

Presented by: TOM BOZIGIAN

AMMER YA MAALEM
Arabic

This dance is from Baalbec near Beirut, Lebanon

- SOURCE:** This dance was learned by Tom Bozigian from Tewfiq Waadi who brought it from Baalbec in 1968
- MUSIC:** Parlaphone VDL 312 Side 2
- RHYTHM:** 4/4
- FORMATION:** Short mixed lines with leader at R holding knotted handkerchief.
- STEP:** BASIC STEPS
 meas 1 - Stamp L beside R (no wt) (ct 1), hop on R as L extends fwd (ct 2), hop on R again as L bends to R calf (ct 3), moving ctr, step forward on L (ct 4), step fwd R (ct &)
 meas 2--Continue fwd, step L (ct 1), hop on L as R extends fwd (ct 2), step on R in front (ct &), step L behind R as R extends fwd (ct 3), leap on R to R as L comes up to R calf (ct4)

INTRODUCTION 18 measures

- Measure FIG I (HANDS AT SIDES IN "Y" POS, FINGERS INTERLOCKED, LEFT OVER, R UNDER)
- 1 Facing ctr, moving LOD, dip on L over R (ct 1), straightening, step R to R (ct 2), repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4)
- 2 Repeat cts 1-2, extend L diag LOD as body bends sltly bwd (ct 3), place L heel diag RLOD (ct 4)
- 3-8 Repeat cts 1-2
- 1-8 Dance 8 measures of BASIC STEP
- FIG II (HANDS & FOREARMS PARALLEL TO FLOOR)
- 1 Facing ctr, dip fwd on L (ct 1), leap bwd on R as L extends fwd (ct 2), hop on R (ct &), dip on L again (ct 3), leap bwd on R again as L extends fwd (ct 4).
- 2 Hop on R as L lifts across in front of R with bent knee(ct 1), Pas de Basque L (cts 2 & 3), extend R on ct 3, leap on R as L lifts to below R calf (ct 4).
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2
- 1-4 Dance 4 meas of BASIC STEP

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Ammer Ya Maalem, continued

FIG III (HANDS IN "V")

- 1 Turning to face slightly RLOD, leap fwd on L, with dip, as R begins to arc fwd (ct 1), touch R heel fwd, no wt, (ct 2), leap on R as L calf comes up to R calf (ct &), leap bwd on L as R kicks diag RLOD (ct 3), leap R next to L as L kicks diag LOD (ct 4).
- 2 Pas de Basque to L (with R extending fwd on ct 2) (1-2), leap R beside L as L lifts to R calf (ct 3), stamp L beside R (ct 4) no wt.
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2

1-4 Dance 4 measures of BASIC STEP

FIG IV (HANDS IN "V")

- 1 Facing and moving ctr, hop slightly fwd on R as L extends fwd, body leaning slightly bwd (ct 1), hop slightly fwd on R again (ct 2), leap L beside R as R extends straight bwd as body leans fwd slightly (ct 3), hop slightly fwd on L as R extends fwd, body straight (ct 4), hop slightly fwd again on L (ct &).
- 2 Jump slightly fwd on both ft (ct 1), jump slightly bwd on both ft (ct 2), hop on R as L extends fwd (ct 3), leap L across R (ct &), step R in place as L extends fwd (ct 4).
- 3-8 Repeat measures 1-2.

SEE - SHATTY YA DENNY

waddi Saji improvised on the immensely popular "Shatty ya Denny", adding a step, in order to take the festival away from "Faircase". He bid lower than she and got the government sponsorship of the Baalbic Festival in 1962. His "new" dance he called "Amnur ya Maalen", meaning "Masterbuilder, Build a house"

The story goes - a young couple was to be married but they were both poor. The villagers were going to make a little house with two windows and a small garden. The couple was to live on the vegetables. They asked the best house maker, the "shake", to build a house for.