

RANCHERA

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Couple Dance from Uruguay

Record: Michael Herman

Formation: Couples scattered informally around the room, side-by-side woman on the right, both facing "front". Inside hands joined. Directions are for Man, woman uses opposite footwork.

Background: "Ranchera" has been danced at all Uruguayan festivities since about 1850. Its lively tune has made it the most popular dance -- sometimes called the "chair-cleaner" because during the dance, all the chairs are left empty. It is also danced in southern Brazil where it has its own characteristics.

Basic Step: Waltz step. This is gliding waltz, using long steps.

Step 1. Start with outside foot: Move forward 2 waltz, steps -- turn to face opposite direction on last two counts (face partner while turning, change hands.) Repeat towards "home" position, but turn only enough to finish facing partner. Step side L, step on Rt. behind L, step on L in place -- repeat to right, starting with right foot. Turn away from partner with 4 steps, hold count 5, clap on 6. Repeat from the beginning. (Swing joined hands forward & back on 5th & 6th meas. -- shoulder high)

Step 2. (Square) In semi-open Ballroom position: Do 2 waltz fwd turning cw $3/4$ turn to face left wall. Repeat 3 more times, but on last turn end facing "back" wall, with man changing over to other side (W. on his L.)

Step 3. Repeat Step 1. (Facing back wall--Woman to L of Man)

Step 4. Waltz "free style" around the floor for 16 meas.

Step 5. Man holds woman's right hand in his left, Change places, with one waltz step--woman turns under joined hands to her right. 1 waltz step in place, facing partner, at same time leaning or pulling away from each other. Repeat 3 more times, assume varsovienne position on last measure, with woman on man's left.

Step 6. Do 1 waltz step to change places with partner (man to L, woman to Rt.) (Look at partner as you do this--this is done in place) Do 7 more of these.

Step 7. Repeat 6, but moving freely around the room--patter is not set.

Step 8. Repeat Step #1.

Presented by Nelda Drury

Learned from Laura Zanzi de Chavarria of Uruguay