

Şemname

(Eastern Turkey)

This dance is performed in eastern, southeastern, and southern Turkey with stylistic differences. Below is one version from eastern Turkey, in the Govend (Halay) style.

Pronunciation: Shem-mah-mey

Formation: Line, facing ctr, moving fwd, interlaced fingers; shoulder-to-shoulder alignment

METER: 6/4

PATTERN

Introduction: Wait one-two measures at the beginning to make line shapes and bodily alignments. Groups in line may dance facing each other.

Measures 1-3

PART I

- 1-4 Bent knees making circle from L to R (ct 1&2)
Arms in parallel moving with the knee direction
Repeat (ct 1&2)
- 5-6 R step fwd and place L
Arms swing fwd
- 7-8 L step fwd and place R
- 9-12 Four cts walking step backwards R-L-R-L (smaller than fwd steps)
Arms swinging from back to front (four cts in total)

PART II

Measure 4

- 13 R heel fwd pose
Arms pose W at the chest level
Body leans backward
- 14 Whole body turns left
L arm in front on the belly and R arm back on the sacrum; keep fingers interlaced
L heel fwd poses diagonal on L
- 15 Body slightly and diagonally turns to the right side while it still faces to L
R heel fwd poses diagonal on R
- 16 Body slightly turns to the L side
L heel fwd poses diagonal on L

Repeat the sequence.

Variation: Each fwd step can be replaced with three quick skip steps.