

MEDAX TASHGINAG  
(Armenia)

In 1915, because of religious and political differences in Western Armenia, from 1-1/2 to 2 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Turks. A diaspora (dispersion) resulted, and hundreds of thousands of Armenians found new homes in other parts of the world. Discovering similar homeland conditions in Fresno, California, thousands of Armenians elected to make this town their "home away from home." The Fresno Armenian community has, through the decades, continued to thrive through its pride in the preservation of the Armenian language, the history, the songs, and the dances. MEDAX TASHGINAG was brought to Fresno by Armenian immigrants from Yeringa in the region of Karin, western Armenia (now in eastern Turkey). It was originally one of a list of dances from Yeringa researched and collected by Frances Ajoian of Fresno, California. The title means "Silk Handkerchief," a very important item in the Armenian women's folk apparel.

Pronunciation:

Record: "Tom Bozigian Presents Songs and Dances of the Armenian People." Vol. II, GT 4001. 4/4 meter.

Formation: Line dance utilizing little finger hold at shldr height with dancers facing ctr and leader at L end. Note: The "W" Armenian arm pos finds fingers or hands grasped at around shldr height and slightly beyond shldr width apart with the wrists in a plane beyond that of the elbows.

Meas

Patterns

- 1 Step L sdwd to L as hip and torso twist slightly R and R fore-arms bend parallel to L (simulating windshield wiper) (ct 1); close R to L as L toe pivots off floor slightly L and arms, hip, and torso repeat opp action (ct 2). Repeat this action (cts 3,4).
- 2 Repeat actions of cts 1-2. Step bkwd on L as arms, hips, and torso repeat ct 1 (meas 1)(ct 3); hop slightly L in place (heel only leaves floor) as R knee raises in front with R ft above floor and across (ct 4).
- 3 Repeat action of meas 1, but with opp direction, body motion, and ftwk.
- 4 Closing ft and knees together, make a demi-plié, maintaining erect torso as arms lower to side (cts 1-2); straight legs as arms return to orig pos (cts 3-4).
- 5 Moving ctr, step fwd on R as arms begin lowering once again (cts 1-2); continue fwd on L as arms lower to side (cts 3-4).

MEDAX TASHGINAG (continued)

- 6 Stamp R, no wt, beside L as arms return to orig pos (ct 1);  
kick R fwd above floor, hopping slightly on L in place (ct 2);  
step bkwd on R (ct 3); repeat action of ct 4 (meas 2), but  
with opp ftwk (ct 4).
- 7 Repeat action of meas 2.
- 8 Repeat action of meas 2, but with opp direction, ftwk, and  
arm, hip, and torso motion.

Presented by Tom Bozigian

MEDAX TASHGINAGSilk Handkerchief

MEDAX TASHGINAGUS KEZ GU NUVEEREM	I want to give you as a gift a silk handkerchief
KEESHER TSOREG YES KOO SEEROV GU MASHEM	Day and night my love for you is overwhelming
AKH YERANEE YES KEZ DESA CHULLAYEE KEESHER TSOREG MEETKUS KHAGHAGH BAHEYEE	How I wish I had never seen you So that day and night I could have peace of mind
ANKOOT AGHCHEEK EENCHOO KOVUS HERATSUR SEERDUS SEERDUS GODRETSEER OO HERATSAR	Unmerciful girl, why did you leave me Why did you leave me and break my heart
AMEN ADEN YES KEZ GUHEESHAM SURDEES KHOREN AKH OO VAKH	I think of you every time My heart gives a sign