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**Introductory Course
Tango Argentino
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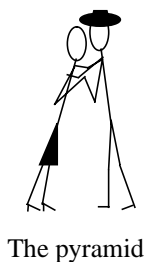
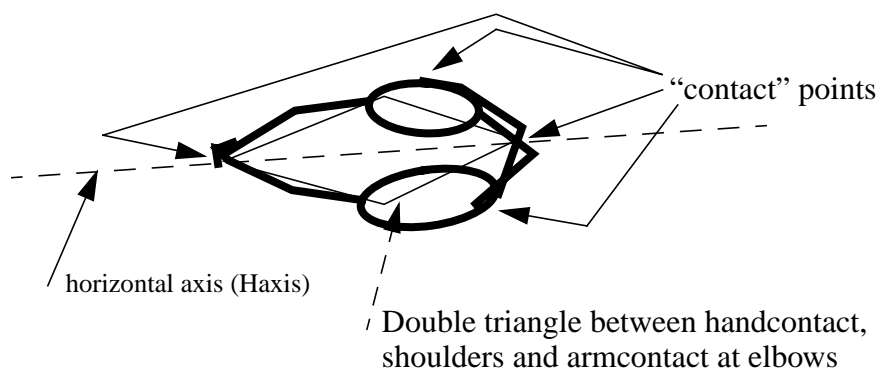
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Dance position:

Straight bodies, leaning towards each other, normal armholding, arms firm, stiff holding in all turns and figures. Man's right hand with fingers together just below woman's shoulders (depending on relative lengths of course) - never low as in waltz or foxtrot. Woman's left hand on arm or at shoulderblade (not ON shoulder). Man's left arm looks like a "V" with hand at eye level. Woman's right arm similar. Eyes of man in the "V" of woman's right arm, woman's eyes on the chest of the man slightly to the left. The distance of heads and chest is close, but the closer the more important is the leaning against each other to separate the feet. Feet are directly in front of each other in frontal positions, not slightly displaced as in waltz or foxtrot (i.e., man's right foot on line to middle between woman's)

Basic position is straight frontal, with feet opposite each other (BP).

Another basic position is similar to straight frontal but woman with crossed feet standing on left foot with right foot behind the heel of the left. (BPCrossed).



jitterbug
bugg, chacha
samba



waltz
foxtrot

COUPLING IN
MOVEMENT



argentine tango

Dancing:

Eyes must not move (much) up/down during steps/turns. Shoulders and arms stiff in a double triangle as in figure. Much hip turning. Remember the firm holding and the slight leaning towards each other - this gives the man better possibility to lead and to give indications to the woman.

Mostly feet parallell with and close to floor. Weight on front of foot, especially in rotations. Never heels first, always full feet contact when putting foot down.

The dance is NOT strictly regular to (in tempo with) the music. The couple might stop in certain positions and make slow movements, and then change tempo. All movement should be “flowing” - not sudden/marked as in some places in european (modern) tango.

Woman is slightly after man in movement - important for the women to remember. Never “expect” a turn or figure. If there is no lead from man in figures rather stop than make a movement.

The walking has a sort of “knees together” feeling. Woman hesitates in steps and figures slightly when the feet are together. Do not move feet “diagonally”, always from open (feet apart) to closed and then open again, e.g., in moving right foot from in front of left to behind left.

Below some basic figures are described. Womans right always refer to her right, seen from herself, NOTas seen from the man.

1 Salida (basic):

From straight frontal pos

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BP
Salida 1	right foot "small" step back	left foot "small" step fwd	man moves body back/ straight pressure on woman's back
Salida 2	left foot one step aside left VIA beside right foot	right foot one step aside right (smaller distance than man) VIA beside left foot	man moves body left/small pressure on woman's left "side"
Salida 3	right foot one step fwd outside woman's left VIA beside left foot	left foot one step back VIA beside right foot	man moves fwd/ release pres- sure on woman's back
Salida 4	left foot one "smaller" step fwd (slight adjustment to right)	right foot one step back to pos in front of man's feet (adjustment to right)	man moves fwd/ release pres- sure on woman's back
Salida 5	right foot to side of left foot	left foot cross in front of right, weight on left foot	man moves fwd/ slight pres- sure straight/slight left on woman's back to stop her movement and to give woman balance
			BPcrossed
Salida 6	left foot fwd with slight left turn between woman's feet, place foot slightly to the left/ back of woman's left foot	right foot back to the right	man moves body fwd with slight pressure counterclock wise of Haxis
Salida 7	right foot one step to the side of left foot VIA side of left foot - the Haxis turn makes this step obliquely fwd	left foot one step to the side of right foot VIA side of right foot	rotation of Haxis 45 degrees counterclock wise about when feet are side by side
Salida 8	bring left foot to side of right	bring right foot to side of left	complete a 90 degree turn of H axis
			BP in 90 degrees to start pos

