

AM 1755

The Tango and Maxixe

11

CHAPTER VI

THE TANGO AND MAXIXE

MINUET TANGO (*Newman*) (*The Minuet of the Twentieth Century*)

MUSIC 2-4, Tango Tempo (not Ragtime). Count two to each measure. (For music, see page 169.)

The Minuet Tango has been approved and accepted by polite society throughout the world.

This adaptation of the Tango is most practical for ballroom use, as it enables the dancers to move around the room in a progressive manner just as in the Waltz and Two-Step. It does not obstruct the way of the other dancers. After one has acquired the steps of the Minuet Tango it is very easy to avoid collisions.

THE TANGO STEP

The Tango Step often referred to in the dance is a long, gliding, stealthy, smooth, near-walking step, making one step to each beat of the measure.

Important.—The ball of the foot must remain

on the floor all the time, keeping the upper part of the body perfectly relaxed throughout the dance, so as to be able to adjust and balance the body properly. *Don't* bounce, wriggle or sway and do not shrug the shoulders; just glide along with a becoming buoyancy.

THE POSITION

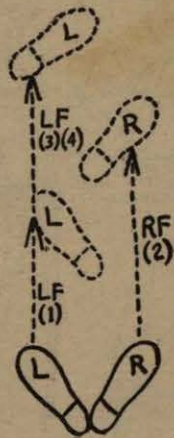
The position is practically the same as in the Waltz,—viz., partners standing about a foot apart, which will allow for freedom of motion and individual expression. To be graceful one must have sufficient room to move about easily. *Do not clasp the partner closely.*

In the first movement of the Minuet Tango the Tango Position is used. If the Newman Tangos are danced according to the direction they will be graceful, modest and pretty.

THEORY OF THE MINUET TANGO

Two Tango Steps forward left foot (1), right foot (2), step forward on left foot and point it forward; at the same time turn and face partner and rise on right foot (3); then drop right heel and face line of direction again (4). This movement is repeated in four counts (two measures). (See diagram on opposite page.)

Take Closed Position and turn to the right with eight Tango Steps in four measures, keeping the feet apart and stepping from one foot to the other



with the right foot in front as in the right turn. This can be varied by turning four steps to the right and four steps to the left, or reversing.

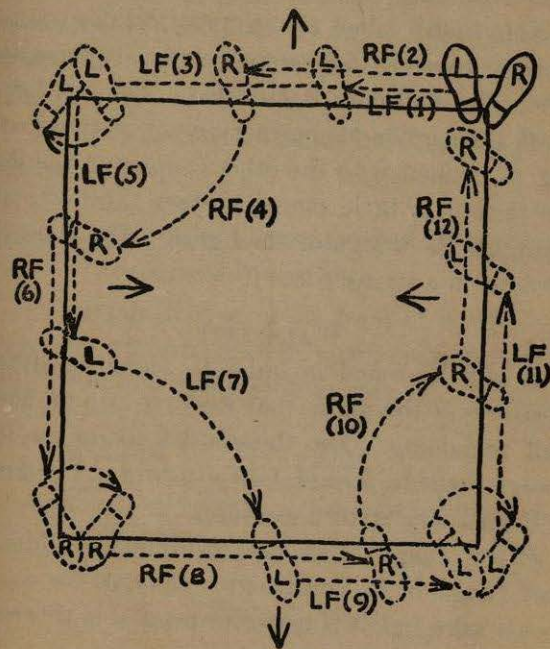
THE SQUARE

Face outside of an imaginary square, or better still draw the diagram (page 127) on the floor and start from the upper left hand corner of the square. Step left foot to side (1), right foot crossed in front (2), left foot to side (3), turn a



THE SQUARE IN THE MINUET TANGO

quarter to the right (face inside of square) and lead off with right foot to side (4), left crossed in



THE TANGO SQUARE

front (5), right foot to side (6). Repeat the first three steps to left, count (7) (8) (9), then the next three with right foot (10) (11) (12), which will

bring you completely around the square in twelve counts or six measures. In this square the lady also crosses in front.

Note that it is not always practical or even possible to execute these steps in a square formation when the ballroom is crowded. The gentleman must then guide his partner around without coming in contact with the other couples on the floor by turning a little more on every third step and changing the design of the figure. The steps can be done in a straight line if necessary.

WALK OUT

It will be found in order to make up sixteen measures of the music that we have two measures still remaining. For these just walk, or use four Tango Steps backward, two measures. The dance will then take sixteen measures.

Other Tango Steps may of course be added to this Tango, or its construction changed for convenience sake, but it is better to teach it in this regular form.

NEWMAN TANGO "ARGENTINE"

Tango music (slow).

Dancers take the Tango Position.

