

LAS ALTEMITAS (Gay Ranchero)
Mexican

This version of Las Altenitas was presented by Señor Guzman, a Mexican dancer and teacher, authorized by the University of Mexico as a teacher of Mexican Folk Dances.

The popularity of this dance has been multiplied by the presence of the Mexican Nationals working in California during the war emergency. A dance group of the Mexican Nationals, under the direction of Avis Landis, presented this dance at the Mexican Community Center (New Century Club) in Oakland, California.

The costume is the China Poblana for the woman and the Charro for the man (see National Geographic on Mexico.)

Music Record: Las Altenitas, 4 Star 1104, Hollywood, California
 Piano: Mexican Fiesta Album, Ed. B. Marks Music Corp.,
 R.C.A. Bldg., Radio City, N. Y.

Formation In sets of 5 or 6 couples entering from the same side of the stage.

Steps Walking Step* (see Country Dance Step*), Two-Step* (Four two-steps in a straight line with one foot always directly in front of the other. The body twists slightly from side to side and the skirts are swished in opposition to the leading foot.) Buzz-Step Turn*, Side-Push Step*--Heel-Toe, Four-Step Turn (similar to Three-Step Turn* adding a fourth step fwd. in the line of direction.)

Music (2/4)

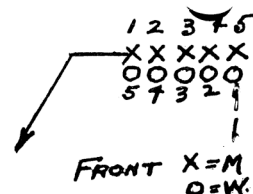
Pattern

Measure I. Introduction Step

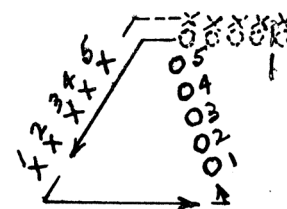
Intro. Men: Enter in a single file with easy walking step
1 - 21 (like country dance step). The hands are loosely clasped behind back. The men form one side of the "V" figure (see diagram 1). Women: Sway in place as men enter.

A 22 Women: Shift weight to L ft.
23 -24 Take a two-step on the R ft. fwd. and a two-step on the L ft. fwd.
25 -26 Continue two-steps R and L.
27 -29 With weight on her R ft., W does a Buzz-Step turning to the R (5 cts.) ending with a stamp L, R.
30 -37 Repeat action of meas. 22-29.
38 -54 Repeat action from meas. 22-27.

The Two-Step (R, L, R, L) and the Buzz-Step Turn is done four times in all.



In the above action, the W enter in a single file with number five leading and progress in front of the M across front of the stage, turning back to form the opposite side of the "V". (Note: The M dance the two-step and buzz-step turn in place while the W are making their entrance.)



II. Side-Push Step--"V" Figure

B 1 - 4 Moving toward point of V, both M and W do 5 push-steps. M places R heel to side and R toe in front of L ft. W does the same with opposite ft.
5 - 8 Repeat action of meas. 1-4 in opposite direction away from the point of the V.
9 -16 Repeat action of meas. 1-8.

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LAS ALTEMITAS (CON'T.)

Pattern

Music (2/4)

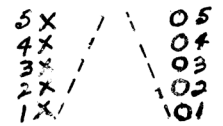
Measure

Intro.

1 - 21

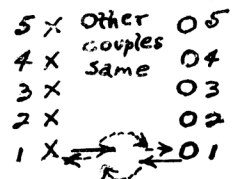
III. Intro.

Using walking step (see above) the two lines still facing each other straighten out to finish in two parallel lines about 8 ft. apart. After lines are formed, dancers sway in place until the next figure.

IV. Two-Step and Buzz-Step Turn

A 22 - 26

Using two-step, partners advance toward each other, (two-step R, L, R, L) to meet side by side with R shoulders adjacent.



27 - 29

Using buzz-step turn, partners with shoulders adjacent circle once ending with stamp L and R to face toward opposite line.

30 - 34

Repeat two-step moving away from partner to end in opposite line.

35 - 37

Turn singly to the R with the buzz-step turn, ending with a stamp L and R to face partner.

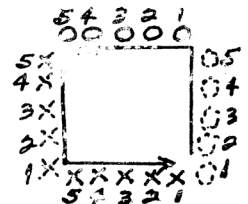
38 - 54

Repeat action of meas. 22-37 returning to original place.

V. Serape Figure.

B 1 - 4

Moving in a single line following their leader, dancers take four walking steps followed by a four-step turn to the R (progress in line of direction on the turn.) No. 1 M and No. 5 W lead lines in a single file to form lines across the back and front of the stage respectively. Continuing with the same step, partners cross over to the opposite line with the W passing under the M's R arm and serape which he holds with the R hand.



9 - 12

Return to own side in the same manner with action similar to meas. 5-8.

13 - 16

No. 5 M and No. 1 W lead lines to original places as in the action for meas. 1-4.

Intro.

17 - 21

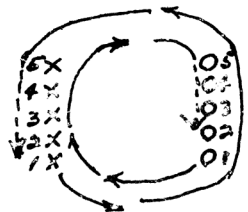
VI. Intro.

Original lines facing the audience, sway in place.

VII. Two-Step and Buzz-Step Turn

A 22 - 54

Using two-step and buzz-step turn, the two lines circle each other with No. 1 M and No. 1 W leading their lines. The M is always on the outside and makes the larger circle. (Dancers finish in original line to face the audience.)

VIII. Side-Push Step

B 1 - 4

Using side-push step and heel-toe of the V figure, partners move directly toward each other finishing side by side.

5 - 8

With the same step pattern but starting with opposite ft. partners return to own place.

9 - 12

Repeat action of meas. 1-4 with W ending in front of M on the heel-toe step and M placing hands on W's waist.

12 - 16

Using the same step pattern No. 1 couple move sideward to their L with alternate couples moving sideward R and L.

End with outside hand extended to the side above the head, shouting "hola!"

