

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

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