

HALAY

The dance name **Halay** is found throughout central and eastern Anatolia/Turkey to describe a whole series of dances. The term is found among Turks, Kurds and Armenians and as in this case, among several communities of Greeks of central north Anatolia. The dance described here is from the former **Greek Pontian** mining communities of **Ak Dag Maden** west of Sivas. This is a mixed gender dance, the leader usually holds and waves a kerchief in his/her free right hand. Meter is 2/4 – basic handhold is a “W”- basic step pattern is of the “Sta Tria” type (3 measure).

Dance Phrase Ct (Note: 1,2 = Meas 1; 3,4 = Meas 2; 5,6=Meas)

- 1& R to r
- 2& L in front of R (& = bring R close to L, leaning sl fwd, occasionally with greater bend from waist, swing arms down and back)
- 3& Step R bk (sl to r of orig pos), occasionally with greater emphasis; straightening up, swing arms back into “W” pos
- 4& Touch L with emphasis or “dig” L sl fwd of R – could be done with foot facing sl inward (occasionally can push weight onto L on 4 and rock back onto R on &)
- 5& L back in place near to R
- 6& same as 4& on opposite footwork.

NOTE: in Dancer’s cts the & is equal in duration to the 1, so the dance phrase can be counted as 1&2&3&4&5&6& or 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12

Halay Variant 1 - Basically same as above with the elimination of arm swing and double the time on touch steps (cts 4& and 6&), often with a double bounce i.e. dance now in **8 counts (4 measures)**

Halay Variant 2 – 6 ct, 3 measure form as above; but here, each full step can be substituted with a rocking variation e.g R becomes r,l,R (cts 1 & 2/ qqS) hence for purposes of teaching it is easier to count 1 – 12 instead of 1 – 6.

Joe Kaloyanides Graziosi 2007