

## TALLAVA (Kosova)

*Tallava* from the Romany, *Tel o vas*, meaning “under the hand”, is a modern music genre which originated in Kosovo in the 1990’s with the *Ashkali/Hashkali* (Albanian-speaking Roma). It is related to the *Chochek*, *Chalga*, *Manele*, *Skiladiko*, and *Turbo Folk* genres of music from neighboring countries. These dances may very well have their precursors in *Jeni Jol*, *Indijsko Oro*, *Indijski Čoček*, and *Kočanski Čoček*. The following five dances are popular with young Albanians in the Albanian diaspora (especially Germany).

Formation: Open circle/line with “V” arm position.

Music: Workshop CD or any good *Tallava* tune

Music: 2/4

### TALLAVA I (3 1/2 meas-7 cts)

#### Meas:

- 1 Facing R of center, touch ball of Rft beside Lft (ct 1); step Rft fwd to R (ct &); touch Lft beside Rft (ct 2); step Lft fwd to R (ct &);
- 2 Turning to face center, lift on Lft in place and raise Rft up behind slightly (ct 1); step Rft behind Lft (ct &); touch Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 2); step Lft slightly fwd (ct &);
- 3 Lift on Lft in place (ct 1); step Rft behind Lft (ct &); lift on Rft and lead Lft around to L side (ct 2); step Lft slightly to L (ct &);
- 4 Step Rft in front of Lft twd center (ct 1); step Lft back to place (ct &).  
Note: All “lift-steps” can be replaced with “touch-steps” or “touch-steps” with “lift-steps”.

### TALLAVA II (4 meas-8 cts)

- 1 Touch Rft beside Lft (ct 1); step Rft slightly to R (ct &); touch Lft across and in front of Rft (close to it) (ct 2); step Lft fwd twd center (ct &);
- 2 Lift on Lft (ct 1); step Rft slightly backing up (ct &); touch Lft beside Rft (ct 2); step Lft beside Rft (ct &);
- 3 Lift on Lft in place (ct 1); step Rft in place (ct &); step Lft back and turn to face slightly R of center (ct 2); step Rft back beside Lft (ct &).
- 4 Facing slightly R of center, step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 1,&); turning to face center, step Rft sideways R (ct 2); quickly step Lft across and behind Rft (ct &);  
Note: As in TALLAVA I, “touch-steps’ and “lift-steps” can be interchanged.

### TALLAVA III (5 meas-10 cts)

#### Meas:

- 1 Facing center, touch ball of Rft beside Lft (ct 1); step Rft in place (ct &); touch ball Lft (may be L heel) slightly in fwd of Rft (ct 2); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct &);
- 2 Step Rft to R side (ct 1); step Lft across and behind Rft (ct &); lift on Lft and lift Rft slightly up and in front of L shin (ct 2); step Rft slightly back and to R (ct &);
- 3 Touch ball of Lft over Rft (ct 1); step Lft fwd twd center (ct &); moving fwd twd center, lift on Lft (ct 2); step Rft fwd twd center (ct &);
- 4 Lift on Rft and bring Lft up behind R calf (ct 1); step Lft back away from center (ct &); backing up slightly, lift on Lft (ct 2); step Rft back (ct &);
- 5 Moving bkwd, lift on Rft (ct 1); step Lft back (ct &); touch ball of Rft over Lft (ct 2); touch R heel in front of Lft (ct &);

### TALLAVA IV (4 meas-8 cts)

- 1 Facing center and moving to R, lift on Lft (ct 1); step Rft to R side (ct &); lift on Rft (ct 2); step Lft across and behind Rft (upper body may turn to face slightly L of ctr) (ct &);
- 2 Facing center, lift on Lft in place (ct 1); step Rft beside Lft to R (ct &); lift on Rft as Lft inscribes an arc moving fwd across Rft to L side (ct 2); step Lft slightly to L (ct &);
- 3 Lift on Lft as Rft inscribes an arc moving fwd across Lft to R side (ct 1); step Rft to slightly to R (ct &); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 2); step back on Rft in place (ct &);
- 4 Lift on Rft in place (ct 1); step Lft slightly to L (ct &); step Rft across and in front of Lft (ct 2); step Lft back to place (ct &);

### TALLAVA V (5 meas-10 cts)

This dance is done with a “W” hand hold, though some dancers use a “V” hold. It is essentially a 5 meas *Krsteno* or crossing structure.

1. Facing slightly R of center and moving fwd to R, touch ball of Rft fwd to R (ct 1); step Rft fwd to R (ct &); lift on Rft and touch Lft fwd (ct 2); step Lft fwd to R (ct &);
- 2 Turning to face center, touch Rft beside Lft or lift on Lft and raise Rft up slightly in front of Lft (ct 1); step Rft slightly to R side (ct &); step Lft across and in front of Rft (ct 2); step Rft back to place (ct &);
- 3 Reverse action (ftwk and dir) of meas 2;
- 4-5 Repeat action of meas 2-3.

\*Note: During meas 1, a full CW slow turn may be danced whereby hands are released and gestured through the articulation of the wrists moving inwards twds the head and rotated outwards. This “solo” movement maybe continued during the “crossing steps”, but maintaining the integrity of the open circle.