The last 3 steps are one of the options after Salida 5. The angles are varied. The final BP could very well be parallel with the initial, which makes this a straight forward movement to follow the flow of dance. It could even mean a slight clockwise rotation if the man leads that way.

2 Salida (in dance):

Skip step Salida 1 - take Salida 2 directly from BP. This variation is the common salida during dancing (no back movement for man), while basic salida is a "start up" movement, but can be used if man has checked that no collision will occur.

3 Salida (continous):

Make a Salida 2 directly after Salida 5/BP crossed and continue according to salida movements. The man leads by moving body left from BPcrossed with slight pressure on woman's right. The woman has to move the right foot from behind the left to the side of the left (a release) before making the Salida 2. Just remember to give woman time to release her right foot.

4 Salida (intermediate straight):

From BPCrossed make an intermediate step back (man) and continue with Salida 1 without stopping in BP. Give woman ample time to release her right foot, and move it forward outside man's right side.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BPCrossed
Intermediate back	left foot small step back	release right foot and step fwd OUTSIDE man's right (a woman almost NEVER tries to step in between a man's feet)	quick pressure with tip of left hand (indicates release of right foot) followed by a slight pressure on woman's back and back movement of man
Salida 1a	right foot back without stopping in BP	left foot fwd without stop in BP (only hesitating)	just as Salida 1
			continue with Salida (in dance)

5 Salida (intermediate angled):

From BPCrossed turn Haxis and feet counterclock wise and make an intermediate step back (man) and continue with Salida 1 without stopping in BP. This will turn the salida counterclock wise. Any angle between 0 and 90 (or more) degrees can be selected.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BPCrossed
Intermediate angled	turn feet with Haxis and then left foot small step back	follow man's turn and release right foot and step fwd OUTSIDE man' right (a woman almost NEVER tries to step in between a man's feet)	quick pressure with tip of left hand (indicates release of right foot) together with rotation of Haxis, followed by a slight pressure on woman's back and back movement of man
Salida 1a	right foot back without stopping in BP	left foot fwd without stopping in BP	just as Salida 1
			continue with Salida (in dance)

6 Salida (opened):

After Salida 2 turn Haxis counterclock wise. Any angle between 0 and 90 degrees can be selected.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BP
Salida 1	right foot "small" step back	left foot "small" step fwd	man moves body back/ straight pressure on woman's back
Salida 2	left foot one step aside VIA beside right foot	right foot one step aside (smaller distance than man) VIA beside left foot	man moves body left/small pressure on woman's left "side"

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
Salida 3a	right foot one step fwd outside woman's right VIA beside left foot - when feet are side by side - turn Haxis and feet counter-clock wise	left foot one step back VIA beside right foot - follow the man's rotation	man rotate Haxis when feet are side by side then move fwd and release pressure on woman's back
			continue with Salida 4

7 Salida (skewed):

Turn clockwise "after" Salida 3 and/or Salida 4. This is one of the ways of turning the Haxis clockwise (making a right turn).

8 Salida (short):

Make Salida 6 directly after Salida 3, without stopping in BPcrossed.

9 Salida (blocked continued):

Block woman's left foot crossing in Salida 5. Man makes intermediary step to the right and then a Salida with intermediary step. This movement is symmetric where the woman makes the same movements as the man but in the opposite phase. (This figure makes a square movement.)

