

Damat Halayı (Groom's Dance)

(Northwestern Turkey)

This is a dance from Turkey's Thrace in the northwest, performed in closed or open circles.

Pronunciation: Tha-mat kha-la-yi

Formation: Open circle, facing ctr, moving CCW, hands in V pose or held onto shoulders.

METER: 4/4

Notes: 1. The song for this dance typically starts slow and gets faster as it progresses.
2. Instead of directly facing to ctr, dancers often start facing slightly to the R of the center.

PATTERN

Meas 1

Counts

1. Step R to the right side
2. L cross over the R foot
3. Step R to the right side
4. Lift L (slightly kick-step on L)

Meas 2

1. Step L to the left side
2. R cross over L
3. Step L to the left side
4. Lift R (slightly kick-step on L)

Meas 3 and 4

Repeat meas 1 and 2 to both R and L steps

Meas 5

- 1-2 Place R (ct 1); lift L (ct 2)
- 3-4 Place L (ct 3) and lift R (ct 4)

Meas 6

Repeat meas 5

Meas 7

1. Touch R fwd
2. Touch R to the right side parallel to the L foot
3. Place R next to L
4. Pause

Meas 8

3. Drop hands, bend at waist, and clap five times starting low and ending high as you straight up the body.
4. Pause to hold hands again in V pose or place them on the shoulders before starting over the pattern once again.

Repeat the sequence with accelerating tempo.