

La Cucaracha

Origin: Mexico

Source: Bea Montrose

Formation: Couples scattered freely around the room facing partner. Man's hands are clasped behind his back R hand clasping the wrist of the L hand. The woman is holding her skirt. Partners do identical footwork.

Note: This dance is known throughout Mexico. There are several different versions of the dance.

Jarabe Step: Step on R foot across in front of L foot (ct 1). Step on L foot in place (ct. 2). Step on R foot beside the L foot. (ct 3). Reverse these 3 counts with reverse footwork.

Measures: Counts: Pattern:

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		Figure 1:
1 – 2	1 – 6	Dance 2 Jarabe steps as noted above.
3	7 – 9	With 3 steps (R,L,R) make a full turn to the Left and end facing partner.
4	10	Stamp L foot (no weight)
	11 – 12	Hold.
5 - 8	13 – 24	Repeat measures 1 – 4 with opposite footwork and opposite direction.
9 – 16	25 – 48	Repeat measures 1 – 8

		Figure 2:
1	1 – 3	Run forward 3 steps (R,L,R) meeting at Left shoulders.
2	4 – 5	Stamp L foot twice (no weight)
	6	Hold
3 – 4	7 – 12	Back up 3 steps (L,R,L) to place and stamp twice (no weight)
5 – 8	13 – 24	Repeat measures 1 – 4, Figure 2 but meet at Right shoulders.
9 – 10	25 – 30	With 3 steps (R,L,R) make a ¼ turn to the Right ending

La Cucaracha – continued

- with Left shoulder toward partner. Stamp L foot twice (no weight).
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| 11 – 12 | 31 – 36 | With 3 steps (L,R,L) make a ½ turn to the Left ending with Right shoulder toward partner. Stamp R foot twice (no weight) |
| 13 – 14 | 37 – 42 | With 3 steps (R,L,R) make a ½ turn to the Right and stamp Left foot twice. |
| 15 – 16 | 43 – 48 | With 3 steps (L,R,L) make a ¼ turn Left to end facing partner. |

1 – 16 **Figure 1** (as above)

Figure 3

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| 1 – 2 | 1 – 6 | Repeat measures 1 – 2, Part 2 |
| 3 – 4 | 7 – 12 | Make a sharp ½ turn to the Left to face partner and back into partner’s original position with 3 steps (L,R,L) and stamp twice (no weight) |
| 5 – 8 | 13 – 24 | Repeat measures 1 – 4, Part 3 to return to original position. |
| 9 – 16 | 25 – 48 | Repeat measures 1 – 8, Part 3. |

Repeat dance from the beginning.

Presented by Dale & Helga Hyde
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