

Esmer

(Özkök Version)
(Turkey)

This is one of two commonly danced dances by this name. The other is also from Eastern Anatolia but the music has a more Azeri flavor. That **other dance** [<http://folkdancemusings.blogspot.com/2014/06/esmer-kilic-version-azerbaijan.html>] was introduced by Ercüment Kiliç. The version described below was introduced to the US by Bora Özkök.

Translation: The brunette

Music: There are many recordings of the song Esmerim Biçim Beçim. The one most folk dancers dance to is by İbrahim Tatlıses from his album *Huzurum Kalamadı*.

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Short lines. Hands clasped and held down and slightly back. Dancers stand very close together with shoulders overlapping.

Introduction: Start with Singing

Part 1: Travel Step (done to the singing)

Bar 1: Stamp R foot forward (1), Step on R next to L (2)

Bar 2: Cross L over R (1), step R to R (2)

Bar 3: Cross L over R (1), step R to R (2)

Bar 4: Stamp L foot forward (1), step on L next to R (2)

Bars 5-8: repeat bars 1-4

Part 2: Chorus step (always done to the "hele loy loy loy" chorus and the subsequent instrumental music)

Bar 1: Stamp R foot forward (1), step on R next to L (2)

Bar 2: Step L in place next to R (1), Step R next to L (2)

Bar 3: Stamp L foot forward (1), Step on L next to R (2)

Bars 4-15, repeat bars 1-3 four more times

Bar 6, with both feet together, bend knees and make a circle with them (1), straighten knees (2)

