

CROSSTEP WALTZ

(United States, France, Argentina, England)

Richard Powers

These steps appeared in the first two decades of this century in the American One-Step (the Eight Step and Snake Dip), Argentine tango (Abanico step), English version of the Fox-Trot (Jazz Roll) and French version of "Le Blues" (Pas dentelé en tournant), all in duple time. Waltz tempos were later slowed to allow these steps to become waltz variations. The version presented here is very popular today in Southwest France, where it is called the Boston.

Today these steps are done to either triple (slow waltz) or duple (fast foxtrot, blues, etc.) music. While crosstep waltz is not acknowledged in formal ballroom waltzing, it is becoming a dominant motif in some newer and simpler vernacular, or "street dancing," traditions.

MUSIC: Any slow waltz music or any duple music of approximately walking tempo.

METER: 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4

TEMPO: 100 to 130 bpm.

FORMATION: Cpls, in Ballroom pos.

STEPS:

BASIC STEP:

M crosses R ft over in front of his L ft (ct 1); steps L to L side (ct 2); shading body to R side, step R to R side, drawing R slightly bkwd (ct 3). Repeat opp, beg crossing L over R. M leads W into mirror-image steps, emphasizing the "crossbow" lead, but also being clear to lead her body shading back inward on cts 2 and 3.

Styling: Very smooth and balanced. Emphasize the ct 1 cross-step with a slight dip.

TRAVELING BASIC:

M faces LOD (or wherever he is guiding their travel) and leads the Basic Step while he slowly Travels fwd, without any rotation. M faces fwd but swings W alternately toward his L and R sides on the ct-1 cross-step.

TURNING BASIC:

Same as the Basic Step except rotate CW as a couple in closed ballroom pos on cts 2 and 3, (M cuts in front of W on ct 2). Rotate CW again on cts 5 and 6 (W cuts in front of M as he swings her closely around his R side on ct 5). Traveling primarily occurs on the ct 1 cross step. The degree of rotation may vary from 90' to 180'.

MAN'S BACK-STEP: M crosses behind instead of in front on each ct 1 while M continues to lead W into a fwd cross-step.

CAST SIDE-TO-SIDE: Do either the Traveling Basic or Turning Basic above, but let go of the hands which were held in front., with free arms held out to the sides. Reduce leading effort by adjusting your position around ptnr's.

FOLLOWER'S SOLO:

Do the Traveling Basic above, but M completely stops on ct 1, with his R ft crossed fwd, without stepping for the 6 cts, as he leads W across in front of himself.

PIVOTS:

Begin as with the Turning Basic, but begin a series of four Dynamic Pivots on count 2. This means 2) M steps L around W, cutting in front of her as she steps R fwd between his feet; 3) W steps L around M, cutting in front of him as he steps R fwd between her feet; 4) repeat 2; 5) repeat 3; 6) step in place to recover.

ROLE REVERSAL:

Especially popular on the Stanford campus, change handhold to the woman leading/ M following without stopping the footwork.

There are no patterns. All steps are improvised.

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