

Merengue

(Dominican Republic)

Merengue is a social dance expression originally from the Dominican Republic, but recently has been swept up into the World Beat of Salsa. It is done in ptr position, with relaxed knees which sway the hips. The torso (especially the rib cage) has a subtle side-to-side shift. The whole ft stays in contact with the floor and maintains contact with the floor as it slides into the step. The weight is down, into the ground. Simple turns may be variations, but usually the "fancy" variations are left to salsa.

Pronunciation: meh-REHN-gay

Music: 2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls at random.

Meas Pattern

BASIC STEP

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

- 1 Step on L, sliding ft along floor (ct 1); slide R next to L (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.

This basic step can be repeated to either side. If the ptr moves front or back, small sliding steps are used: L, R, L, R, etc.

VARIATION 1: ACCENT 1 OF 4-STEP COMBINATION

- 1-2 On first ct, M and W bend knees a bit more than normal and body responds with an appropriate accent.

VARIATION 2: ACCENT 1 OF 2-STEP SIDE COMBINATION

- 1 As the M moves to L in side steps, he can accent ct 1 by bending his L knee a bit more, which creates appropriate response in torso. (Reverse is possible if moving to the R.)

Presented by Susan Cashion

Merengue Variations - Stockton 2000

(Dominican Republic)

The following Merengue variations were taught by Susan Cashion at camp.

The M issues a formal invitation to the W to dance. To dance with the W of another cpl, he must first ask the M. He offers his arm and takes the W to the ctr of the floor. Taking the W in cpl pos, he puts his L hand (joined with W R), between him and his ptr. He signals the start of the dance by putting his L hand out in ballroom pos, M wt on R, W wt on L.

Meas Cts

Pattern

THEME 1: BASIC STEP

1 1 Step on L, sliding ft along floor.

 2 Step on R, sliding ft along floor.

2 Repeat meas 1.

This basic step can be 1) danced in place; 2) moved front or back with small sliding steps; or 3) in a CW ptr turn (L,R,L,R etc.). Arm position can be either ballroom, double hand hold, or single hand hold.

VARIATION 1: ACCENT 1 OF 4-STEP COMBINATION

1-2 On ct 1 of meas. 1, 3, 5, etc., M and W bend knees a bit more than normal to create a "down" accent with the body.

VARIATION 2: ACCENT 1 OF 2-STEP SIDE COMBINATION

1 On ct 1 of each meas, M and W bend knees a bit more than normal to create a "down" accent with the body.

VARIATION 3: R (CW) TURN FOR W

1- 4 Repeat meas 1-4 of Basic Step. M stays in place, but lifts L arm over head of W and gently uses R hand on her back to push W into one CW turn under his arm.

VARIATION 5: L (CCW) TURN FOR W

1-4 Repeat meas 1-4 of Basic Step.

M moves L hand to R side of space in front of his face, then lifts L hand and guides W in CCW turn under his L arm.

VARIATION 6: MULTIPLE TURNS

1- any # Repeat either Variation 4 or 5. M may continue turning W for additional measures. By keeping his L arm over her head, he signals that he wishes a repetition of the turn. When he brings his L arm back to normal frame position and places R hand on W's back, he signals the end of the turning.

Presented by Susan Cashion