

HALABY  
(Armenia)

HALABY, also called DABKA, is a popular dance among the Armenian communities of Musa Dagh and Kessab. Several variants of the dance exist. Both communities were located in Northern Syria, and have strong Arabic influence in their folklore. The villages of Musa Dagh (a mountain on the Mediterranean coast) successfully resisted extermination during the Armenian Genocide, and migrated to Lebanon. (This struggle is the subject of Franz Werfal's novel Forty Days of Musa Dagh). Their descendants now live in the towns of Ainjar, Lebanon, and Musa Ler, Soviet Armenia. The village of Kessab was about 40 miles inland of Musa Dagh, near Aleppo, Syria. The Armenian community of Kessab still flourishes today.

Pronunciation: HAH-lah-bee

Source: Musa Daghtsis and Kessabtsis in Boston, Kitchner, Detroit, and Philadelphia.

Music: Gyondbashi (Tape) 2/4 meter

Style: Erect proud carriage

Formation: Open circle or line with hands joined and held overhead. Sometimes M press their palms with the M beside them and interlock fingers for a stronger hold.

Meas

Pattern

1-2	Line progresses slowly to the R. Rock fwd onto L (ct 1); hop slightly on L (ct 2); rock bkwd onto R (ct 3); hop slightly on R (ct 4).
3-6	Repeat meas 1-2 twice (cts 3-12).
7-8	Stamp L to the front (ct 13); pause (ct 14). Stamp L to L diag fwd (ct 15); pause (ct 16).

VARIANT

1-4	Same as above (cts 1-8).
5-8	Point L fwd (ct 9); point L to L diag (ct 11); point L fwd (ct 13); point L to L diag (ct 15).

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