

TEMIR AGA
(Turkey)

Temir Aga is a very popular dance-song in Turkey. It is especially popular in the eastern and north-eastern parts of Turkey. It is spelled many different ways as well: *Temur, Timur, Temur, Tamir, Demir, Candemir Aga, Aga, Agha*. *Aga* is a Turkish (Ottoman) title which means Lord or military commander.

Temir, and its variants, is the Turkish name for *Tamerlane* means "iron". To this dance name is often added the different names for dance: *Bar, Horon, Halay, Oyunu* depending on which part of Turkey the version comes from. This version is common in North-eastern Turkey around the towns of Kars and Artvin and is danced by many different ethnic groups living in the area. This dance is also done over a varying number of meas (i.e. 8, 9, 10 or more) but most versions seem to be built-up of common *kinetic motifs*. I've chosen to present a 10-measure variant.

Recording: Workshop CD

Formation: Lines or open circle with a "W" arm/hand hold. Little fingers may be inter-locked.

Music: 2/4 and often becoming a faster 6/8

Meas:

- 1 Facing center with hands held above shoulder level (even above head), extend L leg fwd in front of Rft and bounce and strike L heel (ct 1); Lift Lft slightly and bounce on Rft (ct 2);
- 2-3 Repeat action of meas 1;
- 4 Bringing arms/hand down to "V" pos and turning to face R of center, touch ball of Lft back to L (ct 1); bounce on Rft and begin to bring Lft fwd and across (ct 2);
- 5 Arms remain in "V" pos, Step Lft fwd to R (ct 1); Step Rft fwd to R (ct&); Step Lft fwd to R (ct 2);
- 6 Turning to face center, Touch ball of Rft back to R (ct 1); bounce on Lft and bring Rft fwd (ct 2);
- 7 Facing slightly L of center, Step Rft across and in front of Lft (to L) (ct 1); Step Lft fwd to L (ct&); Step Rft fwd to L (ct 2);
- 8 Turning to face center, bounce on both feet (almost "scuffing" Lft) about shoulder-width apart (ct1); bounce on Rft and lift Lft fwd (knee extended) and swing arms/hands fwd low (ct 2);
- 9 Bounce on both feet together as in meas 8 swinging arms/hands back low (ct 1); bounce on Lft in place and lift Rft fwd swing arms/hands fwd low (ct 2);
- 10 Repeat action of meas 8 but bring arms/hands back to a "W" hold on ct 2.

ArtvJn Variation

- 1-4 Repeat action of meas 1-4 above;
- 5 Step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 1); moving to R, hop on Lft (ct 2);
- 6 Repeat action of meas 6 above
- 7 Facing center and moving fwd toward center, Step Rft fwd (ct 1); Hop on Rft and bring Lft fwd and low (knee extended) (ct 2);
- 8 Strike Lft heel fwd (ct 1); Bounce on Rft and lift Lft up swinging arms fwd low (ct 2);
- 9-10 Back out, away from center, repeat action of meas 9-10 above (both, lift Rft; both, lift Lft).