

Presented by Carolyn Mitchell

RANCHERA
(Argentine)

- SOURCE:** The Ranchera is an Argentine waltz which was brought to the local folk dancers by Dr. Juan Rael, a Stanford professor, and his daughter, Maria.
- MUSIC:** Record: Imperial 1085
- FORMATION:** Couples in a double circle facing counterclockwise, with hands in Back Skating position. (M holds W's R hand in his R hand on her R hip. Their L hands are joined and extended in front to the L.) Although the dance is executed in one large circle, the couples are numbered off, about 12 or 15 couples to a unit. No. 1 couple being designated before the dance starts.
- STEPS:** Argentine waltz step is the basic step and is used throughout the dance. This is an accented waltz step, the first step is made with the whole foot in a flat manner, the latter two are taken on the ball of the foot. In 3 cts. it may be called "flat, ball, ball." Couples start on outside ft. (M L and W R) and continue on opposite feet throughout the dance.
Important! At no time are they on the same foot.

Music (3/4)

PATTERN

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Measures
12 | I. <u>Basic Step Forward</u>
Starting on M L and W R, the basic step is done 12 times moving fwd. CCW. |
| 16 | II. <u>Woman Turns</u>
Continuing fwd. M releases W's R hand and she makes a slow turn to R under their joined hands, while he continues straight fwd. for 4 basic steps (L,R,L,R). W passes a little to the L across in front of her partner on the first meas., keeping R hand on her hip. She completes turn on meas. 2 and 3 and re-joins her R hand with his R on her R hip on the 4th meas. Repeat this turn 3 times (4 times in all).
Note: W turns in front of M meas. 1-3 and on 4th meas. she is again at his R side. |
| 8 | III. <u>Couples Turn in Place</u>
a. Continuing in Back Skating position, turn L <u>once</u> in place, slowly, M backing, W going fwd. using 8 basic steps. (Finish facing CCW again.) |

continued.

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continued.

- 8 b. Repeat turn to R, W backing, M going fwd. (End again facing CCW.)

IV. Grapevine Twist Step

- 12 Couples assume modified closed dancing position, M L shoulder toward center of circle. M takes 12 basic steps moving fwd. in line of direction, starting on L ft. M turns W to face fwd. (CCW) on first basic step (W starts on R ft.) M turns W to face backward (CW) as she starts next basic step on L ft., still moving in the line of direction. W always pivots on ct. 3. This grapevine step continues for 12 meas.
- 4 Continue fwd. in line of direction in Back Skating position as in Fig. I.

V. Tunnel Figure

- 16 No. 1 couples turn back (M remaining on the inside of the circle) joining inside hands (M L and W R) in arch, outside hands on hips. They travel clockwise in the circle going back over the other couples in their unit. When No. 1 couple reaches the end of the line (each couple in succession turning and following couple 1 in forming the tunnel) they lead back through the tunnel assuming Back Skating position as they start through. Each couple follows through the tunnel and on out into the open circle again. M remains on inside of circle throughout the figure. (Be sure to maintain basic step throughout.)
- 12 Reform circle as in Fig. I.

VI. To Center and Back

- 4 a. All face center of circle. M releases W. W, with hands on hips, moves toward center of circle with 4 rather long basic steps, R, L, R, L. At same time M, with hands easily clasped in back, moves backward out of the circle with 4 short basic steps, starting L.
- 4 They now return to original circle position M starting fwd. on L, W starting back on R.
- 8 b. Assuming Back Skating position, they repeat a. of Fig. III.
- 8 Repeat a. of Fig. VI., W to center and back, etc.
- 8 c. Assume modified closed dance position and repeat grapevine twist as in Fig. IV, but only 8 times.

VII. Woman Circles Man

- 12 Partners join L hands. M has R hand low on his back, W holds skirt out in R hand. As they travel slowly forward in line of direction (CCW) W circles M three times using 4 basic steps to make each circle. They finish with M's back toward center of circle, W facing center. She swishes her skirt to L across between them on the last beat of the final step, ending in pose, keeping L hands joined.