

Ritual Skills Resources

A. Unit Alef

Birkat HaMazon.

See link below sidduraudio. This includes *Shir HaMa'alot*. Ignore sound file #8 for Shabbat, since that is not being tested. The text is found in any traditional *siddur*, e.g., *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Weekdays, 2002, pp. 230-236.

Click on <http://www.sidduraudio.com/> then, under “Miscellaneous and Shabbat Home Prayers,” click on “Shir HaMa'alot” (either version 1 or 2) and “Birkat HaMazon” (not the Short Version).

The melodies for the additions for *brit milah* are not found on the web site, but the text for the special *zimun* (opening invitation) is found in *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Weekdays, p. 243 and the text for the closing set of prayers beginning with the word *Harahaman* is found on p. 244.

The melody for the special *zimun* for a wedding is not found on the website, but the text is found in *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Weekdays, p. 241.

Havdalah

Text on p. 299 in *Sim Shalom* for Shabbat and Festivals, 1998.
Any traditional or modern melody is acceptable.

Debbie Friedman's melody has become a very popular modern melody. For this melody, click on <http://www.sidduraudio.com/> and then, under “Miscellaneous and Shabbat Home Prayers,” click on “Havdalah-Brachot (Music-1976 Debbie Friedman).”

For a traditional melody, click on “Havdalah – Prayer for Ending Shabbat.”

“Gestures related to blessing on lights” means holding one's hands toward the flame after the blessing over the lights is recited. When is the wine drunk? At the end of all the blessings, and not immediately after reciting *Birkat Borei Peri HaGafen*. Why? Because, just as in the Kiddush that ushers in Shabbat, and just like the *Sheva Berakhot* at a wedding, the blessing over the wine is only part of the entire blessing cycle, and the drinking of the wine marks the conclusion of the cycle. The difference between reciting *Havdalah* at home and at a synagogue is that at a synagogue the opening paragraph (*Hineih El Yeshu'ati...*) is omitted.

Shabbat and Festival Kiddush

The text of the *Shabbat Kiddush* for the evening is found in *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*, 1998, p. 312. For the melody, click on www.sidduraudio.com

and then, under “Miscellaneous and Shabbat Home Prayers,” click on “Kiddush-Erev Shabbat.”

The text of the *Shabbat Kiddush* for the evening is found in *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*, 1998, p. 315. For the melody, click on www.sidduraudio.com and then, under “Miscellaneous and Shabbat Home Prayers,” click on “Shabbat Morning Kiddush.” Virtually any melody for *VeShamru* would be acceptable as well.

The cup of wine is held during the chanting of the entire text. When is the wine drunk? At the end of the entire text, not immediately after *Birkat Borei Peri HaGafen*. The person who recites *Kiddush* drinks first.

Torah Cantillation

There are many resources for learning Torah Cantillation online. Here is a good one: <http://learntrope.com/>

When is scroll opened? After the first blessing has been chanted.
When is it closed? After the Torah reader completes the reading of the text for that *aliyah*. When is it covered? When any “break” occurs during the Torah reading, e.g., a blessing (*mi-sheberakh*) for those who are ill, a blessing for a couple about to get married, etc.

Nusah shel Kabbalat Shabbat

For the melodies, click on *Kabbalat Shabbat* on the website www.sidduraudio.com The page numbers are those of *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*, 1998.

When does one stand? For Psalm 29.

When does one turn around? For the last verse of *Lekhah Dodi*.

Ma'ariv shel Shabbat

For the melodies, on the website www.sidduraudio.com click on:

-*Ma'ariv*

-*Vay'chulu, Magen Avot*

-*Eloheyenu v'Elohey Avotenu*

The page numbers are those of *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*, 1998.

Shaharit shel Shabbat

For the melodies, click on the appropriate prayers on the website www.sidduraudio.com
The page numbers are those of *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*, 1998.

“Choreography of Shabbat and Weekday Services

Where to stand, sit and bow during traditional services.

AJR hopes to place resources for this Ritual Skill here in the future. For now, it is best to go through Shabbat and weekday services with a rabbi or cantor who is experienced with the traditional services.

Donning of Tallit and Tefillin

The word *atifah* in the instructions means “donning.”

A video demonstrating donning the *Tallit* may be found through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf7Mft69mEA>

The text of the blessing may be found in *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Weekdays, 2002, p. 2.

A video demonstrating putting on *Tefillin* may be found through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2k76dieUmg>

The text of the blessings and prayer may be found in *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Weekdays, 2002, pp. 3-4.

Proper Procedure for Netillat Yadayim

A video demonstrating the proper procedure for *Netillat Yadayim* may be found through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqeFiURwavg>

The text of the blessing is found in *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Shabbat and Festivals, 1998, p. 315, toward the bottom of the page.

B. Unit *Bet*

***Haftarah* cantillation**

There are many resources for learning *Haftarah* cantillation online. Here is a good one:

<http://learntrope.com/>

Nusah shel Ma'ariv L'Hol

For the melodies, click on Weekday *Ma'ariv* on the website:

<http://www.sidduraudio.com/weekday.html>

The page numbers are those of the original *Siddur Sim Shalom*, 1985.

Nusah shel Minhah

For the melodies, click on Weekday *Minhah* on the website:

<http://www.sidduraudio.com/weekday.html>

The page numbers are those of the original *Siddur Sim Shalom*, 1985.

Please note, however, that this audio file does not include *Tahanun* (pp. 192-194). That section is begun silently. It may be concluded in one of two ways:

1- Chant the last two lines at the top of p. 194 in the same *nusah* as *Ashrei* and the *Kaddishim*.

2- Sing the three verses of *Shomer Yisrael* (p. 192) in any of several melodies, then continue silently, then conclude as #1, above.

General rules of when *Tahanun* is recited or not are: It is not recited on a day that coincides with either a festive period or a sad occasion. (Details are found in most Siddurim, e.g., in the original *Siddur Sim Shalom*, 1985, p. 128, top). The passage that one recites as *nefillat apayim* is at the top of p. 192 through just before *Shomer Yisrael*. That prayer posture is sitting, with one's forehead resting on one's left forearm.

Nusah shel Shaharit L'Hol

For the melodies, click on the four audio files for Weekday *Shaharit* on the website:

<http://www.sidduraudio.com/weekday.html>

The page numbers are those of the original *Siddur Sim Shalom*, 1985.

Proper Procedure for Kevi'at Mezuzah

A *mezuzah* should be placed about one third down from the top of a doorpost on the right side as one faces the room from outside of it. It should be placed on an angle, not 100% vertically, with the top facing into the room. Just before attaching it to the doorpost, the blessing should be recited. When affixing more than one *mezuzah* at a time, the blessing need only be said once, before affixing the first one. All doorways except the bathroom need a *mezuzah*.

Where to Find

The general answer is: In a Rabbi's Manual or in a *Siddur*.

Regarding *Siddur Sim Shalom*, 1985:

Tefillat HaDerekh is found on p. 713.

Birkhot HaShemi'ah are found (but not all in a row) on pp. 709 and pp. 711-12.

Birkhot HaRe'iyah are found (but not all in a row) on pp. 709-711.