

HALAY #5 (CONTEMPORARY)

There are (or were) hundreds of different HALAYS/ KOTCHARIS/ GOVANDS, many going back to different regions of Eastern or Western Armenia. Aside from these traditional dances, there are many modern versions, with many Armenian-American communities having their own particular favorite dance and style distinct to that community. Originally a men's dance adopted from the Kurdish mountain tribes, there are still many versions, both traditional and modern, done by men only. At a major picnic it is possible to see a dozen different HALAYS being done simultaneously. Today women dance the Halay as well as the men, but they usually dance in segregated lines. These HALAYS are not traditional, of course. This is a contemporary version similar to HALAY #3, but it's much more restrained, and can be done by either men or women.

Source: Adrian Amirian of Boston, Ma.

Music: Dance Armenian Side B-band #2, The Armenian Side B-"zurna halay", or any good 2/4 or 4/4 'HALAY' music.

Style: Similar to men's style, but much more restrained.

Formation: Short lines of women, or a mixed line, in 'back-basket' hold, arms around back of neighbor's waist, or 'Kurdish hold' (Dancers very close together with fingers interlocked and arms bent forward at elbows, so that forearms are pointing straight in front of waist, or upward in front of chest). The line must move as a single cohesive unit.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1,2&	Step forward on R as body sways forward (ct1). Flex/hcp on R twice (cts 2,&). <u>note</u> ..keep L touching floor.
2	3,4&	Step backward on L as body sways backward (ct 3). Flex/hop on L twice (cts 4,&). <u>note</u> ..keep R touching floor.
3,4	5-8&	Repeat cts 1-4& (cts 5-8&).
5	9,10	Facing center but moving right, step R to right as lean forward slightly (ct 9). Step L behind R as body straightens (ct 10).
6	11,12	Step R to right (ct 11). Stamp/close L beside R, no weight (ct 12).
7	13,14	Step L to left (ct 13). Step R behind L (ct 14).
8	15,16	Step L to left (ct 15). Close R beside L, no weight (ct 16).

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