

## MAMER

This dance was taught to us by a very old Assyrian whose name we have forgotten. He told us that this was his village's favorite dance, which they called HALAY. He was very insistent that this is the 'authentic' HALAY, and that everyone else's HALAY should be suspect. This dance is not done to a 'HALAY' tempo, but rather to a 2/4 'BAR' tempo. We are referring to this dance as MAMER, rather than HALAY, to avoid confusion. MAMER is the closest Assyrian music we can find that corresponds to the original music he used,

Source: Assyrian community of Worcester, Mass.

Music: Assyrian Folk Dances (Folkraft LP 4) Side A-band #3 "MAMER"; or any good 2/4 'BAR' music.

Style: Knees flexed, crouched slightly forward. We do not know if this is the proper style for the dance, or simply the style of the man who taught us

Formation: Open circle in "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>
1	1,2	Small hop on R, strike left heel forward on floor on hop's 'downbeat' (ct 1). Repeat (ct 2).
2	3,4	Step on L beside R (ct 3). Stamp/step forward heavily onto R (ct 4).
3	5,6	Step back onto L behind R (ct 5). Step R to right (ct 6). <u>note...</u> line progresses slightly to right.

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