

## **Tango Fundamentals (Level 2) - Course Syllabus**

Through consolidation and refinement of the fundamental elements covered in Level 1, and the introduction of some new concepts, this course will enable you to develop as a more competent and confident social dancer. For those that wish to, the course will also explore dancing in close embrace. The course continues over three ten-week terms.

**Course Pre-requisite:** Completion of the Level 1 Course Syllabus offered by Suffolk Tango or equivalent tuition. If in doubt, please contact the course teachers via the Suffolk Tango website.

During the whole course you will learn:

- To develop your skills in dancing using close embrace as well as in open embrace.
- To develop more intricate and complex footwork to enhance the styling of the basic elements.
- To adapt the fundamentals to improve your floor-craft and navigation on the dance floor.
- To make changes of direction – ‘alterations’.
- To develop musicality in the dance, in particular the use of double time and syncopation.
- Linear Sacadas (interruption of the free leg)
- Fun ‘foot and leg play’ – *barridas* (foot sweeps), and *ganchos* (leg hooks).
- More about the Tango musical form, styles, composers and orchestras.

### **Autumn Term (10 weeks)**

**The Close Embrace:** Building confidence in dancing in close embrace.

- Understanding the difference between open and close embrace – their relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Finding the connection.
- Walking with ease and confidence in two, three and four-track.
- Moving between open and close embrace within the dance.
- Adapting the basic elements learned in open embrace to work in close embrace.
- Taking the opportunities of close embrace to develop a compact and intimate (*milonguero*) style.
- Simple double time steps in close embrace.

**The Closed Side of the Embrace (“The Dark Side”):**

- Walking in three-track on the closed side of the Embrace.
- Exploring moves that suit the “dark side” e.g “The Catch”.

**Adapting Moves for Close Embrace:**

- The cross in parallel and cross system.
- Alternative exits from the cross e.g. unwrapping the follower’s free leg into a forward ocho in parallel system.
- Travelling backward *milonguero* ocho.
- The traspie and the check step in the travelling backward *milonguero* ocho.
- Half turn on the open side of the embrace.
- The giro.

**Introduction to Alterations:** Changes of direction in the mid-step in parallel and cross system.

**Musicality:** Understanding the structure and rhythms of Tango music and how these can shape your repertoire (“Ochos Negros” is used as a case study).

### **Spring Term (10 weeks)**

**Adapting Moves for Close Embrace:**

- Half turn on the closed side of the embrace.
- Forward ocho in parallel system.
- Forward ocho in cross system.
- Quarter turns and half turns from the side step.

**Musicality:** Introduction to syncopation (“El Chamuyo” is used as a case study).

**Floor-craft:** Combining steps that flow and turn while moving along the line of dance; techniques for leaders to move along the line of dance without facing it.

**Linear Sacadas:** Interruptions to the follower’s free leg while walking in parallel and cross system

### **Summer Term (10 weeks)**

**Foot and Leg Play:** An introduction to some “Tango Cherries”

- Foot blocks, sandwiches and step-overs.
- Introduction to *barridas* (foot sweeps)
- Introduction to *ganchos* (leg hooks)

**Floor-craft:**

- Adapting linear moves into circular moves when you cannot progress along the line of dance.

**Dancing to a Vals:** How to further modify your Tango repertoire to meld with the more lyrical and livelier waltz rhythm; modifying double-time steps to the third and first beats of the bar (dancing the “3-1”).

**Revision:** A recap of the key learning points from the course.