

Hora Tzchok

(Israel)

Hora Tzchok (HOH-rah tsuh-HOHK), meaning "Dance of Laughter," was choreographed by Moti Alfassi in 1981 to music by Gil Aldenma. It is a popular dance done all over Israel and in locations around the world where Israeli dances are prevalent. The dance was taught by David Edery at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the summer of 1999.

Music: CD: Israel Dances ID 1002, Band 1; 4/4 meter
Record: Hadarim LP-11 Oshet Yad L'ashalom.

Formation: Mixed closed circle with hands joined in V-pos, or lines with hands joined in V-pos.

Steps and Styling: Danced with a light step on the balls of the feet without any heavy stamps or footsteps.

Triplet (1 to a meas): Similar to a traditional pas-de-basque. Leap lightly to R side onto R foot (ct.1); step on ball of L next to or slightly in front of R (ct. 2); step on R in place (ct. 3); hold (ct. 4). Step alternates.

Slide-Close (2 to a meas): Usually danced sdwds. Slide R ft sdwd to R (ct 1); slide L ft next to R (ft parallel) (ct 2); repeat exactly for cts 3,4 Slide also may be done with opp ftwk and direction beginning with L.

Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action. (There are many recordings, but a 4 measure introduction is typical.)

I. GRAPEVINE AND TRIPLETS

1 Dance one grapevine step moving CCW: leap lightly to the R side onto R ft (ct. 1); leap lightly onto the L ft across in front of the R (ct. 2); leap to the R side onto R ft (ct. 3); leap lightly onto the L across behind the R (ct. 4).

2 Dance two triplets, beginning with R ft to R side, facing the ctr of the circle.

3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three times, for a total of four times.

II. SLIDE-CLOSE, RUN, JUMP

1 Facing ctr and beg with R ft, dance two Slide-Close Steps moving to R side (CCW).

2 Facing diag R of ctr, dance two light running steps (R, L) moving in LOD (cts 1, 2); turning to face ctr, jump onto both feet (ct. 3); hop on R (ct 4).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and moving in the opp direction.

III. SLIDE-CLOSE, TURN, JUMP (variation on Fig II)

- 1 Repeat Fig II, meas 1 (Two Slide-Close Steps to R side).
- 2 Releasing hands and beg R, make a full turn to the R (CW) with 2 steps while moving in LOD (cts 1,2); rejoining hands in V-pos, repeat cts 3,4 of Fig II, meas 2 (Jump onto both ft and hop on R).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 of Part III with opp ftwk and direction. On meas 4 turn only 3/4 L (CCW) (cts 1,2) and finish the meas facing in LOD.

IV. HEEL-STEPS, TURN AND CLAP

- 1 With hands joined in V-pos and facing LOD, dance a low hop on L while touching R heel fwd on the ground (ct. 1); low leap fwd onto R foot (ct. 2); low hop on R while touching L heel fwd on the ground (ct 3); dance a low leap fwd onto L foot (ct. 4).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, continuing to move in LOD.
- 3 Drop handhold. Beg R, make a 3/4 turn to the R (CW) with three steps (cts. 1-3); facing ctr, lean slightly to the R and clap hands in front of R shldr.
- 4 Full turn to the L (CCW) with three steps (cts. 1-3); facing ctr, lean slightly to the L and clap hands in front of L shoulder. Rejoin hands to begin the dance again.

SEQUENCE: Dance sequence as written until music ends, usually three times on most recordings.

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Ki hayayin shachor bah enayim
Ve ha etzev nokev ba levav
Rak ha tzchok ve bedichot meshovav hu
Yesh od kef ba shalom ha rachav

Because the wine is dark in the eyes
And the sadness is hurting the heart
Only the laughter and jokes are happy
There is still fun in the wide world

Ba basis, ba mishlat,
Ba ruchot ba sharav
Hu itanu ha tzchok ha parua
Hu itanu ba esh, hu itanu ba krav
Hu noshek lesiftay ha patzua
Hu itanu ba esh, hu itanu ba krav
Hu noshek lesiftay ha patzua

In the army base, in the bunker,
In the winds, in the heat
The wild laughter is with us
It's with us in the fire; it's with us in the battlefield
It's kissing the lips of the wounded
It's with us in the fire; it's with us in the battlefield
It's kissing the lips of the wounded