

EARLY TANGO IN EUROPE

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These are some of the earliest tango steps ever described, written down in 1911 by French dancers who learned it from Argentines who happened to be living in Paris. The names in parentheses are the original Argentine names for these steps, from Nicanor Lima's Buenos Aires tango manual. The same steps and style were done in England at this time, 1911-14, and they were essentially the same as the tango that Argentines brought to Europe.

Take closed waltz position, M facing LOD, W backing.
Steps are for M. W dances opposite.

A Walk and Media Luna

SSSS Walk forward LOD 4 steps, beginning L, lady backing. (Pasos Paseos Serenos)

S Step forward LOD.

QQ Step side R and close L to R with weight.

S Step back R.

QQ Step side L and close R to L with weight. (Media Luna Sanjuanina)

B Side Steps and Corté

SSSS Step side L and close R without weight, in Scorpion Position; repeat opposite.

S Step forward LOD.

QQ Step side R and close L to R with weight.

S Step back R. (Sentada or Corté)

S Hold, twisting into Closed Promenade Position facing LOD.

C Promenade and Forward Corté

SS Walk forward LOD 2 steps, L and R.

QQ Facing partner, step side L and close R to L with weight. (Saltito)

S Walk forward L.

S Cross R forward LOD, stopping with a dip or lunge.

QQ Step back L and close R to L with weight. (Sentada or Corté)

SS Walk forward LOD 2 steps, L and R.

D Molinete

S She half-turns CCW to closed waltz position as she steps back R, he steps forward L.

S Rock the man back R as she rocks forward L, turning as a couple CCW.

SSSSSS Keep rocking and turning the same way. End facing as at the beginning.

Parisian Hesitation Waltz

The term "hesitation waltz" was very popular, and was thus used in different ways. One of the most common versions of the hesitation waltz was to do tango steps to fast waltz music.

The above tango makes a very good hesitation waltz. The only two changes are:

Instead of lunging down on the 5th step of part C, rise up on that foot, with the rear foot pointed back in Arabesque.

For part D, replace the Molinete with a Double Boston (Two-Step). Step side-close-side, QQ-S. Repeat opposite. Do this 4 times, turning 3/4 of a turn CW.