

Tejano

(Texas-Mexican border)

Tejano music and dance (sometimes called “TexMex”) is based on the polka structure of *Norteno* music of Northern Mexico, complete with accordion. *Norteno* polka dance is characterized by two basic steps: *taconazo* (heelwork) and *corridita* (from the walking step in *paso doble* from Spain (present in *corrida de toros*) and in *polca ranchera* of Mexico). In Tejano dancing, only the *corridita* step is executed. The ptrs circle the dance hall in a CCW direction (similar to a skating rink). The ptrs can dance in a closed cpl position, or the W can open up to the R side of the M, so both are moving fwd. Dress is Western, M wearing a cowboy hat (called a *tejano*).

Pronunciation: teh-WAH-noh

Music:

2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls moving CCW around the dance space, W back to LOD.

Meas

Pattern

BASIC STEP

Description is given for M; W use opp ftwk and direction.

- 1 Step fwd on L, sliding ft along floor (ct 1); step fwd on R, sliding ft along floor.
The step can be done in any facing as long as the direction is CCW around the floor.

VARIATION 1: SPINNING

- 1-2 Basic Step (L, R, L, R) with ptrs spinning CW as a cpl.

VARIATION 2: SIMPLE TURNS

- 1 At any moment, M or W can turn under ptr's arm from single hand hold, or double (i.e., simple swing turns).

VARIATION 3: W TO R SIDE OF M, BOTH MOVING FWD

- 1 At any moment, M can open W to his side and both walk fwd maintaining M's R arm around W's waist, W's L arm on M's R shldr (M step fwd L, R).
- 2 M step fwd on L (ct 1); rock back on R (ct 2).
- 3-? Repeat this step sequence for as long as M desires, then resume simple fwd walks.

VARIATION 3 WITH SIMPLE TURNS

- 1-2 M takes W R hand in his L (dropping R arm back hold) and lassos his L hand over his head moving W CW in a circle around his back to inside of the circle, then in front of him to outside. The ptrs continue CCW fwd progression, circling around each other and turning under each other's arm as comfortable and appropriate.

Presented by Susan Cashion