



Tribal Odyssey Bellydance: introduction

Tribal Odyssey is a "lead-or-follow" format based on Egyptian folkloric-style moves for groups of two or more dancers.

The foundation of Tribal Odyssey are the (mostly) 8-count combinations that have options to either throw the lead or to change the group formation. A few combinations are 16 counts, and a couple are a bit longer; but because most are relatively short, the dynamics of the group are always changing.

Many of the combinations have specific finger cymbal patterns; and there are also unique combinations that incorporate skirt moves, as well as props like Veils, Fan Veils, and Swords. But the same staging and lead-changing concepts apply to those as well. It keeps things interesting!

The Formations

The Dancers are either dancing all together (in a Staggered Line or Circle) or dancing quietly in the background (following their own leader) while a Duet or Trio dances center-stage.

These group formations (the Staggered Line, Circle, and Chorus Line) are called "staging".

The leader decides not only what dance combination to do, but what formation the group is in as well.

- **Chorus Line & Center Dancers:** the Chorus Line dances in place (no lead-throwing), while Center Dancers go out front and dance together and then cycle back to the Chorus Line so other Center Dancers can go out front.
- **Staggered Line:** the entire group follows one leader (no Center Dancers); this Staggered Line can also become a Circle, which can then become a Chorus Line.... and so on.

Leading

If you don't want the lead, learn how to throw it. There are two ways to change leaders:

- ❖ Using the Ghawazee Hips combo, start the "Volleyball Rotation" (everyone moves over one space clockwise. **A new person is moved into the leader spot.**
- ❖ Or, do one of the "**lead-throwing**" combinations below, and turn on count 5. Everyone turns and faces the new direction - the person in that corner is the new leader.
 - Rolling Hip Figure-8 and Flat-ball-ball-ball turn to the RIGHT,
 - Sharp Hips turns LEFT.

In the Circle, because you can't turn and throw the lead, the only way to change leaders is if someone TAKES the lead with a loud YIP so everyone knows who to follow.

But, a fun option of the Circle formation is that the three lead-throwing combos above can turn so everyone faces OUT, as long as the combo & turn is repeated immediately, so everyone is facing into the circle again.

After dancing in the circle a while, whoever's leading usually spirals the group back to the Chorus Line. Then the leader can cue the Staggered Line again, or just let Center Dancers come out to dance in front.

What if some of the dancers in the group don't know all the same moves?

The Chorus Line & Center Dancer formation works best because you can pre-arrange who will duet together (i.e., put the same level dancers together).