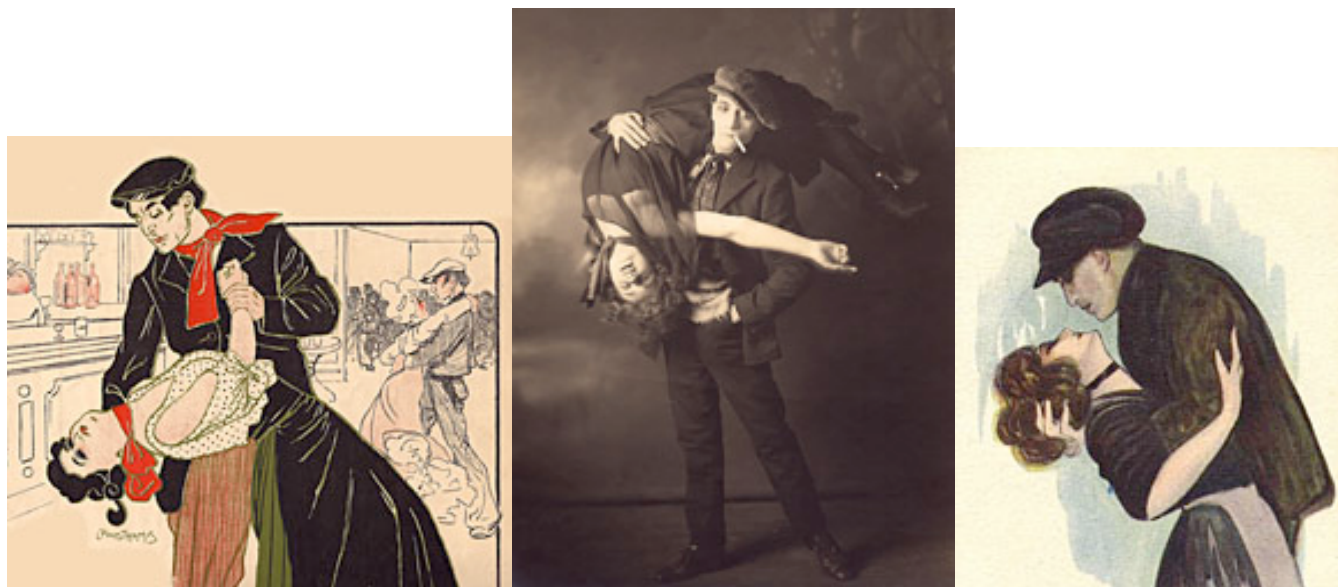


APACHE-INSPIRED CROSS-STEP WALTZ VARIATIONS

Brief reminders of steps taught by Richard Powers



The Apache (pronounced ah-PAHSH), or Valse Chaloupee, was a dramatic Parisian cabaret entertainment of the early 20th century (circa 1903) that surprisingly 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 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.

ONE-ARMED WALTZING Simply let go of held hands, keeping the other half of the frame.

DOUBLE NECK HOLD Hold the side of your partner's neck with your R hand, or hold the top of their shoulder.

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

FREE SPIN From Right Forearm Grasp, he leads her into a free spin in the outside lane on the last counts 4-5-6. Perhaps wind up a little on 1-2-3. Catching each other on the fly from that free spin, into waltz, is fun.

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.

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.

WALTZ WALK PROMENADE 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.

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.

FOLLOW'S BACKING OCHO A Zig Zag with the Follow crossing behind instead of in front, as the Lead crosses in front.

FOLLOW'S BACKING OCHOS AND POINT Do the above Ocho just toward the center of the room, on 1-2-3. 4) Follow crosses behind to the other side; 5) point free foot toward the outside; 6) hold.

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

PIVALOOP Stand side-by-side facing LOD with follow at lead's L side, holding inside hands fwd LOD, shoulder height. Then just before the beginning of measure 1 or 3 he swings held hands back RLOD to lead her to pivot CW in a diagonal path across in front of him, with his L hand continuing to loop over her head as she pivots. Her first Pivaloop step is a CW half turn, throwing her L shoulder and foot toward LOD diagonally toward the outside lane (stepping side L looking back at him) on ct. 1, so he must lead the downward pulse a moment early. Then she continues to pivot fwd R, back L. Take other inside hands when she is at his R side. This can be preceded with swinging held hands forward and back.

DISHRAG PIVALOOP (Lilli Ann Carey) First he slips away to Open 2-hand Hold and just does some Turning Basics in a low open 2-hand hold. Then he ducks under in a slow He-Goes-She-Goes opening for 6 counts, crossing to the outside lane during 1-2-3, then preparing by raising both held hands at the end of 4-5-6. He leads a 2-handed CW Pivaloop on 1-2-3, crossing her to the outside lane, then a CW Free Spin on 4-5-6.

INSIDE TURN CRADLE DIP (from Zachariah and Linda) 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.