

## **El Gaucho Tango** (USA)

El Gaucho Tango was choreographed by Ned and Marian Gault based on ballroom tango motifs. They taught it at the 1963 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. This account has profited from Ned Gault's input and encouragement.

**Music:** Decca 9-34105 (Olé Guapa played by the Alfred Hause Orchestra of Germany); World Famous Tangos, LPV 5778, side 1, band 1 (Ole Guapa, Produkcija Granofonsikih Pla a Radio-Televizije, Belgrade); much other music is available on CDs. Music for this and other tangos is also available on a CD from Ned Gault. 2/4 meter

**Rhythm:** 2/4 meter, S = action taking a full count of music (2 per meas); Q = action taking a half count (4 per meas).

**Formation:** Cpls in Closed-Ballroom pos\*, M facing LOD.

**Steps:** Walk\*, Rock\*, Closed-Ballroom pos.\*

Semi-open Ballroom pos: Like Closed-Ballroom pos except ptrs are turned twd joined hands with M's R and W's L hips close.

Open Tango pos: Ptrs facing same direction with W on M's R side. L hands joined and held at shldr ht; R hands joined and held on W's R hip. This pos can also be danced with W on M's L side, and hand positions reversed.

Corté: A dip in Closed pos (taking one S ct): M step bkwd on L with toe turned out and knee bent, W steps fwd on R with knee bent; both keep non-stepping ft on the floor with leg straight, and backs straight. Usually followed by recovery of upright posture taking one S count.

Flare: Cpl in Semi-open Ballroom pos steps fwd on inside ft swinging outside ft in a large arc first fwd and then, while pivoting on supporting ft, bringing it twd ptr to end stepping in opp direction. This step can also be done by M or W only.

Tango Close: M step Q fwd on L, W step Q back on R (ct 1); M step to R on R (Q), W to L on L (ct &); without taking wt, M draw L to R instep (S) and W draw R ft to L instep (ct 2). This figure can also be danced turning in either direction.

**Styling:** Dance with knees slightly bent; steps are made deliberately and with a "reaching" appearance; all leads are made firmly and with conviction.

\* Described in the "General Glossary" of *Steps & Styling (rev. 1996)*, Folk Dance Federation of CA, Inc.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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1-4     INTRODUCTION   No action.

I.   TO CENTER AND BACK

- 1     In Semi-open pos, walk 2 S steps twd ctr, M L,R; W R,L.
- 2     M steps twd ctr (QQS) L, R, touch L beside R (cts 1,&,2) while turning W once to R (CW) under joined M's L, W's R hands with 3 steps, R,L,R (cts 1,&,2). As the turn is completed, W gives L hand to M who stops her rotation with his L hand, and ptrs assume Open Tango pos.
- 3     Both starting with L, walk 2 S steps twd ctr (L,R).
- 4     With 3 steps (QQS), step L fwd, turning sharply to own R (to face out) maintaining R ft pos and hand holds, step R in place, and draw L to R (no wt); ptrs are now in Open Tango pos with W on M's L (hand positions reversed).
- 5     Moving away from ctr, walk 2 S steps (L,R).
- 6     Step L across in front of R (ct 1), step R to R (ct &); draw L ft to R (no wt) (ct 2).
- 7     Repeat meas 5.
- 8     M steps fwd on L, turning 1/4 to L (ct 1), steps R to side to face in twd ctr (ct &), and draws L ft to R (no wt)(ct 2). At the same time, ptrs drop L hand hold, and M leads W into a L 3/4 turn (CCW) with his R arm to end in Closed Ballroom pos with M facing LOD. W takes 3 steps (L,R,L) taking wt on last step to make turn (QQS).
- 9-16   Opening to Semi-open pos repeat meas 1-8.

INTERLUDE

- 1     Open to Semi-open pos facing LOD, walk fwd with 2 S steps (M L,R; W R,L).
- 2     Dance a slow pivot CW in Closed ballroom pos while moving fwd in LOD as a cpl (M L,R; W R,L).
- 3     M continues fwd in LOD with 2 S steps (L,R) while turning W once in slow CW turn under joined M's L, W's R hands (steps R,L). End facing LOD in Semi-open pos.
- 4     M leads W into Closed ballroom pos with M facing LOD to dance a Tango close.

II.   RIDING STEP

- 1     Opening to Semi-open pos, dance fwd in LOD with a S step on M's L, W's R (ct 1); continue fwd with 2 Q steps (M R,L; W L,R).
- 2     M steps fwd on R leaving L toe in place while W steps on L and flares with R, turning twd ptr so R hips are adjacent (ct 1); M moves bkwd with 2 Q steps (L,R) while W moves fwd with 2 Q steps (R,L) (cts 2,&).
- 3     M continues bkwd with a step on L, leaving R in place, while W steps fwd on R flaring twd ptr with L ft to face back to LOD (ct 1); in Semi-open pos both step fwd (M's R; W's L) (ct 2).
- 4     M leads W into Closed ballroom pos, (M facing LOD) to dance a Tango close.
- 5-8   Repeat meas 1-4.
- 9     Opening to Semi-open pos, walk 2 S steps fwd in LOD (M L,R; W R,L).

- 10 Repeat meas 4, but end with M placing joined W's R and his L hands just behind his L hip.
- 11 Dance Corté (ct 1) and recover: M steps fwd on R ft and W rocks back onto L (ct 2).
- 12 Repeat Tango close, ending with M facing LOD.

INTERLUDE – Repeat 4 measures as above.

### III. FLARE, ROCK, AND CORTÉ

- 1 Opening to Semi-open pos on first step, walk 2 S steps fwd (M L,R; W R,L); on the second step both flare (with M's L, W's R) twd ptr, keeping joined hands low and arms straight, to face RLOD.
- 2 Maintaining hand holds, dance 2 Q steps (cts 1,&) in RLOD (M L,R; W R,L); walk 1 S step in same direction (M L, W R) (ct 2).
- 3 Face ptr in Closed ballroom pos (M facing out) stepping to M's R, W's L (Q) and begin to twist twd LOD; shift wt to other ft (M's L, W's R) to face LOD (Q) in Semi-open pos (cts 1, &); step through twd LOD (ct 2) with M's R, W's L.
- 4 Tango close (see Fig. II, meas 4).
- 5 Remaining in Closed ballroom pos, dance 2 S steps fwd in LOD (M L,R; W R,L).
- 6 With 4 Q steps (cts 1,&,2,&), M rocks fwd on L, and backs up with R,L,R; W rocks back on R, and goes fwd with L,R,L.
- 7-8 Repeat Fig. II, meas 11-12 (corté and recover, tango close).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

Repeat Fig. I, Interlude, Fig. III.

### FINALE

- 1 M dances 2 Q steps in place (L,R) while turning W under joined hands (M's L, W's R) twd center of the room with W dancing 2 Q steps (R,L) (cts 1,&); both point free ft twd ptr (M's L, W's R) and pose (ct 2).