Occasionally a tango aficionado will describe tango as a "chess game of the feet," like figuring out puzzles. The point is that it's fun to work at solving a puzzle. Sometimes that takes trying out a few possible solutions, until you solve it. In tango, you can puzzle out a somewhat tricky figure until your partner gets it, so it works even better with steps than can be repeated a few times, as these figures do.

In early Buenos Aires tango, a "Media Luna" was a category of step patterns that repeated to both sides.

Donella Media Luna ("Outside Step" from Donella Tango)

Lola Media Luna (from Lola Tango, 1923)

Danced in a trapezoid shape

Nicanor Lima's Media Lunas

Media Luna #8 “Mendocina”

Media Luna 10 “Porteña” (Hexagon)

Hexagon path. Crosses are diagonals, not tight crosses.

Media Luna 11 “Puntana”

SOME SAMPLE NOTATION CODES:

slow       quick       step       point       cross L       close L       waltz       promenade       turn
left       right       fwd       without     behind      to R with     pos.         to the       turn
step       turn       left