

Clapping on Shabbos

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Clapping Hands on Shabbos and Yom Tov

Chassidic thought emphasizes the importance of experiencing joy in the service of G-d. If finding delight in being a Jew is critical for the Chassid on the average weekday, it is of paramount importance on Shabbos and *Yom Tov*. But how may one express his or her joy in ways that are not *halachically* problematic on Shabbos? Is it permissible for one to dance and clap in joyful song on Shabbos and Yom Tov? In exploring the *halachic* underpinnings of this law, we will demonstrate that those encouraging this practice have firm *halachic* grounds to do so.

The Law

The Sages forbade clapping hands and dancing [to the rhythm of a melody¹] as a precautionary measure so that one will not seek to fix or construct a musical instrument to accompany the clapping or dancing.² This law is codified in all major *halachic* works.³

(1) ראה הנסמך לקמן הערה 42.

