

TEACHING TANGO - HELPS and IDEAS

<u>International Tango's</u>	<u>Argentine Tango's</u>
Just A Tango Head over Heals Dream Tango Our Shadow Tango Noche de Amor	La Joya Rain In Spain Tango Esprite d' Tango

TANGO BASICS & FIGURES

Tango is nice and easy - don't have to worry about:

- * **rise and fall**
- * **body flight, swing**
- * **sway**
- * **most steps are walking steps**

- **Hold, stance, side lead**

- close, W more to M's R side
 - * M's R hand further arnd W's back (fingers together - Olympics; no basketball hands)
 - * W L hand further arnd M - so under his arm, palm down, fingers together - stable but don't pull/push
 - * lead hnds further in towards body
- M - R side lead (or person going forward)
- W - L ide lead (or person going backward)
- M - use left side of both feet (or person going forward)
- W - use right side of both feet (or person going backward)

- **Foot placement** - R foot in back, close, but not quite touching (M stand facing wall, feet together. Turn on both heels LF to face LOD)
(W stand facing COH, do same)

- **Knees**

Knees bent; veer inward, lift heel slightly to keep knees together

GENERAL FIGURES

- **WALK** - SS
steps from hip - "push" yourself forward from supporting foot; keep it snappy, flat foot, remember which side of foot & which side leads because of this the steps will make slight curve to Left
- **TANGO DRAW** – QQS (**OPTIONAL**)
fwd, sd, draw (no weight)
- **QUICKS & SLOWS** (Tango style)
- **PROG. SIDE STEP** - QQ
quick walk - fwd, sd
- **BRUSH, TAP** - QQ &S
fwd, sd, & tap (like a prog. side step, then add "& tap" – you can also have just "& tap")

LINKS

- Links take you from one position to another, so CP → Scp or Scp → CP.
(linking one position to another)
Links usually start with the lead foot.
- **PROGRESSIVE LINK** - QQ (CP → Scp or PP)
prog. side step turning to PP
Men bring R side of body back M trn body **towards** woman
W trn **self** to PP

PROMENADE FIGURES

- Timing: SQQS, start in SCP with lead foot
- **CLOSED PROMENADE** - SQQS - lead foot
fwd,-, fwd & sd, cl,-,
- **OPEN PROMENADE** - SQQS - lead foot
fwd,-, fwd, sd & fwd, fwd,-, (same as closed prom, but stepping **fwd to end Bjo**)

REVERSE TURNS - OPEN-/CLOSED FINISH - ROCK TURN

- **ROCK TURN** - QQS QQS - lead foot - rk bk, rec, rk bk, (trns RF), closed finish (trns LF)
NOTE: A rock turn can start from CP or from Bjo.
- **CLOSED FINISH** - - back box trng \pm 1/4 LF (so like a "box finish")
bk R, sd L, cl R – after a reverse turn you will normally end CP/DLW
(also cued sometimes as a "back corte" - but a real back corte starts in CP/DLW, lead ft - SQQS - bk, bk, sd, cl)
- **REVERSE TURN** – QQS – CP/DLC (like most LF turns) – fwd L, sd R, bk L to CP/RLOD (Not in RAL definitionas, but you can do an **Open Rev Trn**, then you would end in Bjo/RLOD in CBMP – this is, in our opinion, more often danced then a rev trn to CP)
- **OPEN FINISH** – like a "feather finish" – bk R, sd L, fwd R to CBMP (Bjo)

OTHER FIGURES

- **5-STEP** - QQQQS
 - "5 actions" in all, 4 of them are actual "foot" steps, the last a body action.
 - Body action similar to the action on prog. side step.
 - Steps are quick, action has slow count (so is quick & hold - this gives the effect).
- **CONTRA CHECK**
in Tango usually quick action & hold

(Here you can teach "Just A Tango" with very few extra figures)

(Here you can teach "Head over Heals" just teaching the rest of the figures in the dance. This will still be a full teach)

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- **NATURAL TWIST TURN** - SQQ SQQ (SQQ QQS)
Natural turn - so RF
Scp - lead ft (M - fwd,-, fwd, sd (backing LOD); XIB,-, unwind, & change weight;
(W - fwd,-, fwd, fwd to CP; fwd (starting arnd M,-, fwd (to wall), swivel on R & close L;)

HASH for Natural Twist Turn

walk 2; link to nat'l twist turn - closed promenade;;;; walk 2; rock turn;;	walk 2; link to nat'l twist turn - open promenade;;;; outside rock turn;; brush tap;
walk 2; link to closed prom;; 5-step - nat'l twist turn - closed promenade;;;;;	walk 2; link to back open prom;; 5 step - nat'l twist turn - closed promenade;;;;;

ANOTHER PROMENADE FIGURE

- Timing: SQQS, start with lead foot
- **BACK OPEN PROMENADE - SQQS - lead foot**
M: fwd,-, "manuv", sd; "check" back,-,
W: fwd,-, fwd, fwd; fwd,-,

HASH for Back Open Promenade

walk 2; link to back open promenade;; turning tango draw; link to open promenade;; outside rock turn;;	walk 2; link to back open prom;; 5 step - nat'l twist turn - closed promenade;;;;;
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- **HORSESHOE TURN** - QQSS, lead foot
like a prog side step turning & walk 2
step, then swivel - then step - walk 2

(Here you can teach "Dream Tango"; you still have to count on time to learn the dance, for the few extra figures and mostly for the quick figures and actions)

(Here you can teach "Our Shadow Tango"; you still have to count on time to learn the dance, for the few extra figures)