

ONE-STEP TANGO

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During the Ragtime era, the true Argentine tango intimidated many American dancers who preferred easy, playful dances like the One-Step and Grizzly Bear. Rumors circulated that the Tango required the mastery of 160 different steps. Vernon Castle reported that, "Society looked askance at the Tango. Here and there, in the corners of ball-rooms, one saw a few hardy couples tripping a tentative measure. But as soon as the music slides into the seductive notes of the South American dance, everybody developed a sudden interest in supper!" (and abandoned the dance floor.)

The ingenious Americans had a simple solution to this quandary. Most of them continued to dance their favorite dance, the One-Step, and just called it the Tango. A few dance masters despaired at the confusion of the Tango with the One-Step, but the oblivious dancers couldn't care less, as long as they were having fun. Eventually many American dance teachers, such as Caroline Walker, gave into popular usage and taught the One-Step as the Tango. The following pattern is based on Caroline Walker's description.

Measures

- 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 deg CCW (the man does not turn) into Right Side Position (R hip to R hip) while sweeping her R foot 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 fwd 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's 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 foot to leading foot 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