

ARABIC CIRCLE

Choreo. Paul Boizot 2017. Music El Layali (= "The Nights")* by Nawal El-Zoghbi (Lebanon). Or try your choice of Arabic music. It might work with something a little slower too.

Arms W facing centre step in R, L, R, point L 11 o'clock; point L 10 o'clock, *step on L in place next to R, touch R in place flexing left knee, point R 11 o'clock; step on R in place next to L, touch L in place flexing right knee*, unjoined grapevine diagonally left away from centre side L, Rxf, side L, Rxb, straight back L, joining hands step in place or slightly back R q, L q.

Optional twirls on grapevine – I usually do these, but less experienced dancers sometimes find it easier to omit them at first; on Rxf turn upper body to left, on Rxb turn upper body to right.

Optional turn instead of steps 3 and 4 of diagonal grapevine – turn diagonally back to the left in 2 steps, then straight back on R.

Optional variation - replace point R, step R, touch L with 3 sways, moving hips.

The steps coming back out from the centre must not be too big, otherwise the circle keeps expanding.

I have changed the steps between the asterisks (i.e. from * to *) from the original choreography. Original steps before November 2019 were; *back yemenite (= back small L quick, close R quick, forward L), point R 11 o'clock; back yemenite (= back small R quick, close L quick, forward R) *.

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