

Tango Fundamentals (Level 3) - Course Syllabus

Through the refinement and fusion of the elements covered in Level 2, and the introduction of some new concepts, this course will provide a deeper understanding of the dance and enable you to develop as a truly competent and confident social dancer.

The course continues over three ten-week terms.

During the whole course you will learn:

- To importance of the “magic triangle” when setting-up circular sacadas.
- To combine circular sacadas within familiar steps.
- To become aware of the possibilities offered by “off-axis” moves (volcadas and colgadas).
- 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 develop musicality in the dance, in particular the use of syncopation.
- More about the Tango musical form, styles, composers and orchestras

Course Pre-requisite: Competent with the Level 2 Course Syllabus offered by Suffolk Tango or equivalent tuition. Note that it is not uncommon for dancers to take the Level 2 course twice (two years running) to gain the level of competence required. If in doubt, please contact the course teachers via the Suffolk Tango website.

Lesson Structure: The lesson is structured differently to the Level 1 and 2 courses. 75 mins of group tuition will be provided followed by a guided práctica, where dancers can practice the elements taught during the lesson (individual assistance can be provided) and begin to incorporate these elements into their social dance repertoire.

Autumn Term (10 weeks)

The Close Embrace:

- “Stirring the pot” – how to initiate steps from a circular movement of the axis.

Combining Double-time Steps: Collecting and changing weight from forward and backward steps.

Off-Axis Basics: Small off-axis moments.

Level 2 Refresh:

- Linear Sacadas.
- Alterations parallel and cross system.

Circular Sacadas: Interruptions of the follower’s free leg within a circular movement:

- Sacadas in the side step in parallel and cross system.
- Sacadas in the back step in cross system.
- Combining circular sacadas in the side step into the check step and the alteration in 3-track.

Musicality:

- Musical forces, mood, phrasing and structure:
- Understanding the Tango musical forms and the differences between composers, orchestras and styles to develop greater confidence on the dance floor and enable effective improvisation and interpretation of the music.
- From double-time to syncopation.

Floor-craft and Navigation:

- Making the most of the limited space available at social dances.
- Planning ahead and changing the plan.

- Combining steps that flow and turn whilst moving along the line of dance.

Spring Term (10 weeks)

Level 2 Refresh:

- Forward and backward travelling *milonguero* ochos.
- The giro in close embrace.

Reverse-direction steps in the travelling backward *milonguero* ocho.

Complex Turns:

- Full turns initiated on the closed side of the embrace; adding the sacada and the foot block.
- Full turn exits from the forward ocho in parallel system.
- Overturned ochos.

Circular Sacadas (Cont.): Interruptions of the follower's free leg within a circular movement:

- Sacadas in the forward step in parallel and cross system.
- Travelling daisy-chained sacadas for both leader and follower.
- Combining circular sacadas into the giro.

Introduction to the The Lapiz ("Pencil") and Enrosque ("Coil").

Dynamic Foot and Leg play:

- Incorporating barridas (foot sweeps) into ochos and giros.
- Incorporating ganchos (leg hooks) into ochos and giros.

Introduction Boleos: Leading changes in direction mid-turn to invite a leg-flick.

Summer Term (10 weeks)

Introduction to Volcadas (Inward Off-Axis Moves):

- Volcada basics – learning to balance with one's partner.
- Volcada initiated from the side step.
- Volcada initiated from a linear sacada in cross system.
- Adding a leg wrap to the volcada.

Introduction to Colgadas (Outward Off-Axis Moves):

- Colgada basics – learning to balance with one's partner.
- Setting-up the colgada in the T-position.
- Turning while off-axis – understanding the physics and enjoying the ride.
- Adding real momentum to the colgada by initiating from the check step with a turn.

Dancing to a Vals: How to further modify your Tango repertoire to meld with the more lyrical and livelier waltz rhythm; combining double-time steps to the first, second, third and first beats of the bar (dancing the "1-2-3-1") to really nail the end of a musical phrase.

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