

Esmer

(Turkey)

Source: Ercument Kilic at 2007 NM August Camp. Ercument learned this dance in 1976 while a member of the Turkish National Ensemble. Esmer is from the province of Bingol in Southeastern Turkey. “Esmer” translates as “The Brunette” (obviously a men’s dance).

Pronunciation: ES-mare

Music: Camp Hess Kramer 2007 CD

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Line or short lines, arms overlapping, inner forearms touching, innerlocked fingers forearms towards center.

Styling: Bouncy and relaxed

Meas _____ Pattern

1-8 **Introduction:** No action

Figure 1 “Turn and clap”

- 1 Facing LOD, step RL turning CW and moving out from center (1, 2)
- 2 Continuing to complete turn, step R ending facing LOD and clap (1, 2)
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1 and 2, opp ftwk and dir except “double clap” (on &2 of 2nd meas)
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4

Figure 2 “Down bounce-bounce, down bounce”

- 1 With left foot point to center and right foot pointing LOD, feet slightly apart, come down on both, bending knees (1); coming up, straighten knees and bounce twice on both feet (2&)
- 2 Repeat previous meas, but with just one bounce on second beat

Figure 3 “In and Out” (tight, bouncy steps)

- 1-2 Moving diagonally fwd between center and LOD, step R L (1, 2); step R, close L to R, no weight (1, 2); end facing center
- 3-4 Moving directly back from center, step L R (1, 2), back LR (1&); step L across R (2)
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (total of four)

Figure 4 “walk, walk, back stamp STAMP, step stamp, step stamp, yem-en-ite”

- 1 Moving LOD but facing diag forward between LOD and center, step R L (1, 2)
- 2 Facing center step back on R, bending fwd at waist (with bent knees) stamp L next to R (1&); then immediately stamping forward (with some weight) towards center on L, pushing and straightening up (1); without moving feet transfer any weight to R (&)
- 3 Step L beside R, stamp R in front with bent knee (1&); repeat previous beat with opp ftwk
- 4 Step L slightly back of or next to R (1); small sideways step on R&; step L across R in LOD (2) (note: measures 4 in both figure 3 and figure 4 are Yemenites)

Note: Figure 3 moves in and out; Figure 4 doesn’t as much—it mainly just moves in LOD