

# Ranchera

Origin: Uruguay

Source: Laura Zanzi de Chavarria

Background: This is a very popular dance that has been danced since 1850 at all Uruguayan festivities. It is also danced in Southern Brazil and northern Argentina where other forms of Ranchera are danced and called Ranchera Gaucha.

Step: waltz ( man begins with L and lady with R

Formation: Couples. Partners are side by side, woman on the man's Right and inside hands are held.

## **Figure 1:**

Move forward with 2 waltz steps turning toward partner and and turn to face opposite direction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> waltz step. Repeat this pattern in opposite direction. End facing partner. Dance 2 waltz balances (to man's Right and lady's Left to begin). Make 1 complete turn away from partner with 2 waltz steps and clap own hands on the final step. Repeat Figure 1 again with opposite footwork in opposite direction.

## **Figure 2:** (Square)

In Ballroom position dance forward 2 waltz steps, turn  $\frac{3}{4}$  CW. Repeat this along each side of a square. At the end turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  to end as at the beginning of Figure 1 but facing the opposite direction.

## **Figure 3:** Repeat Figure 1 in opposite direction

**Figure 4:** In Ballroom dance position waltz freely about the room for 16 measures. At the end partners are facing each other.

**Figure 5:** Join Man's Left hand and Lady's Right hand. With 1 waltz step the lady turns CW under the joined hands while the man waltzes forward. They then balance with 1 waltz step away from each other (hands remained joined). Repeat this 2 more times for a total of 3 times. On the 7<sup>th</sup> measure the lady turns under as before and on the 8<sup>th</sup> measure they change into varsouvienne position with the lady on the man's Left side.

**Figure 6:** In place, in varsouvienne position, partners change places with each other (the lady passes in front of the man (she moves Right, he moves left). Repeat this back to place. They do this for a total of 8 measures. They repeat the same action for a further 8 measures only this time they travel forward moving freely around the room.

## **Figure 7:** Repeat Figure1

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