

LECH LAMIDBAR

(Let's Go To the Desert)

A currently popular dance is the fast-tempo circle dance, Lech Lamidbar. This dance originated in Israeli army and is characteristic of the pioneering life of modern Israel, but retains in its lyrics the ancient echoes of the Psalms. The music is by A. Abramowitz and the choreography by 'Nachal' group. The folk dance pattern as notated by Dvora Lapson is included in the second series of the Israeli Folk Dance. Introduced by Miriam Lidster at the College of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, 1954.

MUSIC: Record: Israel 118B
FORMATION: Single circle formation with hands joined and down. All face center of circle.
STEPS: Leaping*, step-close, step-hop*, cherkassiya; step R across L, step L beside R, step R behind L, step L beside R. This step may be executed in either direction.

MUSIC 4/4	PATTERN
Measures 4 meas.	INTRODUCTION
A 1	I. LEAP, STEP AND STEP-CLOSE Beginning with R ft leap to R (ct 1), step L across in front of R (ct 2), step R beside L (ct 3), take a slight bend of the knees (ct 4).
2	Step to L on L (ct 1) close R to L, bending both knees slightly (ct 2). Repeat step-close (cts 3-4).
3-8	Repeat action of meas 1-2 three times.
B 9	II. STEP-HOP AND CHERKASSIYA Step R to R (ct 1), hop and simultaneously kick L fwd (ct 2). Repeat step-hop on L kicking R fwd (ct 3-4).
10	Beginning with R ft do 1 cherkassiya step moving to the L.
11-16	Repeat action of Fig II, meas 9-10, three times.
C 17	III. STEP, BEND Step to R on R (ct 1) bend R knee (ct 2). Keep L on floor and in place. Step to L on L (ct 3), bend L knee (ct 4).
18	Step directly fwd on R (ct 1) with both knees bending slightly and at the same time bring both hands fwd and up. Transfer wt back onto L (ct 2), close R to L, returning hands to sides (ct 3). Do not take wt onto R. Hold (ct 4).
19-20	Repeat action of Fig III, meas 17-18.
21-22	IV. CHERKASSIYA, JUMP AND LEAP Beginning with the R ft do 2 cherkassiyas to the L. On cts 3-4 of 2nd cherkassiya jump onto both ft, then leap onto R kicking L up behind.
23-24	Beginning on the L ft, do 2 cherkassiyas to the R. On the last 2 cts jump onto both ft, then leap onto L kicking R up behind.
25-28	Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 21-24. The dance is repeated three times.

Brother, let's go to the desert
The road will bring us there
Before nightfall
Brother, let's go to the desert
The rocks will echo with a loud welcome
As we return
And we will yet enjoy
The friendly beams of a magnificent sun
Oh, arid land
You are our own
To you we return
Oh, desolate land buffeted by wind and wrath
Your warriors storm back to you again
Oh, arid land
You are our own
To you we return.