

VALSE DE LOS PAÑOS  
(United States)

Valse de los Paños is a unique example of how the Hispanic tradition still survives today. This dance and music originated in the court dance of Spain. Although the dance is of the 16th century, it is popular today among the people of the villages of New Mexico and Colorado.

Valse de los Paños means the waltz of the scarves. During the Dark Ages and early renaissance in Spain, it was forbidden for physical contact to occur between a man and a woman. Therefore, an acceptable way for a man to dance with a woman, without touching her, was to have a material scarf bond the dancers together. The dance was traditionally and is still performed at the initiation of a ball.

Pronunciation:

Record: MORE 8027 El Redondo Largo, "Redondo del Paño." 3/4 meter

Formation: Four sets of 1 M and 2 W in a square formation:

		Set 1		
		O-X-O		
	O		O	
Set 3	X		X	Set 4
	O		O	
		O-X-O		
		Set 2		

Each W has two scarves, one in each hand. The M holds the scarf of the W next to him and ptrs do not touch throughout the dance. Arms are raised halfway. The scarf was traditionally of a special color of particular liking to the W, and it represented her special qualities - especially if she chose to give it to a M.

Meas

Pattern

- I. FORWARD AND BACK (Heads)  
1-16 Sets 1 and 2 dance to ctr from meas 1 through the first note in meas 9. They bow to each other and beg to return to their original place, still facing the ctr. During this time, sets 3 and 4 are dancing the step in place.
- II. FORWARD AND BACK (Sides)  
1-16 Sets 3 and 4 dance to the ctr from meas 1 through the first note in meas 9. They bow to each other and beg to return to their original place, still facing ctr.

VALSE DE LOS PAÑOS (continued)

- 1-16      III. R WOMAN UNDER - L WOMAN UNDER  
Meas 1 through the second note in meas 9, all W  
on the R side of the M go under the L side scarf of  
the M and the M in the ctr turns under following the  
woman as she travels around him. On ct 3 of meas 9  
all W on the L side of the M go under the R side scarf  
of the M and the M in the ctr turns under following the  
W as she travels around him.

Presented by Lorenzo Trujillo