

Banda

(Mexico, Pacific corridor)

Banda dance became popular in the late 1980s. It is an urban dance response to displaced people from the *campo* (agricultural communities). It combines traditional dance forms of *vals*, *polca*, and *son* with popular dances of the 1980s such as cumbia and lambada. One of the distinguishing features is the 14-piece band (tubas to trombones) that drive the dancers to jump (*brinquita*), gallop (*caballito*), and dip (*quebradita*). It is a form that brings the nostalgia of the ranch life (boots, belts, cowboy hats, etc.) of home to the dance halls of the big cities, whether Stockton or Guadalajara.

Pronunciation:

Music: Banda Limon: En Mil Pedazos - Fonovisa FPCD-9810 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 meter
(Other popular banda groups are Banda El Toro, Banda El Mexicano, Banda del Recodo.)

Formation: Cpls randomly placed on the dance floor. Description is given for M; W use opp ftwk and direction.

Meas

Pattern

3/4 meter A. VALS (WALTZ)

Stays in place. Styling—at step on L, press L hip into space with the upper body passively bending to the R. On cts 2, 3, the body makes a sway to upright. Generally, M and W bodies are touching.

- 1 Step on L to L side (or step back on L)(ct 1); step on L next to R (or leave R off the floor)(ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

QUEBRADITA VARIATION

W holds onto the M's belt in the back. M cradle holds the W at the waist and shldr. With a soft sway, M gradually bends his knees and dips the W so she is being rocked parallel to the floor.

2/4 meter B. POLKA OR CORREDITA RHYTHM

• Caballito

- ah Small hop on R.
- 1 Small leap fwd onto L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct ah); small leap fwd onto L (ct 2); small hop on L (ct ah).
 - 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

Brinquito

- Closed or open ptr pos.
- 1 Small leap onto L, R ft back (ct 1); small leap onto R, L ft back (ct 2).
 - 2 Repeat meas 1.

Ankle hook

- Hold onto ptr, place R hips together, and hook R ankles.
- 1 Hop on L, swinging R leg back (ct 1); hop on L, swinging R leg fwd (ct 2).
 - 2 Repeat meas 1.

Banda—continued

Leg lifts

Open ptr pos.

- 1 Step on L, swinging R let to front (ct 1); hop on L (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

Twist

Turn body so that R shldr is facing ptr.

- 1 Small leap onto R, swinging L leg to back and twisting hips CCW (ct 1); small leap onto L, lifting R leg rotated out to the front and twisting hips CW (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.

Crank

During this step, M might take off his hat and twirl it around his index finger.

- 1 Hop on L, leaning fwd, R leg circling back in the air as in the Charleston (ct 1); repeat ct 1 (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.

4/4 meter C. CUMBIA

- 1 Small step fwd on L (ct 1); step back on R (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2); step back on L (or change places with ptr by continuing to move fwd)(ct 3); step fwd on R (ct &); step back on L (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

Presented by Susan Cashion