ESMER ("Brunette")

Record: HALAY 304, Side 1, Band 1
Formation & Style: Arms down, bodies touching-close, hands clenched with neighbors, firm but not overpowering. Same size people should dance next to each other. A horizontal tension should be exerted at the hands, to keep the whole line firm. Arms and hands are hidden entirely from front view.

METER: 2/4

Measure

No Introduction. Begin with first note of music

Fig. I: Basic Step
1 Stamp R fwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2)
2 Step L, R in place
3 Stamp L fwd, bend body a bit bkwd (ct 1); step L in place, bow body fwd (in place) (ct 2)
4-15 Repeat meas 1-3 four more times (5 in all), in place

16 Dip-bend knees again in place, bend body a bit back (ct 1); bend fwd slightly, straightening the knees (ct 2)

Fig. II: Travel Step
1 Stamp R fwd (ct 1); step R in place (ct 2)
2 Step L across R (ct 1); step R in LOD (ct 2)
3 Repeat meas 2
4 Stamp L twd ctr (ct 1); step L and bend body fwd (ct 2)
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4

Sequence: 5 X Basic Step (5 repetitions of a 6 ct step = 15 measures)
2 X Travel Step (2 repetitions of an 8 ct step = 8 measures)
Back to Basic Step, and continue on with the dance

Presented by Bora Özkök
at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1986
Verse 1

Esmerim bi'cin bi'cin
[I have got all kinds of brunettes]
Olu'rem esmer icin
[I'll die any day for my brunettes]
Alem bana dugramany
[The whole world simply hates my guts]
Esmer sevdim icin, ay, ay
[Because I succeed with all my plots, ay, ay]

Chorus

Hole loy, loy, loy, kibar
[C'mon loy, loy, loy, my pretty brunettes, loy]
yarim esmerim loy//

Verse 2

Bir taz attim habaya
[I threw a rock and made it sail]
Dustu mahpushanaya
[But it fell into the city jail]
Onez ki'z ki'z kandurdum
[I fooled fifteen girls to their doom]
Bir giise lavantaya, ay, ay
[With only one bottle of perfume, ay, ay]

Chorus

Verse 3

Esmer bugun aqlams
[My brunette had cried today]
Cigerimi aqlams
[That hurt me in the worst way]
Kara kasim listime
[Over her pretty black eye-brows]
Siya'ah pugu aqlams, ay, ay
[She had put a black scarf now, wow!]

Chorus

Verse 4

Esmerin adi gerek
[Just you name me the brunette]
Alminda takla gerek
[I will rise up to decorate]
Yari esmer olanin
[Him who is partial to a brunette]
Zincirden bagi gerek, ay, ay
[Needs strong chains, instead of a belt, ay, ay]

Chorus

Verse 5

Gidersen ugu ola
[If brunette and I ever depart]
Taq baqla yolun ola
[I will always be hers in heart]
Benden baqla severen
[But if she loves somebody else]
Iki go'yun kor ola, ay, ay
[For me, life will make no more sense, ay, ay]

Chorus

--Translation and verses by: yours truly, a brunette lover,

Bora Özkök

Note: There are "s, ş; o, ö; u, ü; c, ç; i, i" in the Turkish alphabet

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