

TAMBORITO

(Panama)

The Tamborito is regarded as the national dance and music of Panama. It is a mestizo form, probably evolving out of the Indian, Spanish and African cultures. The rhythm of the music shows African influence. The melody dates back as far as the 17th century. Originally the instruments consisted of three drums of graded sizes. The dance is enjoyed at carnivals quite generally in all parts of Panama. The costume, La Polera, worn at such times, is especially beautiful. The W wear wide embroidered skirts and many beautiful ornaments in the hair, which tremble and quiver with each movement of the head. The M wears a white embroidered costume and a straw hat, which he may doff and use throughout the dance as he flirts with his partner. Cpls dance separately, ptrs interested in each other. At social gatherings and at carnivals the performers are frequently surrounded by spectators who clap and sing and call out remarks - complimentary and otherwise.

MUSIC: Record: Bowmar Educational Records, Latin American Folk Dances, Album 6, Record 006-4A "Tamborito".

FORMATION: Cpls in a single circle facing CCW, M following W. M hold L hand behind back and manipulate straw hat in R hand. W hold skirts with both hands, high at sides.

STEPS and Two-step* (with springy up and down movement), step-draw*.

STYLING: Squat-step; Hop on R and squat with L leg extended diag fwd (ct 1). Back is flat, trunk leaning fwd. Jump feet together (ct 2), body erect.
Either leg may be extended although the L is usually fwd because of step sequence.

MUSIC 2/4	PATTERN
Measures	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>
3 Guitar Chords	I. <u>FULL CIRCLE</u>
1-8 (Violin)	Both beginning R, dance CCW in circle with 16 two-steps.
1-8 (repeated)	
	II. <u>SALUTE DRUMMERS</u>
1-4 (Flute)	Continue CCW with 4 two-steps.
5	Face ctr; step fwd R and bow to drummers, bending knees and trunk fwd.
6	Recover, straightening knees and body.
7-8	Repeat action of meas 5-6 (Fig II).
1-8 (repeated)	Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II).
	III. <u>WOMAN CIRCLES MAN</u>
1-8 (Violin)	M dance 3 two-steps and a squat step in place (meas 1 - 4). Repeat action of meas 1 - 4 (Fig III). While M dances in place, W circle CCW around him, dipping skirt sward twd leading ft.
	IV. <u>DRAW STEP</u>
1-8 (Violin)	All face ctr in single circle. Beginning R, Take 8 step-draw steps moving sward (CCW). Turn toe out while drawing ft to closed pos.
	V. <u>MAN CIRCLES WOMAN</u>
1-8 (Clarinet)	With 3 two-steps and a squat step, executed twice, M circle CW once around W. At the same time W dance 8 two-steps almost in place, making 2 turns CW.
	VI. <u>MAN FOLLOWS WOMAN</u>
1-8 (Clarinet)	With 8 two-steps W turn CW while moving around a small CW circle, dipping skirt. M follow her with 3 two-steps and a squat step, executed twice.
64 meas.	Repeat action of Fig I through VI.
(Violin)	Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1 - 8 and 1 - 8 (repeated), or W may lead M freely about dance area, dancing 16 two-steps as M follows with 3 two-steps and a squat step, executed four times.
1-8 (repeated)	

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