

February 2007

Number **91**

The Dance Magazine

Magazine for ballroom dancers



The Dance Magazine

The Dance Magazine is a free magazine made for and made by ballroom dancers. You can read about ballroom dancing and other dance styles. We also give you the opportunity to put your add or messages in it. You can send them to me by e-mail.

The Dance Magazine is an edition from Fred Bolder's Ballroom Site

Url: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~fghb/ballroom.htm> or
<http://move.to/stijldansen>

e-mail: fghb@xs4all.nl

You can download this magazine as a Word-file for free.

The Dance Magazine also has its own domain.

url: <http://www.dansblad.nl>

Editors: Fred Bolder and Miranda Harder-Jager

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The Dance Magazine

Index

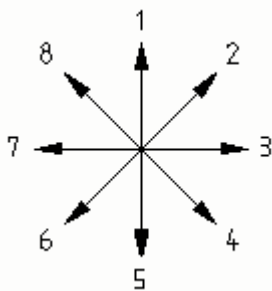
Dance notation – part 2	4
Danny Malando – That’s amore	7
Ascii dancers	8
Nice links.....	9

The Dance Magazine

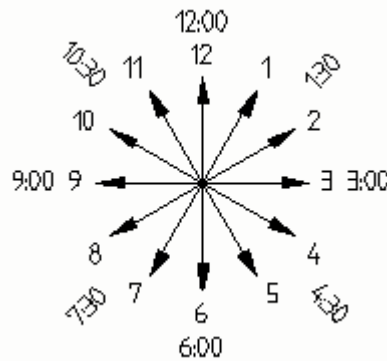
Dance notation – part 2

By: Fred

In the previous part I have explained how you can write down a dance in a table. I have not explained the directions for the dances that don't travel along the line of dance such as the Cha Cha Cha, Jive and Rumba. You can define the directions for these dances in the same way and some books do so, but I find this a little confusing. Our dance teacher uses certain points such as the mirror or the emergency exit to explain the directions during the lessons. This is clear for the lessons, but when notating a dance you should use another method. At another dance school the emergency exit can be somewhere else and perhaps there isn't even a mirror. For that reason our dancing teacher uses numbers to indicate directions when he writes down a dance (see figure 1).



Figuur 1



Figuur 2

It is important to include a picture of these directions with the step description. You can start the Cha Cha Cha, Jive and Rumba in four different directions. The direction in which you start is number 1. If you turn a quarter to the right from this direction you will end in direction 3. Another method that is almost the same uses the numbers on a clock to define the directions (see figure 2). The advantage of this is that almost everyone knows the positions of the numbers on a clock. For clarity you should always indicate the direction of the start position. Generally this is 12:00. If you turn 1/8 to the right from this position, you will end in the direction 1:30. This method is especially used for Line dancing and Salsa. Take a look at some step descriptions on <http://www.scdf.nl/>. You can learn a lot from studying step descriptions. Here is an example of a Cha Cha Cha figure.

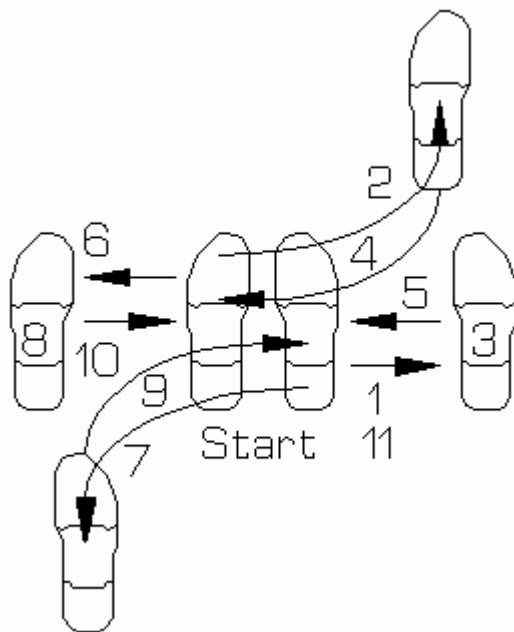
Step	Count	Man	Lady
		Normal dance hold (facing 12:00)	Normal dance hold (facing 6:00)
1	1	RF side (preparation step)	LF side (preparation step)
2	2	LF forward	RF back
3	3	Replace weight to RF	Replace weight to LF
4	4	LF side	RF side
5	&	RF close	LF close
6	1	LF side, raise left hand	RF side
7	2	RF back, turn lady right	LF forward, turn 1/4 to right (facing 9:00)
8	3	Replace weight to LF	Replace weight to RF, turn 1/2 to right (facing 3:00)

The Dance Magazine

9	4	RF side (back to normal dance hold)	LF side, turn 1/4 to right (facing 6:00)
10	&	LF close	RF close
11	1	RF side	LF side

A direction in a table can mean both the direction in which you look as well as the direction in which you move. During the preparation step the man looks in the direction 12:00, but he moves in the direction 3:00. All directions in this example mean that you look it that direction. I have indicated that by the word “facing”. Only a direction usually means that you move in that direction.

In dance books figures are also often explained by means of drawings with foot prints. The advantage of this is that the positions, directions and turns are easy to see. People who have effort with reading maps will probably will have another opinion. The disadvantage of this method is that the drawing becomes often too busy. Therefore it is best to make separate drawings for the lady and the man, otherwise there is a big chance that you have to draw multiple feet at the same position. This is a pity, because it is important to see where the lady stands compared to the position of the man. You can make a drawing per step, but then you will need more paper. In that case there will only be four feet in one drawing, so you can decide to add the four feet of the previous position in order to see the displacement of the feet. You can draw the previous position with dashed lines for example. With arrows you can indicate the directions of turns.



