Ballroom Dance

1, 2 3, 4 5 6 7,8 Slow Slow Quick Quick Slow

Posture: Closed dance position with the leader offset to the L so he can step through his partner's feet. Often the head swings ¼ to L then ¼ to R on quick quick counts. It is a sharp movement but not required. Like the Waltz and Foxtrot, the Tango is a classic Smooth Dance, moving CCW around the dance floor. Unlike these two dances, the Tango is performed with bent knees and a lower center of gravity with lateral movement. The Tango is considered one of the most dramatic Ballroom dances.

1. Basic Tango Walk: The leader steps through his partner's feet with long straight steps. L forward, R forward, L forward R short step to R side, draw L slowly to R instep, leaving toe on ground. Repeat, leader always starts L foot. The follower starts on R stepping back, back L back R, short step to L side with L, and draw R foot to L instep, leaving toe on ground, heel high. Note that "draw" means the ball of the free foot remains in contact with the floor and is brought to the standing foot, but no weight is transferred. The rhythm must be maintained: slow step, slow step, quickstep, quick side, slow draw.

2. Parallel Walks: Same as basic tango walks, except instead of stepping through partner's feet, the first 3 steps are outside partners feet, the leader stepping straight forward to the L of the follower's R foot. On the side and draw steps, the partners come closer together, allowing for an easy transition to the basic or any other step.

3. Basic Corte: Actually means short or abbreviated. Leader steps back on L foot L foot supported on a bent knee, then steps forward on R foot. Finish in basic with forward L, side R draw L. Follower is led forward on R with bent knee, free foot should be straight, with toe brushing the floor. Follower steps back on L, back on R side L and draw with R to complete step. While the corte knee is very bent, it is important to keep the body vertical.

4. **Alternate Corte:** Start first 2 steps as basic. Then bring follower forward on R foot with bent knee, leader steps back on L foot (on quick, quick or rock step.) Rock back onto other foot, draw free foot immediately.

5. Promenade: Leader takes first 2 steps of basic, then does a rock L ft fwd, rock bk on R and draw making a ¼ turn to R. Follower does the opposite ft, same pattern. Using outside foot, both partners step forward, inside foot forward, outside foot forward, step back on inside foot and draw outside foot to instep of standing foot. Couple can continue in promenade, or leader can lead into basic CCW around the room with first 2 steps of promenade and remainder basic, giving follower a sharp lead back into basic position.

6. Promenade with UAT: Start Promenade as in #5, after S, S lift follower's R arm for follower to do outside turn on Q,Q, then draw.

7. **Promenade with Left Turn**: First 2 steps are as Promenade above. Leader leads into closed position, stepping forward L, side R, draw L. Follower steps R in promenade, L promenade, back on R, side L draw with R. This can be done with a sharp head snap to match the sharp L 1/4 turn into promenade.

8. **Promenade with Right Turn**: Same as with L turn above, except a 1/2 turn to the R will be made. This step is performed in a "groove" or "slot", with a sharp about face. Starting in Promenade, use outside foot forward, inside foot forward. Leader's L foot crosses over in front of his R, steps R turning to R and draws L. On 3rd step, follower steps back with R behind her L foot, then side and draw. Head focuses on direction moving with quick snap.

9. Fan Variations: All are done in paired sets.

- **Basic Fan:** Start as Promenade with turn, moving into the center with outside foot, inside foot, rock, rock open out (draw or touch). Outside arms out to side. Step fwd on inside ft, fan (sweep) outside ft, do a cross over step, qqs with ¼ turn to L.
- **Cross-Over Traveling Turns**: Leader tugs follower's R hand across to his R side. Both turn toward each other with a 3-step turn, the follower turns in front of the leader. The turn is performed changing sides and held hands. This variation must be done in doubles-so that couple ends in same position as start of traveling turn. Can turn any even number of times.
- **Sweep:** Finish by sweeping toe of outside foot in forward circular design matched with partner. Bring foot through space made as a couple. Finish with Tango close and ½ turn. Repeat.
- **Scallop:** Similar to Sweep pattern but knee is bent and lifted with toe down rather than remaining on the floor. Outside foot is then lowered and brought through the space made by the couple. Scallop cross over step (lift and place) can be repeated for a different look any odd number of times. Ending is identical to Sweep.
- **Grapevine:** After opening into fan, step forward in LOD with inside foot, do point side with outside foot, turning toward partner, cross pointed foot in front of standing leg and step, point inside foot to side, then start grapevine: weave facing partner-keeping rhythm slow slow quick quick touch side on slow. Repeat slow-front, slow-side, quick-back, quick-side, and draw on last slow. End in basic fan closure.