

VALLE GJYSMOKE
(Prespa Albanians, Macedonia)

Valle Gjysmoke (dance “half”), also known as *Devolliche* (dance from the Devolli region in Southern Albania), is a two-part dance from the Lake Prespa Albanians living in Macedonia and the Diaspora (USA, Canada, and Australia);

Recording: Workshop CD

Formation: Open circle with “V”-“W” hold

Music: Slow Part is approximately 10/8: ♩ ♪ ♩ ♩ ♩. (S-q-S-S-Slower)

Dancer’s cts: 1 2 3 4 5

Meas: Slow Part

- 1 Facing R of center, Step Rft fwd to R (cts 1-3); step Lft fwd to R (cts 4-5);
- 2 Turning to face center, step Rft to R (cts 1-3); step Lft in twd center (ct 4); bounce slightly on Lft in place and bring Rft up behind L calf/knee, or swing Rft fwd low in front (ct 5);
- 3 Step Rft back out from center (ct 1); bring Lft around and to back of Rft (cts 2-3); step up on ball of Lft behind Rft (ct 4); come down on Rft in place (ct 5); or bring Lft (knee bent) behind R calf/knee (ct 4); bring Lft out to L side (no wt) (ct 5);
- 4 Step onto Lft to L (cts 1-3); close Rft to Lft (ct 4); take wt onto Rft and “release” Lft low and fwd (ct 5);
- 5 Repeat action of meas 4 above, but during release of Lft on ct 5, turn to face slightly R of center (ct 5);
- 6 Step Lft fwd to R in front of Rft bending L knee (ct 1-3); bring Rft around and in front of Lft shin with a “hooking” motion, or touch Rft across and over Lft (ct 4); hold (ct 5); Rft may swing subtlly fwd before ct 1 of meas 1.

Variations during Slow Part

“Syncopated” two-steps may replace 3 “walking steps to R (meas 1 and cts 1-3 of meas 2).

Using “syncopated” two-step, turn CW to R (full turn) (meas 1);

Full knee squats during meas 1-3 (especially meas 3);

Using “syncopated” two step to L, turn CCW to L (full turn) (meas 4);

Squat cts 1-3 of meas 6.

Fast Part $\frac{3}{4}$ (Çakiston)

- 1 Step Lft twd center (ct 1); lift/bounce on Lft and swing Rft fwd low (ct 2); step Rft back (ct 3);
- 2 Kick Lft fwd and around back (ct 1); hop on Rft as Lft continues around and in back (ct 2); step Lft behind Rft (ct 3);
- 3 Rock on Rft to R (ct 1); Rock onto Lft to L (ct 2); step Rft across and in front of Lft (ct 3);
- 4 Reverse action (ftwk and direction of meas 3 of Fast Part (Çakiston));
- 5 Step Rft to R (ct 1); step Lft across and behind Rft (ct 2); step Rft to R (ct 3).

Presented by Stephen Kotansky

