

Kiliç Dansi

Origin: Kiliç Dansi (Sword Dance) is a dance from the city of Kars, located next to Mount Ararat in northeastern Turkey. This dance is a “Kars Native” dance. Ercüment Kiliç learned this dance in 1977 from his cousin, Atilla Kagankaya, who is an authority on dances of Kars. Ercüment introduced Kiliç Dansi in the US in June 1981, St. Louis, Missouri. *Formation:* Line, no hand hold. *Styling:* Caucasian Man’s Arm Position (CMAP) and Azerbaijani-Turkish Woman’s Hand Movements (WHM) and variations. Refer to styling in the dance description of Seyh Samil for basic descriptions. NOTE: Kiliç Dansi is a man’s dance. However, appropriate hand movements for women have been arranged by Ercüment so that women in the US can join men in this dance. It is done with much şpirit.

Measure	Count	FIG. 1—Walking	
1	1–3	Walking in LOD (R, L, R) turning to face center on 3rd step, swing arms	simultaneously leap onto both feet, facing diagonally L, weight on R and touching L heel diagonally to L; leaning back to R, hands up to head level or above, palms in– say “Hey”; hold
	4	Touch L toe, wrists on waist, turning to L to face diagonally to opposite direction	
2	1–4	REVERSE direction and footwork of measure 1	2 — REPEAT measure 1 w/opposite footwork and direction
3–4	—	REPEAT measures 1–2	
1–2	1–6	Walk 2 “step-crosses” (step R, L across, step R, L across, step R, L across) moving in LOD, facing diagonally R, arms in opposite CMAP and variation WHM	Measure Count FIG. 3—Step Hops
	7	Step R, to side, end facing center	1 1 Facing center, wrists on waist and variations, step R in place
	8	Touch L toe in demi-pointe beside R foot	& hop R, raise L knee
			2 step L in place
			& hop L, raise R knee
3–4		The first 6 counts of measure 3–4 are done on balls of feet, facing center, arms in CMAP and variation WHM. L foot moves to the side only, not FWD and BACK.	3–4 REPEAT counts 1–2
	1	Step L to L	2 1–2 REPEAT counts 1–2 of measure 1
	&	Step R across L	3 Scissor, close R to L
	2	Step L to L	& Scissor, close L to R
	&	Step R behind L	4 Step R in place
	3–6	REPEAT counts 1–2	& Hop R raise L knee
	7	Step L to side	3–4 REPEAT measures 1–2, opposite footwork.
	8	Place R toe in demi-pointe next to L	
Measure Count		FIG. 2—Grapevine	Measure Count FIG. 4—Makas or Scissors
		(no twisting of shoulders or hips)	1 1 Facing center, wrists on waist and variations, step R in place
1	1	Facing center, wrists on waist, slight leap on R to R, bringing L up in back	& Hop R, raise R knee
	&	Leap onto L foot, across and in back of R	2 Step L in place
	2	Leap onto R to R side	& Hop L, raise R knee
	&	Leap onto L foot, across and in front of R	3, &, ah Scissor R, L, R
	3	Leap R to R side	4 Step L in place
	&	Leap onto L foot across and in back of R	& Hop L, raise R knee
			2–4 — REPEAT measure 1
			DANCE REPEATS