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
Salida 4a	left foot one step fwd to the right so that the woman's left foot will be blocked to make Salida 5	right foot one step back to pos in front of man's feet	man moves fwd and ends with moving the body slightly right and with the left foot blocks the woman's left foot to cross in front of the right in next step
Intermediate blocked	move right foot one step to the right VIA side of left foot	left foot moves to one step to the left of the right VIA side of the right foot	man moves right
Intermediate continous back	move left foot small step back VIA the side of the right foot	move right foot fwd VIA side of left foot OUTSIDE man's right	slight pressure on woman's back after feet side by side
			continue as in Salida 1a (intermediate straight)

10 Salida (blocked to basic position):

Just as Salida (blocked continued) but ends with BP.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
Salida 4a	left foot one step fwd to the right so that the woman's left foot will be blocked to make Salida 5	right foot one step back to pos in front of man's feet	man moves fwd and ends with moving the body slightly right and with the left foot blocks the woman's left foot to cross in front of the right in next step
Intermediate blocked	move right foot one step to the right VIA side of left foot	left foot moves to one step to the left of the right VIA side of the right foot	man moves right

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
Salida 8a	bring left foot to side of right	bring right foot to side of left	no Haxis turn
			BP

11 Salida (blocked fwd):

This is a combination of intermediate blocked and Salida 3 + 4. Can be repeated and combined with turning different angles counterclock wise or clock wise as in Salida (skewed). Used preferably in Milonga.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Salida 3, 3a, 3b
Salida 4a	left foot one step fwd to the right so that the woman's left foot will be blocked to make Salida 5	right foot one step back to pos in front of man's feet	man moves fwd and ends with moving the body slightly right and with the left foot blocks the woman's left foot to cross in front of the right in next step
Intermediate blocked	move right foot one step to the right VIA side of left foot	left foot moves to one step to the left of the right VIA side of the right foot	man moves right
Salida 3b	right foot to side of left, change foot, right foot fwd slightly to left OUTSIDE woman's right - small counterclock turn when feet are side by side	left foot to side of right, change foot, left foot back	small Haxis turn counterclock wise when changing foot, small lift on woman's back. It is important to indicate to the woman to change foot
			continue Salida 4 or 4a

12 Salida (basic cruzada):

The change of foot in 3'd step gives other possibilities than ordinary Salida (basic).

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BP
Salida 1	right foot "small" step back	left foot "small" step fwd	man moves body back/ straight pressure on woman's back
Salida 2	left foot one step aside VIA beside right foot	right foot one step aside (smaller distance than man) VIA beside left foot	man moves body left/small pressure on woman's left "side"
Cruzada 3	right foot to side of left, change foot, left foot one step fwd OUTSIDE woman's left side	left foot one step back VIA beside right foot	man moves fwd/ release pressure on woman's back
Cruzada 4	right foot small step forward	right foot one smaller step back to pos in front of man's feet (adjustment to right)	release pressure on woman's back
Cruzada 5	wait	left foot cross in front of right, weight on left foot	slight pressure straight on woman's back to stop movement and to give woman balance
	man is having the right foot in front of left, this gives in particular possibilities for counterclockwise rotation.		BPcrossed, any continuation from BPcrossed

13 Salida (cruzada to end):

Cruzada 5 is followed a variant of Salida 6 and then by Salida 7 and 8. The man turns the Haxis in Cruzada 5 so that the right foot of the woman makes a movement just as in Salida 6. The left foot is placed just as in Salida 6 but from a position behind the right foot. Then both can make Salida 7. Ends in BP.

14 Ocho (forward at BPcrossed):

The difference in the man's leading compared to Salida (intermediate straight) is subtle. The pressing of fingertips continues until 90 degree turn is completed and almost no turn of man's body is done.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BPcrossed
Ocho-fwd left	left foot slightly back to give space (the body moves a little bit back)	turns 90 degrees left on left front foot, right foot is released and a small step fwd is done with right foot	man holds Haxis and presses with right hand fingertips to indicate 90 degree turn for woman
Ocho-fwd right	right foot to side of left foot	left foot is moved outside right in a right turn of body, left foot is placed fwd	man helps woman's turn with right hand
Correction	wait	right foot is placed behind left heel and turns the left foot back to parallell with man's	-
			continue from BPcrossed - do another ocho or something else

15 Ocho (forward with turn):

The difference to the other forward ocho is that the man is still after Salida 4 and turns the body with the woman movement. This means a clockwise rotation