Three Tango Steps forward left foot (1), right

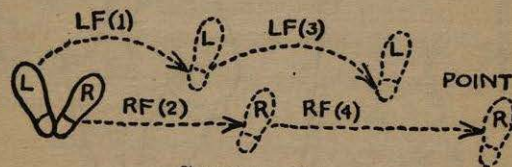
foot (2), left foot (3), turn right about face and point the right foot forward (4); take the three steps in the opposite direction, starting with the right foot (1), left foot (2), right foot (3), turn left about face in line of direction again and point the left foot (4).

Turn to the right with eight Tango Steps, four measures.¹

DOUBLE OVERLAPPING STEP

(Scissors Step)

Cross left foot over in front of right foot (1), step right foot to side (2), again cross the left foot (3), point the right foot to side (4). Now cross



SCISSORS STEP

right foot in front (1), left foot to side (2), right foot front cross again (3), point left foot to side (4). Step back with left foot (1); turn to the right and step on right foot forward (2). This is a turn to

¹ This is same turn as described in Minuet Tango.



PICTURE POSE

CROSS DIP STEP IN THE TANGO TWO-STEP

the right composed of two steps, with the partners in Closed Position; quickly change to the Tango Position, facing the line of direction, and step forward with left foot (1), right foot (2). Repeat the last two measures—the turn and the forward movement.

This last part is very effective, and makes a good step for the opening movement of an exhibition Tango. The turn should be quite rapid, with the appearance of a whirl, and the forward steps should be long and stealthy.

NEWMAN TANGO TWO-STEP

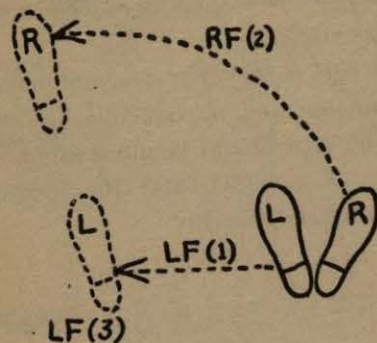
Music, Tango (slow).

Dancers in Tango Position.

Take two Tango Steps forward, left foot (1), right foot (2), then the old fashioned Two-Step, starting with the left foot (1) (x) (2), then two more Tango Steps, right foot (1), left foot (2), and then the Two-Step again, starting this time with the right foot (1) (x) (2).

Closed Position, and turn to the right, with eight steps (four measures). Join both hands with the lady and extend them to the side, then step left foot to the side (1), cross right foot in front

and dip (2), having the weight on the right foot. The left hand, which is holding the lady's right, is held high over the head. Transfer the weight



to left foot (3), right foot to the side (4), left foot crossed in front and dip (5), weight on the left foot, holding the lady's left hand in the gentleman's right, high over head. Transfer weight to the right foot (6). Repeat this cross dip step to left and right again counting (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12)—in all, six measures. Walk forward four steps, starting left foot—two measures.

It is quite effective to raise the hands in the direction the dancers are moving in the cross dip step, holding the other hands low, changing the

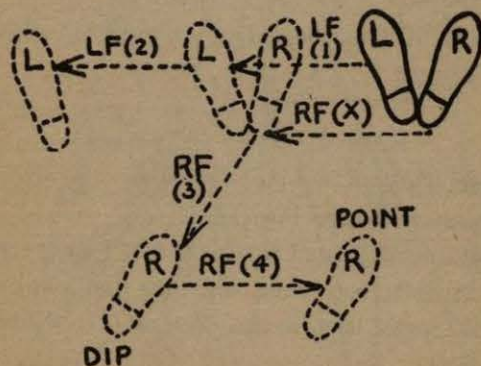
position when going the other way. It can also be done retaining the Closed Position.

NEWMAN TANGO "WALKING"

Music, Tango (slow).

Dancers in Waltz Position.

Walk four steps forward left foot (1), right foot (2), left foot (3), right foot (4)—two measures.



Walk four steps backward left foot (1), right foot (2), left foot (3), right foot (4). Step left foot to side (1), right foot close up to left foot (x), left foot side (2). This is an old fashioned Two-Step.

Right foot crossed in back and bend, dip (3), rise and point right foot to the side (4). (See cut page 133.)

Repeat the Two-Step to the right and bend again—two measures.

Bring the left foot around in front of right foot crossed (1), point right foot to side (2), then bring right foot across in front (3), and point the left foot to side (4). Repeat the last two measures. This is a Scissors Step or a single overlapping step.

Turn to the right, with eight steps in four measures.

Repeat all from beginning or join this with the other Tangos.

FAN TANGO (*Newman*)

Music, Tango.

Dancers in Tango Position.

Tango Step (walk) forward, left foot (1), right foot (2), left foot front, and dip and sway forward (3), sway back in this position (4). Keep the knees bent.

Repeat all, two measures.

Point the left foot forward (1), then point the left foot to the side (2), then point to rear and cross it and bend (3), then again point to side (4). This movement when done by the two part-



FAN TANGO
THE OPENING OF THE FAN