

# Cerro Veladero

Origin: Uruguay

Source: Laura Zanzi de Chavarria

Note: Cerro Veladero is a **Chacarera** and very similar to the “Gato” of Argentina. This dance and the “Zamba” are the 2 most popular and widely done dances in Uruguay. In spite of its popularity, it is impossible to know if it was danced before 1850. This dance belongs to the living folk culture as it is still danced as a matter of course in many places.

Formation: couples facing each other about 7 or 8 feet apart.

**Basic Step**: Throughout this dance a gliding two-step is used, except for the man’s zapateo. (Important ! Do **not** drag your feet.)

**Man’s Zapateo**: Brush R heel forward, brush R toe back, brush R heel forward, brush R toe back, stamp Right foot (taking weight). Repeat starting with Left foot. The zapateo is done to the following rhythm: PA-PI-TO PA-PA

\*\* See page 3 for diagrams of the figures\*\*

**Introduction**: should be clapped in time to the music according to your own desire. It is often clapped in the slow-quick-slow rhythm which is the same as the rhythm of the two-step.

## **Figure 1:** (RONDO)

Both men and women advance 2 basic steps diagonally forward right,  
Advance 2 basic steps diagonally forward left,  
Move 2 basic steps diagonally backward left,  
Move 2 basic steps diagonally backward right.

## **Figure 2:** (GIRO)

With 4 basic steps describe a small circle moving CCW.

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**Figure 3: (REDONDA)**

Describe a large circle moving CCW with 6 basic steps. ( At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> measure, dancers should be at partner's place.) Partners remain facing each other throughout

**Figure 4: (ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO)**

Woman dances 8 basic steps in front of the man using any floor pattern she desires. (Often the ROMBO pattern is used.) She could also use the pattern in diagram 7 and this is called the ZARANDEO.

The man does 8 ZAPATEO steps more or less in place.

**Figure 5: (REDONDA)**

Repeat figure 3.

**Figure 6: (ZAPATEO Y ZARANDEO)**

Repeat figure 4.

**Figure 7: (MEDIA VUELTA)**

With 4 basic steps trade places with partner.

**Figure 8: (GIRO)**

Same as figure 2 except that dancers end up facing each other in the centre.

**CORONACION:** On the last count of Figure 8 the woman places her hands, palms up on the shoulders of the man and bows her head; while the man places his hands next to the woman's shoulders, his arms outside of woman's arms.

Presented by Dale and Helga Hyde

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