

EL LIMPIA SILLAS

RANCHERA

Couple dance from Uruguay.

Dance presented originally by Laura Zanzi de Chavarria.

Record: Folk Dancer 45 RPM - MH Series. 1131

(A "Ranchera")

Formation: Couples side by side, holding inside hands with woman on Right.

Background: This dance has been danced since 1850 at all Uruguayan festivities. Its lively tune has made it the most popular dance. It is also danced in southern Brazil where other forms of rancheras have local characteristics. Here it is called 'ranchera gaucha'.

Steps: Use waltz step throughout the dance.

Figure 1: Move forward 1 waltz step (Men start with Left foot, Women with Right). Turning toward each other, join inside hands (Man's Left, Woman's Right) with waltz turn to face in the opposite direction. Turn toward each other and with 1 waltz step swing joined hands (Man's Right, Woman's Left) forward and backward with another waltz step. With two waltz steps turn away from partner and clap on count 5.

Figure 2: (Square). In ballroom position couple moves forward with two waltz steps. With two more waltz steps turn $3/4$ to face position 2 (see diagram). Repeat this 3 more times to end up in original position except that on last turn couple turns only $1/2$ to face in opposite direction from that at the start of the dance.

Figure 3: Repeat Figure 1 except that Woman is on Man's Left (facing toward the back).

Figure 4: Waltz freely around the floor for 16 Measures.

Figure 5: Man holds Woman's right hand in his Left. With one waltz step Woman turns under joined hands to her Right. With one more waltz step couples balance away from each other. Repeat this 2 more times (3 times total). On the 7th measure turn Woman under as before, but on 8th Measure couple changes into varsoviennne position with Woman on Man's left.

Figure 6: In varsoviennne position couples change places with each other with one waltz step. Repeat this seven more times (eight total) in place. Repeat eight more times moving forward as the couples exchange places. The floor pattern is not set; dancers move freely around the room.

Figure 7: Repeat Figure 1.

