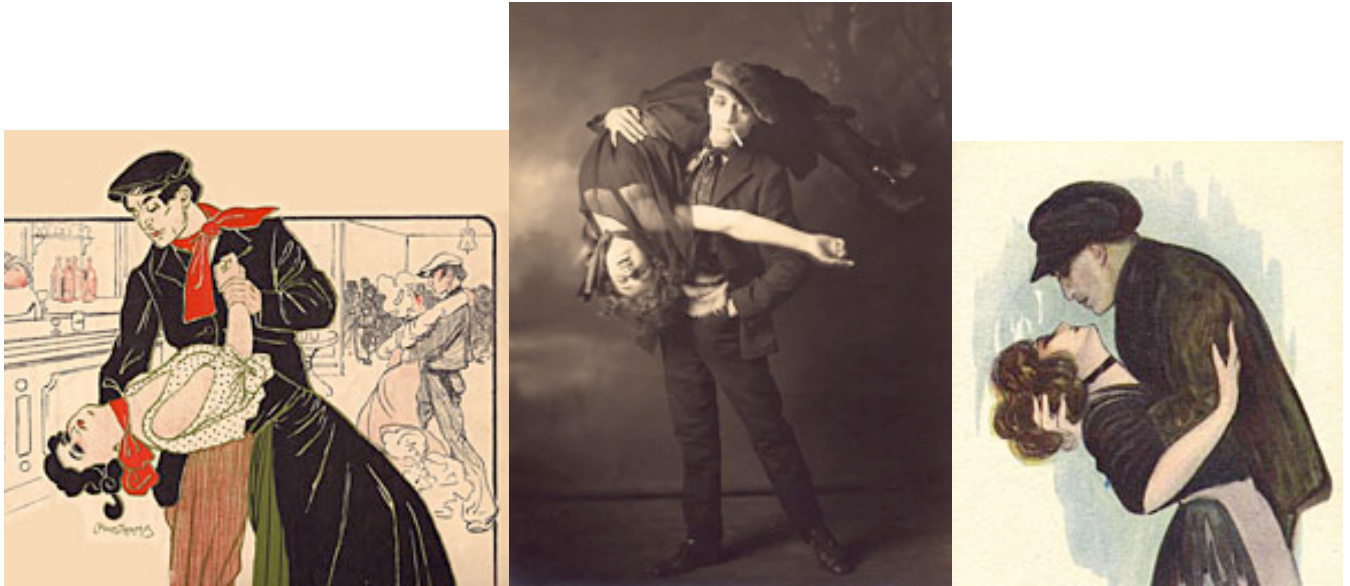


APACHE AND TANGO INSPIRED CROSS-STEP WALTZ VARIATIONS

Brief reminders of steps taught by Richard Powers



La Danse Apache (pronounced ah-PAHSH), or Valse Chaloupee, was a dramatic Parisian cabaret entertainment of the early 20th century (circa 1903) that remained a popular act for half a century. To quote Irene Castle, in the Apache "the male dancer tries to demolish the female dancer as spectacularly as possible and usually succeeds." These are freestyle tango-like cross-step waltz figures, like the original, but with campy drama instead of any violence.

To see the most famous filmed Apache, from *Charlie Chan In Paris*, go to YouTube and enter "La Danse Apache (1935)."

STYLE: Tango style, with firmer brace of the frame, some air under armpits, lower body, and smooth stealthy walking style.

DOUBLE NECK HOLD Hold the side of your partner's neck with your R hand, or hold the top of their shoulder. This also works with his R arm and her L arm holding partner's neck.

RIGHT FOREARM GRASP Hold your partner's R elbow from below, with your R hand. Don't pinch with your thumb. Swing your partner past you.

TANGO PROMENADE (Waltz Walk) He leads her to walk straight forward in a dramatic tango style. This is also good for navigating through tight squeezes.

FORWARD CROSS-LUNGE, SIDE STEP RECOVERY Perhaps after a tango-style Waltz-Walk LOD, 1) Cross forward LOD stopping with a slight dip; 2) hold; 3) step back on outside foot; 4) step side RLOD; 5) draw 2nd foot back to close; 6) take weight on 2nd foot.

PIVOTS INTO TEXAS TOMMY He preps by tucking his fingers into swingout handhold. Cross-pivot-pivot on 1-2-3, at the same time doing the Texas Tommy lowering of her R hand behind her back, taking her r with his R behind her back. Let her slowly unwind with easygoing walking steps LOD on 4-5-6. See what you can do from R-to-R hands, or R-to-R Free Spin (wind up on 1-2-3, Free Spin on 4-5-6), or slip into Right Forearm Grasp.

Note: The term *Texas Tommy* is used here to help today's Lindy hoppers identify the move, but the Apache version, filmed by Thomas Edison in 1902, predated the 1910 Texas Tommy.

FOLLOW'S BACKING OCHOS AND POINT Do a Zig-Zag toward the center of the room, on 1-2-3, or Follow's Backing Ochos where she crosses behind on 1. 4) Zig-Zag or the Follow crosses behind toward the outside; 5) point free foot toward the outside; 6) hold.

This step is done in the most famous filmed Apache, from *Charlie Chan In Paris* (1935).

SIDE SWAYS 1) Cross-step; 2) he stops his partner with a "planted" side step; 3) hold swaying toward LOD with feet apart; 4) shift weight to the rear foot, RLOD with feet still apart; 5) hold swaying RLOD; 6) both close the free foot taking weight, ready to re-commence with the primary cross-step.

TANGO HESITATING DIP Cross on 1, both plant a side step on 2 (she steps slightly between his feet) and she continues to roll to her left, holding that second step and rolling CCW into a dip. Rise and prepare to cross on the next ct 1. The footwork timing is exactly the same as the easier Side Sways.

MOLINETE Cross-step to the center of the room; he swings her CCW to squarely face and stop w/ him rocking fwd L; he rocks back on his R bringing her with him, rock 2 more steps continuing to rotate CCW, exit on ct 6 with the usual fwd step.

INSIDE TURN CRADLE DIP During the first Inside Turn he slips into Open 2-Hand Position, quietly says, "Dip" or "Lunge" when she is facing him on ct 2, dip forward onto inside knee of 4-5-6. Rise on 1-2-3. Double Unwind exit begins on outside feet on ct 4.

For more variations, see the "Tango-Inspired Innovations from the Waltz Lab" handout.