



Salon Tango – Syllabus of Elements and Concepts

Ballroom and Specialty Dances Division CDTABC

This syllabus lists elements and concepts for dancing Argentine tango as it is danced at milongas. Many non-essential elements, like gancho, sacada, volcada, etc., are not included in this list.

1) **Linear Motion: The walk and elements of the 8-step basic**

- steady walk
- pauses
- weight shifts
- parallel system
- forward, side & back steps
- cornering
- the cross (basic position 4-5)
- forward across step (basic position 3)
- cross system
- corrida

2) **Changing Direction: Rock steps and pivots** **Rebote elements:**

- rock step to collect
- rock step into step
- parallel system
- repeat rock steps

Ocho cortado elements and variations:

- rock steps leader left forward/back
- side rock step to the follower's cross
- cross system, varied timing, CBM, style

3) **Ocho elements and concepts:**

- cross-system
- directional lead/follow
- floor craft
- dissociation
- pivots
- step technique
- axis and motion control

4) **Circular Motion: Turns (Molinete/Giro)** **Giro elements and concepts:**

- molinete grapevine and step principles
- dissociation
- floor craft & navigation
- step technique
- clockwise and counterclockwise turns.

5) **Four Connections - SPMR** **Self:**

- posture
- balance
- coordination
- grounding
- mental focus
- navigation

Partner:

- frame
- dialogue
- connectedness in motion
- synchronization
- contra-body motion

Music:

- rhythmic interpretation
- melodic interpretation
- continuity
- suspension
- syncopation

Ronda:

- navigation
- step size
- motion control
- safety
- courtesy