

DEBKI ZAROURA (Syrian)

Pronunciation: Deb'key Zah roo' rah

Source: Dance is from the mountains of Lebanon. Learned by Vilma Matchette from members of the local Syrian colony in San Francisco, Presented by Vilma Matchette at the 1958 California Kolo Festival; Notes prepared by Ruth Ruling.

Record: FEZ 705-B "Zaroura" (introduction; dance starts with beat).

Formation: Broken circle, leader at R end. Dancers stand shoulder to shoulder, facing center. Hands are joined palm to palm, fingers interlocking. Joined hands are held firmly down. Free hands of end man 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.

Measures      Pattern

1      Step to R side with R (ct. 1). Step L across in front of and to R side of R (ct. 2).

2      Step to R side with R (ct. 1). Touch ball of L ft (heel close to ground) in front of and to R side of R (ct. 2). Raise and lower R heel at the same time.

3      Raising and lowering R heel, touch ball of L ft (heel close to ground) to L side (ct. 1). L is still closer to center than R. Raising and lowering R heel, lift L leg, knee straight, toes pointing twd. ctr (ct. 2).

4      On upbeat, bend L knee, bringing the L ft back under body in preparation for the next step.  
Stamp L fwd with a brushing movement (ct. 1). L ft does not stay on floor after stamp but follows through on the brush. R heel lifts slightly as L is brushed fwd. Step L next to R (ct. 2).

5      Touch ball of R ft (heel close to ground) in front of and to L side of L ft (ct. 1). Raise and lower L heel at same time.  
Dance starts again on ct. 2 of meas. 5. Dance takes 9 cts. (4 1/2 meas  
Dance to the beat-- not to the melody.  
Repeat pattern to end of music.