

# Tangorita

A very early English sequence tango  
by Mary Cheshire, London, 1920

Reconstruction by Richard Powers and Nick Enge

Most English sequence tangos appeared after 1921, when Rudolph Valentino's tango in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* re-popularized tango. We have not yet discovered any English sequence tangos that predate the 1920 Tangorita.



Description is for the man/lead. The woman/follow steps opposite footwork.

Position: Closed dance position, with the Lead facing LOD and the Follow backing against LOD.

## Bars

- 1 The Lead takes two slow steps forward LOD, L & R (the Follow steps back R & L).
  - 1 Glide a side step L, close R to L with weight, dropping onto the heels.
  - 2 Rotary\* (Molineté): Rock forward L, turning  $\frac{1}{4}$  to back the Follow into the center of the hall, rock back R, repeat rocking forward L and back R, turning  $\frac{3}{4}$  CCW, ending in closed Promenade Position facing LOD, with the Follow on the right side of the Lead.
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- 1 In closed Promenade Position, walk 2 slow steps forward, L & R, lunging with a dip on the 2<sup>nd</sup> step.
  - 1 Replace back L, then rock back R and replace forward L, slow-quick-quick timing.
  - 2 Cross R foot through toward LOD (with the Lead taking a longer step); pivot step L with the Lead backing in front of his partner; pivot R, continuing to rotate CW; the Lead takes a small step L forward toward his partner, who steps back R into the center of the hall (a normal erect posture, not dipping).
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- 4 Repeat these 4 bars in the opposite roles, beginning on opposite feet. The Lead must not trap his partner with his right arm, but must let her face forward into the promenade.
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- 1 Take 2 gliding side-closes toward LOD (called saltitos in early tango terminology).
  - 1 Pivot CW  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a turn with 2 slow steps, L & R, with the Lead backing in front of his partner, ending with the Lead facing LOD, Follow backing.
  - 2 Two-Step L, side-close-side diagonally LOD toward the center, quick-quick-slow;  
Two-Step R, diagonally LOD to the outside.

\* This figure was termed a "rotary." In today's terminology, rotary usually means a clockwise waltz, but a century ago, the term for the CW waltz was "natural turn." In 1920, "Rotary" could mean rotating either CW or CCW. The term "rotary" wasn't explained, so I chose a CCW tango molinete, as a logical interpretation, which concludes in the specified orientation, with the Follow at the right side of the Lead, facing LOD.

# “TANGORITA”

INVENTED BY

M<sup>RS</sup> MARY CHESHIRE.

## DESCRIPTION.

Time  $\frac{2}{4}$

Tempo di Tango.

Waltz position, Gentleman facing line of dance.

Step forward on Left foot. ... ..	}	Bars.
Step forward on Right foot. ... ..		
Glide Left foot to side. Draw Right to Left dropping on heels. ... ..	}	1
Four steps rotary, leaving lady on right hand side, both facing line of dance. ... ..		
Step forward with Left foot, step over with Right bend- ing both knees. ... ..	}	1
Step back on Left, back on Right, forward on Left and pause one beat. ... ..		
Step forward on Right foot. Step into partner's place with Left and Right pivoting quarter turn. Step forward with Left. ... ..	}	2
Repeat last four bars, commencing with Right foot. ... ..		
Two glides to Left. ... ..		1
Step Left and Right making three-quarter turn. ... ..		1
Chassè diagonally, L, R, L. then R, L, R. ... ..		<u>2</u>
		<u>16</u>

Thanks to Nick Enge for finding this description, and for feedback in the reconstruction.