Here is a diagram with the man's steps of the previous described Cha Cha Cha figure. As you can see it is a busy drawing. I had no room to indicate the rhythm. That is why this sort diagrams are often combined with tables.

Drawings with foot prints are very suitable for computer animations. My free dance software DcWin <http://www.xs4all.nl/~fggb/07.htm> uses both drawings with foot prints as well as tables. On the drawings you can only see information on the feet and in the table you can write step descriptions with additional information on dance holds etc.

But why all that effort? You can film a dance with a video camera? In that case you can see everything. But also this method has its advantages and disadvantages. I find the directions on

The Dance Magazine

DVDs with dance lessons often hard to see. There can be several reasons for this for example the dance floor. A circle shaped floor is not handy and when the floor also has no rectangular pattern it is almost impossible to see the directions. For the directions only it is best to film from above. On the other hand, on film you see a dance in almost the same way as a dance lesson. People often dance a little different compared to the theory. I saw that especially on salsa DVD's. Of course not every step have to be super precisely, but when learning a dance I find it important to know how a figure should be danced exactly, otherwise there will be a deviation on a deviation. It is clear when you read in a table that you have to turn $1/8$ to the left, but it is hard to see the exact amount of a turn on film. Fortunately our dance teacher almost always tells how much we have to turn, so just a film with no comments is not good enough. Making a good film is not easy. There is a big chance that you forget to explain something and have to start all over again. I think that notating a dance is easier. Perhaps you can record a real dance lesson, but it is much nicer and instructive to dance yourself and I can also imagine that you are not allowed to film.

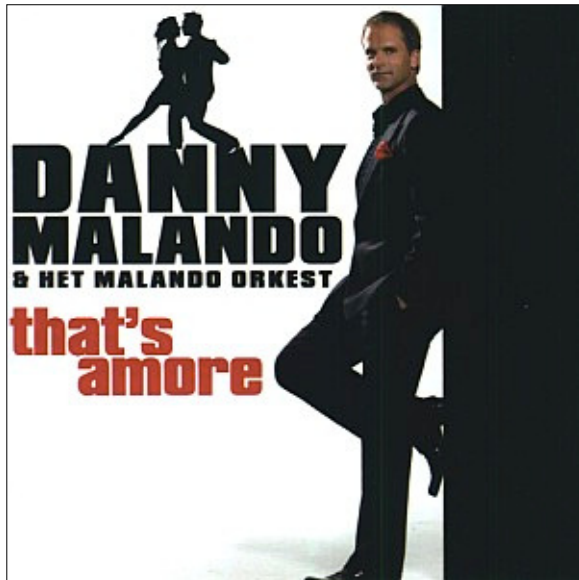
In the next magazine I will start to explain Labanotation.

The Dance Magazine

Danny Malando – That's amore

By: Fred

Normally you can expect only Tango music from Danny Malando, but now he has made a nice instrumental dance cd for several different dances.



Danny Malando
& het Malando Orkest
That's amore

Price: 19,95 euro

1	That's amore.....	Viennese waltz... 62
2	Ciao, ciao Malando (Medley).....	Samba 53
3	Roter Mohn	Tango 30
4	Sway.....	Cha Cha Cha 31
5	Moon River	Slow waltz 31
6	Arrivederci Roma.....	Rumba..... 26
7	Kriminal Tango	Tango 31
8	Im weißen Rößl	- -
9	Mein Liebeslied (Medley).....	- -
10	Smile	Rumba..... 26
11	Perfidia	- -
12	Charmaine	Slow waltz 28 ☺
13	Du schwarzer Zigeuner	- -
14	Spanish Eyes	- -

<http://www.malando.nl>

The Dance Magazine

Ascii dancers

By: Fred

In many previous magazines you could have seen that you can draw nice dancers with the characters that are on your keyboard. I have made another drawing. Draw your own dancers and send them to fghb@xs4all.nl

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Hula dancer

The Dance Magazine

Nice links

By: Fred

Music and Dance of Cuba

<http://muchoswing.com>

Download Salsa video clips

Galeria de Videos

<http://www.bailamos.eu/copperminevideo/index.php?cat=3>

Ballroom dance video clips

On The Go Studio

<http://www.onthegostudio.com/>

<http://www.dancintime.com/videos.html>

Online dance lessons which you can view on your cell phone

HotCliparts

<http://www.hotcliparts.com/Cliparts/Culture/dance2/index.html>

Dance clipart

Dance Plussed

<http://dance.plussed.net/scripts.shtml>

Ballroom dance guides

THE LINE & COUNTRY & WESTERN DANCE & MUSIC FAQ

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jgothard/contents.htm>

A lot of information about Country dancing

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jgothard/SECT2.HTM>

Nice for ballroom dancers as well!

Ballroom Dancing South Africa

<http://www.ballroomdancing.co.za/international.html>

Nice animations

Metronom

<http://www.tanz-metronom.de/>

Metronome for dancers

Danskant

<http://www.danskant.be/archief/index.htm>

Articles about dancing

Salsaro

<http://www.salsaroc.com/>

Software to learn Salsa