

AHAVAT HADASSAH (Love to the Country)

(Israel)

Ahavat Hadassah (Ah-hah-vaht Ha-das-sah) was choreographed by Rivka Sturman to an ancient Yemenite folk tune with lyrics by Schabazi. The chorus or basic step (Parts I and III) is known as the "Da'assah step" and was taught by the director of Inbal, Sara Levi, to folk dance classes organized by the "Folk Dance Department of the Workers' Organization" of Israel. This popular Yemenite step has become known in the United States as the "Camel step". Ahavat Hadassah was the first folk dance choreography to utilize this pattern.

MUSIC: Record: Israeli Folk Dances, Hed Arzi An 18-28

FORMATION: Short lines of dancers, hands joined with left elbows bent and right arms extended forward and tucked under the elbow of the preceding dancer, facing CCW.

STEPS and
STYLING:

The Da'assah step:
Ct

- 1 Step R fwd, rising on ball of R ft
- 2 Shift wt bkwd onto ball of L, lower onto flat of L ft bending knees and bending body slightly fwd from the waist (keep back straight).
- 3 Shift wt fwd and step slightly fwd R keeping knees bent.
- 4 Step fwd L (ct 4). Smoothly extend L knee (R knee slightly) straightening the body (ct &).

Note: The body describes a fluid circle (fwd, up, back, fwd-down, and straighten).

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Ct</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
4		Introduction
A 1-4	1-16	<u>PART I</u> (Chorus) Do the Da'assah step 4 times.
B 1	1	<u>PART II</u> Face ctr of circle, hands joined and down.
	2	Dance 4 bouncy steps: Step R to R.
	3	Step L diag behind R, turning body slightly with step.
	4	Step R to R.
	&	Step L diag across R, turning body slightly with step.
		Hop on L.
2-4	5-16	Repeat action of meas 1, Part II, three times.
A 1-4	1-16	<u>PART III</u> (Chorus) Repeat action of meas 1-4, Part I, 4 times.
C 1	1	<u>PART IV</u> Face ctr of circle
	2	Step R to R
		Step L diag in front of R, bending knees and contracting upper part of body slightly as arms move together, wrists crossing (L above R) at chest height, fingers snapping simultaneously with movement (elbows are bent).

continued...

AHAVAT HADASSAH (continued)

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| | 3 | Step R to R, straightening body and rejoining hands. |
| | & | Step L in place. |
| | 4 | Small leap R. |
| | & | Step L diag in front of R, taking wt on L with knees bent. |
| 2-4 | 5-16 | Repeat action of meas 1, Part IV, three times. |

Presented by Rivka Sturman