

Frio Tango

Choreographed by Richard Powers

Video

Music: Any “square” (4x8) tango song will work.

Part 1 — Promenades

Take closed promenade position and face toward the center of the room, as if you and your partner are aiming a rifle across the room.

Promenade forward with 2 slow steps, beginning with outside feet (Lead's left, Follow's right). Continue forward with two quick steps. Finish with another slow step forward, stopping on this step, and changing to reverse promenade position, with the Lead's left arm around his partner and the Follow's right hand on his shoulder, holding opposite hands. The timing is slow-slow-quick-quick-slow, or as some people verbalize it: T, A, N-G, O.

Promenade with the same pattern back to place, beginning on the opposite foot, the new outside feet (Lead's right and Follow's left).

Add as much drama as you want. Some people have fun with the tango, while others make fun of the tango. Both of these approaches can be fun.

Part 2 — Left and Right Fans

Take closed position, with the Lead facing along LOD and the Follow facing against LOD.

The Lead walks forward, as the Follow walks backward, 2 slow steps. Then the Follow steps back with her right foot diagonally toward the center of the room, as the Lead steps forward with his left foot, rotating 90° counterclockwise as a couple. Facing in

toward the center of the room, the Lead takes a long side step right along LOD as the Follow takes a shorter side step left along LOD. Both close feet together without taking weight. The timing is slow-slow-quick-quick-slow (walk-walk-turn-side-close).

Taking closed promenade position, facing against LOD, walk forward 2 slow steps, with the Lead starting to pass in front of his partner on the second step. Then he steps with his left foot across in front of her, squarely facing back at her, as she steps right foot forward, aimed between his feet. (This third step is like the first step of a rotary waltz.) Continue to rotate as a couple through a 180° clockwise turn as the Follow takes a long side step left, facing into the center, and the Lead takes a shorter side step right, facing the outside wall. Both close feet together without taking weight. The timing is slow-slow-quick-quick-slow (walk-walk-turn-side-close).

Part 3 — Tango Chassé

Promenade along LOD with 2 slow steps, then face partner squarely and take a side step toward LOD, and close the trailing foot with weight. The timing is slow-slow-quick-quick (walk-walk-side-close). Repeat this phrase once, slow-slow-quick-quick. Finish the 8-count pattern with a False-Step Corte: take a side step along LOD, still facing partner squarely, then replace weight back on the rear foot, keeping your first foot free at the end.

Part 4 — Tango Lunge

Promenade five steps along LOD, lunging forward to dip your inside knees to the floor on the last step. The timing is slow-slow-quick-quick-slow (walk-walk-walk-walk-lunge). The quick steps are forward steps, like Part 1, not a side-close as in Part 3.

Note: If your knees aren't in shape to drop all the way to the floor, you may suggest to your partner that you only sway forward, only dropping down halfway

Style Pointer: Keep your head and chest up as you lunge to the floor. There is often a tendency to let one's head and shoulders collapse forward when lunging. This isn't necessarily “wrong,” it's just not as dramatic.

Push back up to rise, during the next 2 slow counts, ending with your weight on your second foot. Then do a three-step Turning Corte: the Follow steps back right foot diagonally as the Lead takes a small step forward on his left foot, rotating as a couple

90° counterclockwise, then the Lead takes a long side step right as the Follow takes a shorter side step left, and both close feet together without taking weight, facing into the center of the room (this is similar to the very end of Part 2, in a slightly different orientation). The timing is slow-slow quick-quick-slow (rise-rise-turn-side-close).

This four-part sequence can be repeated. Or the figures can be mixed up, for a freestyle tango.