

La Chacarera

(Argentina)

This dance is found in all parts of Argentina. It is lively and happy, expressing gallantry and romance. The man and woman dance apart. It is similar to other dances such El Gato, El Escondido and El Remedio, among others. Historically, first mention of it was made in the 1850s.

Chacareras use a rhythm that is “ternario” – a measure of three parts (triplets) in 6/8 time, with the bass or drum percussion in 3/4 time.

Pronunciation: Translation: The Playful Girl

Music: 6/8 meter *Música de Mi Pueblo*, Track 7 (La Juguetona)

Formation: Beg pos M and W stand approximately 8 feet apart. Wt on R with L extended and pointing R at an oblique angle twd ptr. Arms raised, hands at eye level, looking over L shldr at ptr. All beg with L; M and W do the same movements except during the Zapateo (stamping pattern) and Zarandeo (skirt swishing).

Steps & Styling: While traveling, the dancers hold their arms up in the shape of a wine glass (copa), elbows slightly bent and pointing down, hands extended to the sides at face level; the dancers should be able to see their own hands. Dancers snap their fingers in time to the counts (castañetas).

It is typical that the musicians will call the different parts of the choreography and add their own playful comments.

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

Zarandeo. W does Triplet Waltzing Steps tracing a pattern on the floor while swishing her skirt. W chooses which Zarandeo she wants to do and how she wishes to swish her skirt.

Zarandeo de Cuatro. W does Triplet Waltzing Steps tracing a diamond or rhombus while moving her skirt counter-body. Each cuatro takes four Triplet Waltzing Steps, so the tracing of the diamond is done twice.

Zarandeo del Corazón. This is a pattern the W traces that is in the shape of a heart. The woman makes a big CCW arc using two Triplet Waltzing Steps. On the third Triplet Waltzing Step, W moves to the M's L. On the next two Triplet Waltzing Steps, W makes a small CW arc in front of M and ends on M's R with the sixth Triplet Waltzing Step. Facing ctr, W returns to starting position in another arc using the last two Triplet Waltzing Steps. Skirt is swished counter-body with each Triplet Waltzing Step.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>6/8 meter</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
2 meas		<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . Rhythmic clapping with hands at eye level.
	I.	<u>AVANCE & RETROCESO (ADVANCE & RETREAT)</u> .
1		Beg L, two Triplet Steps fwd twd ptr leading with R shldr to meet face-to-face with R shldrs adjacent (cts 1-3; cts 4-6).

- 2 Using two Triplet Steps, do a ½ turn CW to bring L shldr adjacent, and move away from each other leading the R shoulder and end facing ptr (cts 1-3; cts 4-6). These 2 measures form a diamond pattern.
- II. GIRO (SMALL TURN).
- 1 Starting out to R, use two Triplet Steps to dance half of a CCW circle to meet ptr with R shldr adjacent (cts 1-3; cts 4-6). Look over R shldr and smile at ptr.
- 2 Continuing in the CCW circle, use two Triplet Steps to return to orig pos.
- III. VUELTA ENTERA (FULL TURN).
- 1-4 Using eight Triplet Steps, M and W each dance along a large CCW circle so that half-way through they are in each other's orig pos (meas 1-2) and at the end they are each back in their own orig pos. Maintain eye contact.
- IV. ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO (TAPPING AND SKIRT WORK).
- 1-4 M performs a Zapateo while the woman performs a Zarandeo de Cuatro twice.
- V. MEDIA VUELTA (BIG HALF-TURN).
- 1-2 Stepping out to R, use four Triplet Steps to dance along a half-circle CCW to switch places and face each other.
- VI. GIRO FINAL (FINAL TURN).
- 1 M and W dance in a small CCW circle using two Triple Steps.
- 2 M and W turn in place CCW using two Triple Steps using the end of the second Triplet Steps to face each other, wt back on R and L pointed fwd; each rests R hand on other's L shldr and L hand at own waist.
- Break M uses R hand, to take W's R hand and turn her CCW. Each backs up to new starting pos (the other's orig pos).
- VII. VARIATION – VUELTA ENTERA EN ESE (FULL TURN IN FIGURE “S”)
This variation can be used in place of Fig III above.
- 1 Starting R, use two Triplet Steps to dance a half-circle CCW to meet facing ptr in ctr.
- 2 Starting R, use to Triplet Steps to pass L shoulders and dance a half-circle CW turn to opp side.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 to return to orig. pos.

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Fig III, Fig IV, Fig V, Fig VI. At this point each will be in the other's orig pos. The dance is repeated from this pos.

Calling the parts of the dance:

For the start of the first time through: ¡Primera! or ¡A la primera!

For the start of the second time through: ¡Segunda! Or ¡A la Segunda!

To start the dancers: ¡Adentro! (ah-DEHN-tro) (Go in!)

For the end of the second time through: ¡Ahura! (OW-dah) or ¡Se acaba! (say ah-CAH-ba)! (It's over!)

Presented by Pampa Cortés