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HASSIDIC SHER

(ISRAELI)

"Sher" means "Shears." It is of East European-Jewish origin. Since a great number of the East European Jews were tailors, a dance with the shears as a figure seems natural. However, this did not turn out to be an occupational dance, but a wedding dance. For among the East European Jews a wedding was about the only outlet for dancing.

MUSIC: Record: Ich Bin Denier (I'm Yours), Stanchel F-8001. Play twice for the dance.

FORMATION: Square, but the counting is done CW. To the L of head couple is couple No. 2, and to their R is couple 4. Traditionally handkerchiefs were held in each dancer's R hand and grasped in the L hand of any other dancer met in the circle or in turns. This is not essential for modern use.

STEP: A light flexible walking step, two steps per measure.

MUSIC 2/4	PATTERN
Measure	I. <i>CIRCLE AND CROSSOVER</i>
A 1-8	a. <i>Circle</i> Join hands shoulder height, walk 16 steps to L. Reverse to place.
1-8 (repeated)	
B 1-4	b. <i>Crossover</i> Couples 1 and 3 change places with eight steps. Inside hands joined and held shoulder high, M leads the W to opp place leading with left shoulder facing opp couple while crossing.
5-8	Couples 2 and 4 repeat actions of Fig 1b, meas 1-4.
1-8 (repeated)	Repeat action of Fig 1b meas 1-8, returning to place.
Measure	II. <i>SHER FIGURE</i>
C 1-2	M No. 1 and W No. 2 walk towards each other meeting on the 4th step with R shoulders adjacent. Slight backward bend.
3	Walk backward 2 steps.
4-6	Walk forward, passing L shoulders, to each other's partners (6 steps).
7-8	M turns M, W turns W, with 4 walking steps, with an upper arm hold. Each puts his R hand on the other's L upper arm and the L on the other's R upper arm, R hips adjacent.
1-8 (repeated)	Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8, returning to place and turning partner.
A 1-8	M No. 1 now does the Sher fig with each couple in set.
1-8 (repeated)	Starting with opp couple, and subsequently couple No. 4. Repeat entire dance, 3 times (4 in all). M No. 2 leading in the Sher fig then M 3 and finally 4. After the fourth M has completed the Sher fig repeat action of Fig 1a.
B 1-8	End dance with a bow.
1-8	Note: This recording begins and ends with music for the CIRCLE. Unless the dancers wish to do the CIRCLE twice in the middle of the dance, the needle must be lifted after M No. 2 has completed the Sher figure.