

TANGO

Timing is 4/4. The most common rhythm patterns are: {SS;} {QQS;} and {QQQQ;}.

TANGO TECHNIQUE

1. The HOLD is more COMPACT with the lady well right into the man's right elbow. The lady's left arm overlocks the man's right arm to better follow the sharp body turns.
2. There is NO RISE or FALL. The upper body is erect, but the knees are soft (bent), resulting in a lower standing height (but a "tall" feel.) In closed position, the ball of the right foot is placed at the instep of the left foot.
3. All STEPS forward are heel leads; steps back are ball then heel; closing steps are flat whole foot; side steps are on the inside edge of the foot.
4. The feet are almost always PICKED UP AND PLACED deliberately, not scooted along the floor.
5. Because of the compact hold, slight movements by the man are AMPLIFIED by the lady (true of most dances but critical in tango.)

TANGO INTRODUCTORY BASICS

**Behind,Side,Thru,Flare
Corte
Flare**

**Forward Stair
Gaucho Turn
2 Left Turn**

**Pickup
Recover
Rock 3(pickup)**

**Side Corte
Tango Draw
Walk 2**

Behind, Side, Thru, Flare {Q,Q,Q,Q;}

M: (CP/WALL) Bhd L, Sd R, Front L, Flare R CCW; W: (CP/WALL) Bhd R, Sd L, Front R, Flare L CW;

CORTE {S}

M: (CP) Bk & Sd L with lowering action, -; W: (CP) Fwd R with lowering action, -;

FLARE {No weight change}

The free foot moves either forward or backward and out to the side with the foot slightly off the floor.

FORWARD STAIR {QQQQ;}

M: (CP) Forward L, Close R, Side L, Close R; W: (CP) Back R, Close L, Side R, Close L;

GAUCHO TURN 4 {QQQQ;}

M: (CP) Rock Fwd L, Rec Bk R with a 1/4 left turn, Rock Fwd L, Rec Bk R with a 1/4 left turn;

W: (CP) Rock Bk R, Rec Fwd L with a 1/4 left turn, Rock Bk R, Rec Fwd L with a 1/4 left turn;

2 LEFT TURNS {QQS; QQS;}

M: Fwd L (turning LF), Sd R (turning LF), Cl L, -; Bk R (turning LF), Sd L (turning LF), Cl R, -;

W: Bk R (turning LF), Sd L (turning LF), Cl R, -; Fwd L (turning LF), Sd R (turning LF), Cl L, -;

PICKUP {S or Q} [Starts SCP and ends CP]

M: Fwd R W: Fwd L (Turning 1/2 LF to CP)

RECOVER {S or Q}

Return weight to the original supporting foot.

ROCK 3 {QQS;} [SCP] [Can start with either foot]

M: Fwd R, Recover L, Fwd R, -; W: Fwd L, Recover R, Fwd L, -;

ROCK 3 / PICKUP {QQS;} [SCP]

M: Fwd R, Recover L, Fwd R, -; W: Fwd L, Recover R, Fwd L, swivel 1/2 LF on L to CP;

SIDE CORTE {S} [CP]

M: Side L flexing supporting knee & turning to RSCP leaving other leg extended with toe pointing to floor, -;

W: Side R flexing supporting knee & turning to RSCP leaving other leg extended with toe pointing to floor, -;

TANGO DRAW {QQS;} [CP]

M: Fwd L, Fwd & Sd R, Draw L to R with no weight change, -; W: Bk R, Bk & Sd L, Draw R to L with no weight change, -;

[Draw occurs over last 2 beats of the measure] [Draw can be replaced by BRUSH/TAP action. Knee of tapping foot should veer inwards.]

WALK 2 {SS;} [CP, SCP or OP] [FWD or BK]

M: L, -,R, -; W: R, -, L, -;

ABBREVIATIONS

S (Q): Slow (Quick)

Fwd: Forward

Bk: Back

Sd: Side

Tch: Touch

Cl: Close

M: Man

W: Woman

COH: Center of Hall

LOD: Line Of Dance

RLOD: Reverse LOD

DLC: Diag. LOD & COH

DRW: Diag. RLOD & WALL

OP: Open Position

CP: Closed Position

BJO: Banjo Position

L (R): Left (Right)

LF(RF): L (R) Face

XLIF: Cross L in Front

XRIB: Cross R in Back

Fc: Face

Lk: Lock

; Semicolon indicates end of a measure

, Comma divides a measure into counts - Dash indicates a hold count

SCAR: Sidecar Position

SCP: Semi-closed Pos.

RSCP: Reverse Semi-closed Pos.

Rec: Recover

Ck: Check

Bhd: Behind