

Ahava Pshuta

(Israel)

This is one of many Israeli dances that feature pivot turns. In Hebrew, this movement is called a *lahatz* or a press turn because you are pressed close to your partner, and it is found in a large percentage of modern Israeli couple dances. It was choreographed by Roni Siman-Tov in 1983.

Pronunciation: ah-hah-VAH pshoo-TAH

Translation: A Simple Love

Music: 4/4 meter

Erica Goldman: Israel Dances, Track 8, 9 & 10

Formation: Couples in a circle facing CCW, W on M's right. Simple inside handhold. M and W use opposite footwork throughout.

Steps & Styling: Yemenite: Step R to R (ct 1); step L to L and slightly bkwd (ct &); step R in front of L (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Inside foot: When standing side by side with ptr, this refers to the foot closest to ptr, typically M's R, W's L.

Outside foot: When standing side by side with ptr, this refers to the foot farthest from ptr, typically M's L, W's R.

Meas 4/4 meter

Pattern

4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. WALK CCW, SWITCH PLACE, SWITCH BACK.

1 Beg with outside ft, walk four steps fwd (cts 1-4).

2 Sway away from ptr on outside ft (ct 1); sway on inside ft, W stepping in front of M (ct 2); switch places, W passing in front of M using three steps beg with outside foot crossing in front (cts 3, &, 4). Release handhold during pass and join new inside hands.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk, continuing to move CCW except do not release handhold but bring joined arms over W's head to end facing ptr with M's back to ctr. Hands are joined (R in L, L in R) at chest level.

II. FACING PARTNER; MOVING CCW AND RETURNING.

1 Beg M's L, W's R, grapevine step sideways moving CCW: step to side, cross behind, side to side, cross in front (cts 1-4).

2 Beg with M's L, W's R Yemenite step (ct 1, &, 2); beg another grapevine step sideways moving CW: step to side, cross behind (cts 3-4).

3 Finish grapevine step moving CW: step to side, cross in front (cts 1-2); bkwd Yemenite step (M with R, W with L), but stepping slight fwd on the last step to take ballroom pos.

4 Four pivot steps to make two complete CW rotations (cts 1-4).

Alternative: Only one complete turn using only two pivot steps (cts 1-2); M releases his R hand and turns W to her R with his L hand, both taking two steps (cts 3-4).

If repeating from Fig I, face CCW with hands joined in V-pos.

If continuing to Fig III, face ptr with M's back to ctr in ballroom pos.

III. MOVING IN AND OUT; SWAYS AND INDIVIDUAL TURNS.

- 1 Step away from ctr, M fwd on L, W bkwd on R (ct 1); step twd ctr, M bkwd R, W fwd L (ct 2). Three steps moving ctr, M bkwd with L, R, L and W fwd with R, L, R (cts 3, &, 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction, starting with M step R bkwd.
- 3 Two sways M L, R and W R, L (cts 1-2); release handhold and turn along the circle edge with two steps, M to L with L,R and W to R with R, L (cts 3-4).
- 4 Sway to M's L, W's R touching M's R and W's L palms together (ct 1); turn along the circle edge with three steps, M to R with R, L, R and W to L with L, R, L (cts 2-4). Resume ballroom pos if repeating Fig III. Take V-pos if repeating the dance.

IV. ENDING. [This largely depends on the cut of the music being used, and can be improvised. Below is one suggested ending.]

- 1-2 Repeat Fig 1, meas 1, and meas 2, ct 1. Keep V-pos while W turns L a full turn into cuddle or wrap position and leans L on M.

Sequence: Sequence will vary depending on the cut of the music.

(Fig I, Fig II, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig III) twice

Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig III, Fig IV



Presented by Erica Goldman

Lyrics

Ein li charuzim yafim lashir lach lefizmon.
 Ein li meitarim lifrot lach tachat hachalon.
 Ein li melitzot na'ot lilchosh lach be'oznech.
 Ein li kisharon afilu leta'er yofyech.
 Ein li bayit mehudar ve'ein mizug avir.
 Ein chesbon babank ve'ein migrash katan ba'ir.
 Ein li elef lai maskoret; ein il chalifa shel choref.
 Afilu ein li dod ashir.

CHORUS:

Ach yesh li ahava pshuta.
 Oti hi timalei, gdola kim'lo tevel.
 Ken yesh li ahava pshuta.
 Ve'et kula ani rak lach makdish yomam valeil.

Ein li mechonit lehoshivech ba letzidi
 Ein li gam katno'a, el gabi shetetzamdi
 Ein li shum album shel amanut lach lehar'ot
 Ein li taklitim bishvil lishmo'a oh lirkod
 Ein li job bachir ani ochel al cheshboni
 Lo shalchu oti lachul, nish'arti almoni

Ein sira li baKinneret
 Ein li matzlema shel seret
 Ein televizia bim'oni

CHORUS

I don't have beautiful verses to sing for you in a song.
 I don't have strings to play for you below your window.
 I don't have fine flowery phrases to whisper in your ear.
 I don't have the talent even to describe your beauty.
 I don't have a fancy home and there's no air conditioning.
 There's no bank account, and no small plot of land in the city.
 I don't have a 1,000 Israeli lirot salary; I don't have a winter suit.
 I don't even have a rich uncle.

CHORUS:

But I have a simple love.
 It fulfills me, as much as the whole world.
 Yes, I have simple love.
 And all of it I dedicate to you alone, day and night.

I don't have a car where you could sit beside me.
 I don't have a motor bike where you could sit behind me, hold on tight.
 I have no album of artwork to show you.
 I have no records, to listen or to dance to.
 I don't have a top job; but I pay my own way.
 They didn't send me overseas; I remain an unknown.

I don't have a boat on the Kinneret.
 I don't have a movie camera.
 There's no TV at my house.

CHORUS