

MEDAX TASHGINAG(silk handkerchief)
(Armenian Bar)

Source: Fresno, Calif., R. Chookoorian & Frances Ajoian.

Record: "Medax Tashginag" Songs of Yerzinga Series, Lightning #14-B.

Formation: Open circle, little fingers interlocked held at shoulder height. Small side steps used at varied speed, dance progresses CW, leader at left end of line.

Style Note: This dance is usually performed by W, as the title might indicate. "Silk Handkerchief," a delicate article which most W used to tie around their hair or kept tucked in at belt. The leader often holds handkerchief at shoulder height, leading the dancers. Movement of the body and hands is graceful, swinging arms from the shoulder pos fwd and out to a down pos and back to original hold, fingers remain joined.

Record introduction, 8 cts, described in 8 cts, four sets.

Ct. Pattern

1-6 Side step to L with L ft leading, R ft behind.

7 Step back with L ft.

8 Raise R ft in front of L ft, bending R knee.

1-3 Side step to R with R ft leading, L ft behind.

4 Step R with L ft, next to R ft.

5 Dip fwd, bending both knees together.

6 Dip down, complete fwd dip pos #5 with down movement.

7 Straighten knees, up from dip pos.

8 Pause.

1 Step fwd with R ft, bring Hs to down at sides.

2 Pause, raise L ft above R ankle.

3 Step fwd with L ft, twd ctr, Hs up to original pos.

4 Pause, hold pos.

5 Stamp fwd with R ft, slightly ahead with weight on R ft, Hs move to fwd pos.

6 Pause, hold pos, weight on L ft, Hs to original pos.

7 Step bk on R ft, slightly behind L ft.

8 Raise L ft in front of R ft, bending L knee.

1-2 Side step L with L ft leading, R ft behind.

3 Step bk with L ft.

4 Raise R ft in front of L ft, bending R knee.

5-6 Side step R with R ft leading, L ft behind.

7 Step back with R ft.

8 Raise L ft in front of R ft, bending L knee.

Complete to record by repeating cts 1 to 32, or 4 sets of 8 cts.

Note: Dip step is only one dip completed to 3 cts (5-6-7).

--presented by Frances Ajoian

--notations prepared with assistance of Mary Spring