

Please study this clip daily for homework.

Leaders, watch the smooth forward walking steps and the pauses to the cruzada. Followers, observe the straight line lean to the leader and the extension of the stepping leg.

Practice. <http://youtube.com/watch?v=pUku3hXjlvI>

Here are the notes I promised in class.

ARGENTINE TANGO

Argentina - Southern and Eastern most Country of South America.

Buenos Aires - capital of Argentina, about 3,000,000 population. Established in 1536-80, 35° S latitude.

Porteno - Resident of port city of Buenos Aires.

Tanguero (Tanguera) - One who practices the tango life style.

ABOUT THE DANCE

Milonga - Style of tango music, dance which is predecessor of tango, also a tango dance party.

Vals - After the Spanish for waltz.

Tanda - A set of 3 or 4 songs of a similar style or orchestra played at a milonga.

Cortina - An interlude song of a different genre to separate tandas.

Gracias (Thank you) - A polite way to indicate you're done dancing with a given partner.

Cabeseo - A nod of the head to gesture a proposal to dance.

Salon style - An open embrace style of dancing.

Milonguero style - A close embrace style of dancing. Literally, a heart to heart hug while walking to the music.

Apilado - A style of close embrace where the partners lean into each other in an "A" frame shape maintaining a magnetic connection between their chests.

Bandoneon - The instrument characteristic of the tango orchestra similar to an accordion of German origin.

ESSENTIALS OF THE DANCE

Foundations - The floor which supports our weight and balance. The music which moves our spirit to move our bodies. The embrace of our partner and the connection of our hearts. And the other couples on the dance floor.

Line of Dance - Tango is essentially a walking dance with movements improvised to interpret the mood of the music and the partnership. Dancers move in a counter clockwise direction around the perimeter of the dance room. Passing and bumping other couples is considered bad form. The lead is responsible for the follow's comfort and safety and navigating around the floor as the follow dances around the leader.

Connection - The dance partnership requires 100% attention to each other to communicate the direction, amplitude and syncopation of the steps interpreting the music.

Axis and Balance - Each dancer is responsible for maintaining their own axis and balance (sometimes the axis and balance are shared and / or mutually supported).

Collecting - Weight is almost always supported on one leg only (supporting or weighted leg). The unweighted leg is collected along the axis of balance and ready to be placed onto the next step. Weight on one leg only with knees and feet together.

Leader's Mark - The leader preparing a space to invite the follower to step into. If the follower is unsure of the leader's intention, WAIT! Don't do something.....just stand there. Collect, balance, feel.

Single Tracking - When walking forward or backward, the steps should fall in a line as though walking on a curb or narrow board.

Pauses - Are as much a part of tango as steps. Pauses in our movement allow us to reestablish our balance, connection, focus on our partnership or the music. It gives us the opportunity to plan our next moves or lift and tighten the rib cage and torso to firm the axis.

Parallel System - The partners step directly opposite each other. Leader's left in line with follower's right, leader's right in line with follower's left.

Cross System - The partners step half off set on the same foot. Leader's left with the follower's left and leader's right with the follower's right. A syncopated half step returns the partnership to the parallel system.

SOME BASIC STEP PATTERNS

Cambio de Peso - Changing weight in place.

Salida - An entry step to the leaders left to enter the line of dance.

Caminada - The basis of tango, the walking step.

Cruzada - A crossing step of the follower to realign in front of the leader.

Resolution - A forward, side to the right of the leader and close to end a step sequence.
A.K.A. the tango close.

Ochos - Steps in the form of a figure 8, both forward and backward.

Molinete - The windmill, a revolving pattern around the leader to the left or right.

Giro - Turning patterns.

Sacada - Steps displacing the axis of each other.

Boleo - Decorative lifting of the leg.

Lapis - For pencil, a drawing with the toe of the foot on the floor.

Parada - Stop in the motion of the follower with the foot of the leader.

Barrida - Sweeping the foot along a step pattern.

Pasada - Passing over a parada.

Gancho - Hooking the leg of the other dancer.