

Mazurka Clandestina

(Mazurka Klandestina, Tango Mazurka, Mazurka Tango, Tangurka)

Background

Mazurka clandestina evolved in France, based on the Flemish mazurka, with the addition of tango steps and styling. (The Flemish mazurka is in turn a very lazy version of the energetic 19th century mazurka.) It is also popular in Italy, where it was given the “clandestina” name.

It was debuted in the United States by Richard Powers at Friday Night Waltz on July 19, 2014

Basic Elements

Flemish Mazurka Step: A very lazy mazurka step, starting on either foot: 1) Side, 2) Replace, 3) Lift. But there’s almost no lift, so really just hesitate with your weight on your second foot. Expend the least amount of energy possible. *Styling:* In Mazurka clandestina, this is danced like a quick, hesitating false step corte from tango, smooth and low. In fact, we (Nick & Melissa) like to dance it with no lift at all. *Variation:* The side step can be replaced by a forward step or backing step (Follow dancing opposite).

Flemish Rotary Waltz: A very lazy waltz, clockwise or counterclockwise. 1) Around, 2) Side, 3) Close. You could turn it fully like a rotary waltz, 180° per half, but it’s a lazy dance, so you probably won’t. Just turn a little bit, as much as you feel like.

Basic Steps

Polka Mazurka: Mazurka Step (on either side), followed by a Waltz (either clockwise or counterclockwise). Ma-zur-ka, Waltz-2-3.

La Koska (La Carlowitska): Three Mazurka Steps (on either side), followed by a Waltz (either clockwise or counterclockwise). Ma-zur-ka x 3, Waltz-2-3.

Zig Zag(s): Either the Polka Mazurka or La Koska, with alternating rotations. Mazurka step(s), then half waltz one direction, Mazurka step(s) then half Waltz the other direction.

Pivots

Three Pivots: Mazurka step (1-2), then three pivots (4-5-6). Repeat opposite, or follow with something starting on the Lead’s right foot.

Two Pivots: Mazurka step (1-2), then two pivots in canter timing (1—3). (*Note:* You can also do them in quick-quick-hold (1, 2—) timing, but it’s easier to follow in canter timing.)

Five Pivots: After initiating pivots, combine the above variations. Two pivots, then three pivots. Repeat opposite. Either 1, 2—, 4, 5, 6, or 1—3, 4, 5, 6.

Note: All three of the above variations can be reversed.

Media Lunas

Note: “Media Luna” means “half moon” and refers to a figure that repeats on the other side, with each partner doing what the other just did.

Media Luna Sanjuanina (Nick & Melissa): Mazurka step (1-2), then half of a box step waltz: forward, side, close (4-5-6). Repeat opposite to finish the box step. From Nicanor Lima’s original 1916 book on tango, adapted into tango mazurka.

Media Luna Puntana (Nick & Melissa): Similar to the Sanjuanina, but with a forward rocking mazurka corte before the forward half of the box, and a backward rocking mazurka corte before the back half of the box. Also from Lima, 1916.

Media Luna Relámpago (Nick & Melissa): Similar to the Puntana, but with a backward rocking mazurka corte before the forward half of the box, and a forward rocking mazurka corte before the back half of the box. The shape traced out on the floor is that of a lightning bolt, hence “relámpago.”

Media Luna Lola from the “Lola Tango” (Nick & Melissa): Lead rocks back on his left foot in mazurka timing (rock back, replace forward, hesitate), then a forward box step (forward, side, close; left, right, left). Repeat the same on the other side, i.e., rock back right, then a forward box step on the right foot. Follow dances opposite. This one gradually progresses (forward for him, back for her). It works better if you do the mazurkas on a diagonal: if you’re traveling LOD, the Lead faces diagonally forward out of the hall at the beginning, and diagonally forward into the center halfway through, facing straight forward along LOD for all of the the quick side-closes. It’s essentially a trapezoid box. (*Note:* You can also do a trapezoid box that backs the Lead, but the version described above is the easiest.)

Media Luna Paralela (Nick & Melissa): Mazurka step (1-2), then the Lead steps side, cross, side (left, right, left), crossing in back, as the Follow steps side, cross, side, crossing in front (4-5-6). Continuing the grapevine crosses (Lead forward, Follow back), the Lead rocks forward onto his right foot in mazurka timing (rock, replace; 1-2), as the Follow rocks back onto her left foot. They miss each other, right hip to right hip, as in Parallel Breaks from Salsa. Opposite grapevine back to original place (Leads step side, cross in front, side; 4-5-6), and opposite parallel breaks (Leads rock back this time, again right hip to right hip; 1-2-3). Repeat from the first grapevine, or waltz out of it. (*Note:* You can do this the other way, with the Lead crossing forward on his right foot in the first grapevine, and back on his left in the second grapevine, but the version described above is a bit easier to lead.)

Media Luna Salsa (Nick & Melissa): Mazurka step (1-2), then salsa in waltz time, Lead breaking forward on 4-5-6 (forward, back, back), back on 1-2-3 (back, forward, forward).

Anything from salsa can be imported into mazurka klandestina this way. To get out of it, the Lead rocks back in mazurka timing (back, replace; 1-2), then finishes with the second half of a rotary waltz (4-5-6). (*Note:* Technically, in this case, the mazurka is just a starter step into, and exit from, the Media Luna, rather than a part of the Media Luna, which by definition repeats as a whole.)

Molinete (Richard and Nick & Melissa): Rock forward and back in mazurka timing (1-2), then forward, back, forward in waltz timing (1-2-3). Repeat opposite, rocking back and forward (1-2), then back, forward, back (1-2-3). *Alternate Version:* Mazurka (1-2), then rock forward and back twice in canter timing (4-6, 1-3), then second half of rotary waltz.

Turns

Follow's Spot Turn (Nick & Melissa): Mazurka step (1-2-3), then a Follow's Spot Turn from swing waltz, nightclub two step in even timing (4-5-6). Mazurka step to his right (1-2-3), then the second half of a rotary waltz (4-5-6).

Note on Lead's Turns: Lead's Spot Turn, Chained Turns, and other turns for Leads are possible, but Follows report that in this dance, where every step is led and followed, the Lead going off into a turn is extremely disconcerting.

Dips

Cross-Step Dip (Nick & Melissa): Mazurka step (1-2-3), side step (4), cross step (5), side-step dip (6). Six counts to get back up (or three counts to get up, and a mazurka step 4-5).

Intensifying Rocking Corte Dip (Nick & Melissa): Lead rocks forward in mazurka timing (forward, replace, hold; 1-2), then leads an easy side sway on his left foot, her right (4-5-6). He leads into the sway on 4, and out of the sway on 5-6. Lead rocks forward again (1-2), then leads into a slighter deeper sway (4-5-6). Lead rocks forward a third time (1-2), then leads into a side-step dip (4-5-6). Six counts to get up.