

ROYAL EMPRESS TANGO

(Old Time English Ballroom)

This dance was demonstrated at a festival of Old Time Dances in London in 1922 and won the Festival Trophy Prize. This made it an Old Time Championship dance. It became a favorite and was used by the Official Board of Ballroom Dancing in London in judging dance style of skilled dancers and dance teachers. Style, including precision in changing direction of movement, accuracy of body position, and footwork, is most important in this dance. The Royal Empress Tango was introduced here by Miss Lucile Czarnowski, who learned it from Mr. Harold Evans, an Old Time English Ballroom specialist in Victoria, B.C.

MUSIC: Records: Kismet 147; Folkraft 1307
English Columbia DX 1218 (Not available)
Sheet Music: Royal Empress Tango (B. Feldman & Co.)

FORMATION: Cpls in ballroom pos, M facing LOD.

STEPS AND Walk*, Point*, Two-Step*, Chasse (step close step).

STYLING: Old English Ballroom Position: M holds W R hand in his L hand with arms slightly curved inward. W hand is held between M thumb and fingers (hand curved), W thumb placed lightly on back of M thumb. M R hand below W L shoulder, fingers closed and pointing across W back with flat hand. W L hand rests lightly on M upper arm just below the shoulder.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

Directions for M; W does opp.

1-5 INTRODUCTION: No action. It is important not to step on up-beat, but wait for ct 1 of meas 1.

I. WALK AND CHASSE

1 Beginning L, take 2 steps fwd slowly, leaving knee relaxed on second step.

2 Beginning L, take 2 steps bwd.

3 Beginning L, take 1 chasse slightly diag L (turn R slightly so that L shoulder leads); step (ct 1), close (ct &), step (ct 2), hold (ct &).

4 Beginning R, repeat one chasse diag R (turn L slightly so that R shoulder leads).

Finish facing ctr of the room in open pos.

5 Beginning L, walk 2 steps twd ctr of room.

6 Continuing twd ctr, chasse L turning inward on the last step to face away from ctr of room and point R ft fwd; ML and WR arm are curved high on turn and point.

7-8 Beginning R, repeat action of meas 5-6 moving away from ctr. On chasse step the W turns slightly to R as M maneuvers her around to his R side and they finish in open pos, keeping extended hands joined, and facing LOD.

II. PIVOT, WALK AND POINT, TWO-STEP

9 Beginning L, walk 2 steps fwd.

10 Beginning L, pivot once around to R (CW) on 2 steps in closed pos.

11 Beginning L, walk 2 steps fwd in open pos (extended hands joined).

12 Point L ft fwd (ct 1); step on L, keeping feet apart, turn inward

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(Original: Mildred R. Buhler, Lawton Harris, Miriam Lidster, Adrienne Murton, Heidi Schmidt, Annemarie Steinbiss, Dorothy Tamburini, Lucy Cheney, Vernon Kellogg)

ROYAL EMPRESS TANGO (concluded)

- twd ptr to face RLOD, pointing R (ct 2). On point, extended hands are curved high.
- 13-14 Beginning R, repeat action of meas 11-12, moving RLOD (CW) and finish facing LOD.
- 15-16 Beginning L, take 2 two-steps in closed pos while turning to R (CW). Finish with M facing LOD, ready to repeat dance from beginning.

NOTE: Rotary Waltz, or Rotary Chasse, is the term used by the English for two-step in meas 15-16.

DORIS WALTZ

One of the many "pattern" waltzes, this dance has sometimes been called the English Waltz.

MUSIC: Records: Folkraft 1420; Victor 26-0017 (Not available)
Decca 45003 (Not available); Lloyd Shaw 152.

FORMATION: Cpls in Varsouvienne position. Face LOD.

STEPS: Waltz balance*; Waitz*; Step-draw.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

I. WALTZ BALANCE AND CROSS OVER

- 1 Starting with wt on R, both balance fwd on L.
2 Balance bwd on R.
3 Moving diag twd L into ctr, step L (ct 1). Draw R to L (ct 2) and take wt on R (ct 3).
4 Step L (ct 1), close R to L without taking wt (cts 2,3). During meas 4, each dancer turns 1/4 to own R (CW), retaining handhold, and ending with W to ML, still in Varsouvienne pos.
5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 starting with R and moving diag R, ending in orig pos.

II. WALTZ BALANCE

- 9 Release L hands; starting on L, waltz balance away from ptr, as W turns L under joined R hands.
10 Waltz balance fwd on R twd ptr.
11-12 Waltz balance away from ptr on L, twd ptr on R. W take wt on L on ct 3, meas 12, in preparation for next step.

III. CLOSED WALTZ

- 13-16 In closed pos, dance 3 waltz steps starting ML, WR, turning CW in LOD. On 4th waltz step, M turn W to her R (CW) to assume original Varsouvienne pos facing LOD.

Repeat dance from beginning.

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