

One-Step Tango

(Argentina/United States hybrid)

Based on a description by Caroline Walker in 1914.

Shortly after the tango craze swept Paris, Americans developed a similar fascination with the tango. But unlike the Parisians, most Americans were intimidated by the complexity of the Argentine Tango. They wanted to keep up-to-date with the latest dances, without working so hard. For many Americans, the solution was to keep dancing the easy One-Step, perhaps with a bit of tango style, and simply call it the Tango.

The characteristic feature of the One-Step Tango is taking one slow step to each beat of the music, unlike the Argentine Tango which at that time was composed of slow and quick steps.

Music: "Fate", "Tangoland" or any other 16-bar tango tune.

Rhythm: 2/4 meter Between 70 and 80 bpm

Formation: Cpls in Ballroom pos.

Styling: Tango styling actually varied considerably in 1914 America. Some dancers merely walked calmly, no differently than a One-Step, while others imitated various tango postures they had seen. A more Argentine tango style would have been smooth walking without hesitating or bobbing, carrying the body a half-inch lower by slightly flexing the knees.

Meas

Pattern

- 1-4 INTRODUCTION. No action
- 1-2 Promenade: Walk 4 steps in LOD in Closed Promenade pos. M start L ft fwd, W start R ft fwd. On 4th step, lower the body slightly (while keeping posture upright) as W turns 180° CCW (the man does not turn) into Right Side Position (R hip to R hip) while sweeping her R ft in an arc (toe to the floor).
- 3-4 M walks bkwd, W fwd 4 steps in Right Side Position.
- 5-8 Wheel: Keeping Right Side Position, both walk fwd in a circle around each other for 8 steps. The M should be careful not to stop W's smooth travel fwd into this encircling. Conclude these 8 steps with W on the outside of the hall (to the R side of LOD).
- 9-12 Grapevine: M steps: Side L, cross R behind L, side L, cross R over L, while traveling LOD. W steps: Side R, cross L over R, side R, cross L behind R, while traveling LOD. Cpl repeats these 4 steps while traveling LOD.
- 13-15 Side Steps: Cpl steps side toward LOD then closes trailing ft to leading ft with wt. Repeat twice more, to make three side-close steps traveling LOD. Cpl may choose to take the "scorpion pose" where they raise the leading arms in a graceful curve overhead while looking down at the straightened trailing leg.
- 16 Stamp lightly with the trailing foot, taking wt, then change to Closed Promenade pos facing LOD.

Presented by Richard Powers

Reconstruction, choreography, and dance directions Copyright © 1988, 2001 Richard Powers