POR UNA CABEZA
(Scent of a Woman Tango)

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(With special thanks to Claudio & Veronica Rubió from Rosario, Argentina, for helping us better understand Argentine Tango)

Music: “Por Una Cabeza,” mp3 download from Amazon.com ($0.99);
The Tango Project CD, track 2, from Walmart.com

Phase: Argentine Tango, unphased approx. V
Footwork: Described for Man—Lady opposite (or as noted)
Sequence: A, B, C, B Mod, End

Difficulty Level: Soft
Timing: As specified (Lady’s if different)

1-4 WAIT; ROCK 3; RIGHT FOOT BASIC;

PART A

5-8 TANGO CLOSE TO BJO; CRUZADA WALKS 4; SIDE DRAW;

9-12 TURNING OCHOS 4;

13-16½ LADY SLOW FORWARD OCHO; QUICK THRU TO BOLEO; THRU TO BASIC ENDING; TURNING TANGO DRAW; ROCK FORWARD RECOVER;

PART B

5-8 DOUBLE GANCHOS W/LOOKS; SLOW FORWARD OCHO; THRU BASIC ENDING MAN TOUCH;

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9-12 SURPRISE CHECK LADY OUTSIDE SWIVEL TO SCP; DOBLE CRUZ WRAP TO SHADOW; PICKUP TOUCH TO BJO;

9 [Surprise check Lady outside swivel to SCP QQ—(QQS)] Lunge sd R twd wall join lt hnds, rec L BJO DLC, hold, slt RF body trn to SCP COH,;- (Lunge sd R twd COH, rec L twd wall, fwd R swvl RF to SCP fc COH,-);

10-11 [Doble cruz QQQQ QQ] Thru R twd COH, sd L to CP, XRIB of L, ronde L CCW; XRIB of R trng LF, bk R in BJO LOD, (Thru L, sd R to CP, XLIB of R, ronde R; XRIB of L comm. LF trn, cont trn fwd L twd DW BJO,);

12 [Wrap Lady to shadow S] Bk L trng RF wrapping ptr into rt arm fc LOD, hold; (Fwd R trng LF to shadow wrap,;-);

13-15 [Molinete right {Circular grapevine} SS SS SS] Sd & fwd L comm. RF trn,,-, XRIB of L w/slt wt in R toe beg untwisting RF,-, Cont unwinding slwly,,-, cont unwind trnsfg wt to R fcg DLC,;- Bk L leading ocho,,-, sml fwd R to CP LOD; (XRIF of L twd DRW comm RF trn,,-, sd L,,-, XRIB of L,,-, sd L fc DRW,;- Fwd R swvl ½ trn,,-, fwd L swvl to CP,;)

16 [Walk 2 SS] In CP fwd L LOD,,-, fwd R,;-;

PART C

1-12 TANGO CLOSE TO BJO; CRUZADA WALKS 4;; SIDE DRAW; TURNING OCHOS 4; LADY SLOW FORWARD OCHO; QUICK THRU TO BOLEO; THRU TO BASIC ENDING; TURNING TANGO DRAW;

1-12 Repeat Meas. 5-16, Part A end CP DLC;..............;

13-16 WALKING TURN; GAUCHO TURN 4; FORWARD CLOSE ROCK RECOVER;

13- [Walking turn {Caminada con giro} SS SS] Fwd L DLC comm LF trn,,-, sd R cont trn to fc COH,;- Bk & sd L BJO trng ¼,,-, bk R chkg CP fc RLOD,;- (Bk R trng LF,,-, sd L cont trn,,-; Fwd R trng,,-, fwd L CP LOD,;-)

15 [Gaucho trn 4 {Hamaca} QQQQ] Rk fwd L RLOD comm. LF trn, rk bk R cont trn, rk fwd L cont trn, rk bk R trng to DLC CP;

16 [Forward close QQ Rock recover QQ] Fwd L, cl R, rk fw L chkg, rec R CP bkg DRW;

PART B Mod

1-15 Repeat Meas. 1-15, Part B ending BJO chkg on M’s R (L) DLC;..............;

ENDING

1+ SENTADA TO THE RIGHT; LADY Flick;

1+ [Sentada to the right Lady flick SQQ +] Bk L trng RF,,-, sd R with flexed R knee extending L leg bring ptr to “sit” on R knee fcg LOD, hold stretching R sd; (Fwd R twd DRW,,-, sd L trng RF, cont trn sd & bk R chkg bk of R thigh to Man s R leg in loose SCP;) Man hold, (Look away from Man and flick L up & acrs R knee on the last note of music.)

NOTES:

The music for this dance was written by Argentine legend Carlos Gardel in 1935, and was used for the tango scene in the movie “Scent Of A Woman,” for which Al Pacino won an Academy Award. The lyrics tell the story of a man who is unlucky in picking women and race horses but he keeps trying.

Argentine Tango is danced much differently from other forms of tango, although it is the mother of them all. Argentine tango is more intimate with a more compact hold, and it is danced mostly on the balls of the feet, as a Latin rhythm, without the drive and staccato characteristics of the other tango forms. There are many styles of Argentine Tango, but the predominant style (salon style) calls for partners to dance upright, in vertical balance over their feet. Man’s right arm is around Lady’s lower back, with hand almost to her right side; her left hand is on his right shoulder or shoulder blade; Lady looks to her right except on turns and poses, when she can look at her partner. She will feel the lead from his torso, his upper right arm, his hand on her back and movement of his left hand. This dance begins with a small rocking action to feel a connection and establish balance, as would be done by partners starting a dance in a milonga (dance hall) in Argentina.

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QUICK CUES

Part A: (Meas. 1-16 ½)
Wait; Rock 3; Right foot basic;;
Tango close to BJO; Cruzada walks 4;; Side draw;
Back into turning ochos 4;;;
Lady slow forward ocho; Quick thru to boleo; Thru to basic ending;
Turning tango draw; Rock forward recover,,

Part B: (Meas. 1-16)
Corte Slow leg crawl; Extend Rise & close;
Open reverse turn; Open finish Lady quick gancho;
Slow double gancho with looks;; Lady slow forward ocho; Thru to basic ending Man touch;
Surprise check Lady outside swivel to SCP;
Thru doble cruz Wrap Lady to shadow;; Pickup touch BJO;
Men forward into Molinete right (circular grapevine with ocho ending) to CP;;; Walk 2;

Part C (Meas. 1-16)
Tango Close to BJO; Cruzada walks 4;; Side draw;
Back into turning ochos 4;;;
Lady slow forward ocho; Quick thru to boleo; Thru to basic ending;
Turning tango draw;
Walking turn 4 Ss;; Gaucho turn 4; Forward close Rock forward recover;

Part B Repeat (Meas. 1-15):
Corte Slow leg crawl; Extend Rise & close;
Open reverse turn; Open finish Lady quick gancho;
Slow double gancho with looks;; Lady slow forward ocho; Thru to basic ending Man touch;
Surprise check Lady outside swivel to SCP;
Thru doble cruz Wrap Lady to shadow;; Pickup touch BJO;
Men forward into Molinete right slowing to BJO;;;

End:
Back Sentada to right; Lady flick,