



### AMERICAN ONE-STEP TANGO

Based on a description by Caroline Walker, The Modern Dances

Shortly after the Tango craze swept Paris, America developed a similar fascination with the dance. But unlike the Parisians, most Americans were intimidated by the complexity of this Argentine dance. As a result, the name "Tango", with its exotic appeal, was applied to the same Ragtime steps that Americans were already doing.

In 1914, Caroline Walker explained it this way:  
"What has been taught and danced for the past two or three seasons as the Tango is, in reality, not the Argentine Tango, but has been classified by the best authorities as the One-Step. I therefore bow to common usage and teach the One-Step as the Tango because it is the dance which the majority of people recognize as the Tango."

The characteristic feature of this American Tango is that it is danced with one slow step to each beat of the music, unlike the Argentine Tango which is composed of slow and quick steps.

FIGURE 1: FOUR STEPS FORWARD AND BACK

Taking Tango (Closed Promenade) Position, both walk four slow steps forward in line-of-direction, beginning with outside feet (his L, her R). The lady then turns 180° to her left (the man does not turn) into Yale position (right shoulders touch) and walks four more slow steps forward to the starting place. Meanwhile, the man walks backward four slow steps in Yale position. A nice Tango flair would be a "frottado" sweep of the lady's right foot, in an arc, as she turns into Yale position.

FIGURE 2: CIRCLING

Keeping right-shoulder Yale Position, both walk forward in a circle around each other for eight slow steps. (Sometimes known as a Pomander Walk.) To do this, the man reverses direction from backward to forward, but he should be careful not to halt his partner's smooth forward progress into the Circling.

FIGURE 3: THE GRAPEVINE

Man's steps: Step L to the left side (facing partner), cross R behind the L (in left-shoulder Yale Position), step L to the left side, cross R over in front of the L (in right-shoulder Yale Position). Repeat the four slow steps.  
Lady's steps: Step R to the right side (facing partner), cross L over in front of the R, step R to the right side, cross L behind the R. Repeat.

FIGURE 4: DRAW

Facing partners, take one step directly to the side (line-of-direction) then, keeping the trailing foot on the floor, draw it up until the heel touches the leading foot. Do this Draw Step three times, then stamp with the trailing foot (on count 7). A preferred Tango styling is the "scorpion pose" where you raise the leading arms in a graceful curve overhead while looking down at the straightened trailing leg (he looks down to his right as she looks down to her left).

After the stamp, both look toward line-of-direction and repeat the sequence from the beginning.