

Codigos de la Milonga

The tango etiquette – The respectful ways of tango

A good milonga respects some basic rules turning it into a harmonious and enjoyable place for everyone. These rules are very important to us and we'd like to encourage you to respect them while dancing.

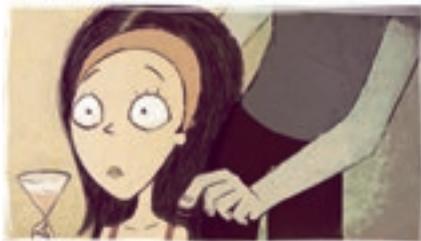
Tango Fribourg

1 Line of dance

The couples dance counter-clockwise in two lanes of dance. In very big dance halls, there may be as many as three lanes.

2 Mirada and Cabeceo to invite

The most elegant way of inviting someone to dance is by using the Mirada (eye contact) and the Cabeceo (slight nod of the head). Both leaders and followers are using Mirada and Cabeceo during the Cortina or at the beginning of the Tanda.



3 Priority to dancers already on the floor

Never cross the dance floor! When encountering your dance partner, do so by walking on the edge of the floor outside the Ronda.

4 Mirada between leaders

Do not enter the dance floor before having made eye contact with the leader to your left. He will give you a sign that you can enter the dance floor in front of him. If he is not paying attention to you, wait until there is enough space between two couples to enter the dance floor.



5 Stay in your lane

Choose one lane of dance and stay in it! Do not dance between two lanes or navigate between the two lanes. This is bothersome to other dancers!

6 Distance between the couples

Keep an adequate distance from the dance couple in front of you so they are able to make a turn. If the distance to the couple in front of you increases, try to catch up to the normal distance so as not to block the couples behind you.



7 The space behind the leader

The space behind the leader belongs to the leader following you. This is why you NEVER MAKE A BACK STEP.

8 If overtaking is really needed...

If it is no longer possible to stay dancing on the spot and if you have no other choice than to overtake the couple in front of you who have been dancing for a long time without moving forward, overtake by moving to your left. Make sure that there is sufficient space on the inner lane, overtake and stay in your new lane.

9 When the dance floor is crowded with dancers

Followers, leave your feet on the floor! Leaders, do not lead any moves that could be potentially dangerous to other couples. Avoid aerial or big Boleos, Ganchos and Giros in open embrace! One must adapt the dimension of the moves to the conditions on the dance floor.



10 Excuses in case of a collision

If you are involved in a collision, despite all your precaution, excuse yourself with courtesy and without determining the guilty party.



11 Respect fellow dancers

Respect all the other dancers irrespective of their individual dance style and level of skill.

12 Politeness

Once you have accepted an invitation to dance, dance the entire Tanda (3 or 4 songs) until the Cortina (a pause during which an alternative music is played), even if the dance is not ideal.

Exception: If the dancer maltreats or hurts you or displays inappropriate behaviour, the follower can stop the Tanda and refuse to dance again with that same dance partner. If it is seriously inappropriate, she can inform the organizer.

13 Chatting

On the dance floor, one dances. There might be some chatting between two songs or at the beginning of the following song, but none during the dance!



14 Thank you!

Thanking your partner means ending the dance. Do so only at the end of the Tanda.

15 Hygiene

Personal hygiene is paramount. Shower, use deodorant, clean your teeth, bring an extra shirt, drink enough water, use fresh breath mints or chewing gum. Avoid garlic, raw onion, coffee and beer.



16 Feedback

Do give brief positive feedback to your dance partner if you've enjoyed the dance. It is important for the confidence of the dancer, both leaders and followers. Keep any other comments and suggestions for the practicas and classes.



17 Be Courteous

At the end of the Tanda, the leader accompanies the follower to the edge of the dance floor or back to where she was seated.

18 Model Good Behaviour

Invite a beginner to dance. We all have been beginners!

Invite an unknown person. You do not want to miss out on this experience!

Invite older dancers, too. It is not necessarily true that the most beautiful dancers are the best dancers in the milonga.

Following these rules
turns you into a respected
and appreciated dancer.

Tango Fribourg

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