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
Salida 5b	wait, lean fwd	ordinary Salida 5	woman in BP crossed
Ocho-fwd left a	turn on feet right following woman's movement	turns 10-30 degrees left on left front foot, right foot is released and a small step fwd is done with right foot	man presses with right hand fingertips to indicate the 10-30 degree turn for woman
Ocho-fwd right a	follow womans movement with body	left foot is moved outside right in a right turn of body, left foot is placed fwd	man helps woman's turn with right hand
Correction	move right foot to side of left while turning back left	right foot is placed behind left heel and turns the left foot back to parallell with man's	-
			ordinary BP crossed, continue

16 Ocho (backward after Salida 2):

Here the ocho is made after side step Salida 2

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Salida 2 (important that woman does not take a long step right, ~50-70% of man's)
Ocho-back 1	wait with feet one step distance apart	turns 90 degrees counter clockwise on right foot, move left foot back and a small step back is done with left foot	man almost holds Haxis and presses with right hand fingertips to indicate 90 degree turn for woman.
Ocho-back right	wait with feet one step distance apart	right foot is moved outside left in a clockwise 1/2 turn of body (hips), right foot is placed back	man helps woman's turn with right hand and gives support with left in the right turn
Salida 3 after ocho back	move right foot to side of left when woman moves her left foot back, and move right foot fwd as in Salida 3, when woman has turned	left foot moved to side of right, turn to straight direction and move left foot back coordinated with man's right	help woman turn back to ordinary position and release pressure on back
			continue as from Salida 3

17 Ocho (backward cruzada after Salida 2):

Here the ocho is made after side step Salida 2 and man changes foot before finishing.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Salida 2 (important that woman does not take a long step right, ~50-70% of man's)
Ocho-back 1	wait with feet one step distance	turns 90 degrees left on right foot, moves left foot back and a small step back is done with left foot	man almost holds Haxis and presses with right hand fingertips to indicate 90 degree turn for woman.
Ocho-back right	wait with feet one step distance	right foot is moved outside left in a right 1/2 turn of body (hips), right foot is placed back	man helps woman's turn with right hand and gives support with left in the right turn
Cruzado 3 after ocho back	move right foot to side of left when woman moves her left foot back, change foot and move left foot fwd as in Cruzada 3, when woman has turned	left foot moved to side of right, turn to straight direction and move left foot back coordinated with man's right	help woman turn and release pressure on back
			continue as from Cruzado 3

18 Ocho (forward after Salida 2):

Here the ocho is made with fwd steps after Salida 2.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Salida 2 (important that woman does not take a long step right, ~50-70% of man's)
Ocho-fwd right b	wait with feet one step distance	turns 90 degrees clockwise on right foot, moves left foot fwd and a small step fwd is done with left foot	man almost holds Haxis and presses with right hand ankle to indicate 90 degree turn for woman.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
Ocho-fwd left b	wait with feet one step distance	right foot is moved outside left in a counterclockwise 1/2 turn of body (hips), right foot is placed fwd	man helps woman's turn with right hand and gives support with left in the left turn
Ocho-fwd right c	wait with feet one step distance	left foot is moved outside right in a clockwise 1/2 turn of body (hips), left foot is placed fwd	man helps woman's turn with right hand and gives support with left in the left turn
Correction	man moves right foot to side of left	right foot is placed behind left heel and turns the left foot back to parallell with man's	help woman turn and release pressure on back
			BPcrossed

19 Ocho (backward after Salida 3):

Here the ocho is made after Salida 3. Observe the cadenza movement of the man.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Salida 3
Ocho-back right b	move weight to left foot in back and make cadenza movement with right	1/2 turns right on left foot, moves right foot back and a small step back is done with right foot	man almost holds Haxis and presses with right hand ankle and left hand firmly to indicate right turn for woman.
Ocho-back left b	move right foot one step as in Salida 3	left foot is moved outside right in a left 1/2 turn of body (hips), left foot is moved back as in Salida 3	man helps woman's turn with right hand and gives support with left in the right turn
			continue as from Salida 3

20 Voleo (after Salida 2):

Voleo is a rapid change of woman's movement from Ocho backward to a forward turn with correction. It can be rapid with a kick back with the left foot or slower without kick.

