

El Bailecito

(Argentina)

This is a graceful couple dance with the dancers apart and independent with a swaying movement. Throughout the choreography, the gentleman genteelly expresses his admiration for the woman with smooth and expressive movements of his handkerchief. The final approach and the coronation symbolize his success in wooing her.

Because the dance's name is also a generic word for short dances (Little Dance), there is sometimes confusion. El Gato is called "El Bailecito" in some parts of Argentina. Even so, this particular dance has its own history and specific choreography. It arrived in Argentina via Bolivia, entering in the northwest of the country in the middle of the 18th century. It spread to the provinces of Catamarca, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, and Córdoba. Its origins are obscure but it is supposed that it is from one of the dances brought by Spain to the New World in the colonial years.

Pronunciation: ehl bah-ee-leh-SEE-toh

Translation: The Little Dance

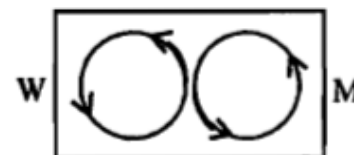
Music: 6/8 meter

Música de Mi Pueblo, Track 2 (El Pajarito)

Formation: Cpls standing with M facing W, about 8 feet apart, slightly offset to dancers' right. M's has back of L hand behind him just below his waist. W's L hand holds her skirt. Throughout the dance handkerchief is twirled by moving wrist in a figure 8.

Steps & Styling: Triplet Step: Each step in this dance is actually three steps that consists of one long step (ct 1) and two shorter steps done almost in place (cts 2, 3), beg with either ft.

| <u>Meas</u> | <u>6/8 meter</u> | <u>Pattern</u> |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| 5 | <u>INTRODUCTION</u> . Clapping – twice on cts 2, 4 – with hands raised to head ht with wt on R and handkerchief in R hand. | |
| | I. <u>AVANCE Y RETROCESO (ADVANCE AND RETIRE)</u> . | |
| 1 | During this entire Fig, handkerchief whirling in air over R shldr. | |
| | Two Triplet Steps fwd starting L and passing L shldr (cts 1-3, cts 4-6). | |
| 2 | One Triplet Step fwd (cts 1-3); on first step of last Triplet Step, step in place while dipping handkerchiefs and bending at the waist, almost brushing fwd foot (cts 4-6). | |
| 3 | Two Triplet Steps bkwd starting L and passing R shldr (cts 1-3, cts 4-6). | |
| 4 | One Triplet Step bkwd to original pos (cts 1-3); on first step of last Triplet Step, step R to R to move to R while dipping handkerchiefs and bending at the waist, almost brushing fwd foot (cts 4-6). All are now in orig pos. | |
| 5-8 | Repeat meas 1-4, but passing R shldr in meas 1-2 and passing L shldr in meas 3-4. | |
| | II. <u>GIRO (TURN)</u> | |
| 1-2 | Use four Triplet Steps. Each dances in a CCW circle turning R shldr twd ptr on second Triplet Step, lowering handkerchief in salute during last two Triplet Steps and dance away back to orig pos. | |



Giro

III. CONTRAGIRO (REVERSE TURN).

- 1-2 Repeat Fig II, but dance in a CW circle and turn L shldr to ptr on the second Triplet Step.

IV. MEDIA VUELTA (BIG HALF-CIRCLE).

- 1-2 With handkerchief draped on L shldr and lifting arms up and snapping fingers (castañetas), use four Triplet Steps to dance in a CCW arc facing ptr and traveling to the other's orig pos.

V. GIRO FINAL (FINAL SMALL CIRCLE).

- 1 Continuing with arms raised and out, each use two Triplet Steps to begin a smaller circle CCW, ending in ctr, R shldr to R shldr.
- 2 One more Triplet Step to finish the small CCW circle and face partner and meet eyes. Raise handkerchiefs in R hands on vertical forearms just below eye level.

Note: If repeating the dance, M turns W to her L under the joined R hands and M and W step bkwd, away from each other to the other's orig pos.

Sequence: Dance repeats twice (three times total).

Presented by Pampa Cortés

