", the national dance of the Levantine Arabs. The precision stamping distinguishes the DABKE from the many other related dances of the Near East and Balkans (e.g. HORA, KASAP, ORO, ARKON, etc.). There are as many DABKES today as there are songs written for them, and every village has it's own special DABKE unique to it. This Syrian DABKE, sometimes called the 'old' DABKE, is one of the numerous village dances done in the rural areas, although it has largely been replaced in the cities by the 'new' DABKE (see DABKE #1).

Source: Syrian-Lebanese communities of New England.

Music: Debki (FEZ 705-A).

Style: Torso often leans forward slightly. Every village DABKE has subtle body 'bounces' unique to that village. These dances can only be learned in their entirety by dancing with someone from that village.

Formation: Tight, shoulder-to-shoulder line or open circle, with arms straight down and fingers interlocked, or, "Kurdish hold" (Dancers very close with fingers interlocked and arms bent at elbows, so that the forearms are at a right angle to the body, pointing forward).

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
<u>BASIC DANCE</u>		
1	1,2	Step L over R (ct 1). Step R to right (ct 2).
2	3,4	Step L over R (ct 3). Step R to right (ct 4).
3	5&6	Lift L to front with left leg straight (ct 5). Swing L back, keeping left knee in place (ct &). Stamp L sharply beside R, no weight (ct 6).
<u>VARIATION #1</u>		
1,2	1-4	Same as in BASIC DANCE (cts 1-4).
3	5&6	Lift L in front with left leg straight (ct 5). Swing L back, keeping left knee in place (ct &). Stamp/step forward on L (ct 6). Stamp/step forward on R (ct &). <u>NOTE</u> ...the last two steps of the dance, with the first step, together make three very sharp steps moving forward. Dancers often crouch and 'charge' forward at this point.