This is controlled by the firmness and tempo of the man's leading.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Salida 2 (important that woman does not take a long step right, ~50-70% of man's)
Voleo 1	no foot movement with feet one step distance	turns 90 degrees left on right foot, moves left foot back for an ocho backwards, changes direction of foot (with kick) and turns 1/2 turn right as last step in Ocho fwd	Man leads just like for an ocho back but more firmly and tight to give the woman support for the rapid turn, changes the lead to a ocho fwd indicating the change
Correction	man moves right foot to side of left	right foot is placed behind left heel and turns the left foot back to parallell with man's	help woman turn and release pressure on back
			BPcrossed

21 Voleo (after Salida cruzada):

The Voleo is of the same character as Voleo after Salida 2, but is made after Salida Cruzada

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			after Cruzada 3
Cruzada 4 Voleo	right foot forward	right foot one smaller step back to pos in front of man's feet (adjustment to right)	release pressure on woman's back
Cruzada 5 Voleo	left foot behind right in cross, weight on left foot	left foot cross in front of right, weight on left foot	slight pressure straight on woman's back to stop movement and to give woman balance
Left turn	right foot fwd, weight on both feet, turn with womans move left	right foot release, move foot right to side of man, legs apart, facing the man	Haxis turn counterclockwise, push woman's left foot in the fwd with man's right
Voleo 2	no foot movement with feet one step distance	turns 90 degrees left on right foot, moves left foot back for an ocho backwards, changes direction of foot (with kick) and turns 1/2 turn right as last step in Ocho fwd	Man leads just like for an ocho back but more firmly and tight to give the woman support for the rapid turn, changes the lead to a ocho fwd indicating the change
Correction	man moves right foot to side of left	right foot is placed behind left heel and turns the left foot back to parallell with man's	help woman turn and release pressure on back
			BPcrossed

22 Cadenza (in Salida 1):

This is a back/fwd movement - for example to wait or to change direction.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			BP
Salida 1	right foot "small" step back	left foot "small" step fwd	man moves body back/short straight pressure on woman's back
Cadenza 1	left foot in front of right without weight, change direction and move left foot fwd - could be combined with a turn left	right foot behind left (just as in BPcrossed), change direction and move right foot back	man's body fwd release pressure on womans back
Cadenza 2	right foot fwd, to behind left, change direction and move right foot "small" step back - could be combined with a turn left	left foot in front of right, change direction and move left foot "small" step fwd	man moves body back/short straight pressure on woman's back
			repeat Cadenza 1 or make a Salida 2

23 Cadenza (in Salida 3):

This is a back/fwd movement - for example to wait or to change direction.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			make Salida 3
Cadenza 2a	left foot behind right without weight, change direction and move left foot back - could be combined with a turn left	right foot to front of left, change direction and move right foot fwd	man moves body back/short straight pressure on woman's back
Cadenza 1a	right foot back, to in front of left, change direction and move right foot "small" step fwd - could be combined with a turn left	left foot to behind right, change direction and move left foot "small" step back	man's body fwd, release pressure on woman's back
			repeat Cadenza 2a or make a Salida 4

24 Half giro (right):

Start from a variant of Salida 5, where man puts left foot crossed in front of right, then start with an ocho fwd, but push with left foot on woman's left to indicate that the ocho should be made with a step back after turn instead on step fwd (the man's leg will be blocking a fwd step as for an ocho). Then man pushes with right foot on woman's right and makes an intermedite outside step before continuing in a Salida 3.

Step	Man	Woman	Position/leading
			make Salida 4
Salida 5 giro right	right foot to behind of left foot, weight on right foot	left foot cross in front of right, weight on left foot	man moves fwd/ slight pressure straight on woman's back to stop movement and to give woman balance
Giro right 1	wait	move right foot just as in fwd ocho but slightly more forward to make a circular movement around man, woman's body is 90 degrees to man's body	as in ocho fwd plus Haxis turn to the right
Giro right 2	move left foot fwd, wait until woman's turn is ready, weight on left foot	turn right on right foot as in ocho fwd but move left foot back after 1/2 turn	push woman's left foot with man's left
Giro right 3	move right foot to right side of woman's right	wait	push woman's right foot with man's right, Haxis turns a little more
Giro right intermediate	move left foot fwd	move right foot back	man moves body fwd and releases pressure on woman's back
			continue with Salida 3

25 Backthrow (in Salida 4):

Before woman has shifted weight to right foot in Salida 4, the man makes a rapid change of movement backwards, with high pressure on woman's back. The woman comes back with right foot fwd, shifts weight to right and turns right with left foot up to a position as after the last step in Ocho fwd. Then a correction and continue from BPcrossed.