

MR. MERENGUE

**CHARACTERISTICS:** In round dancing, the Merengue rhythm is denoted using 4/4 timing. The music and the basic step may be counted 1, 2, 3, 4; although counting to 8 is also popular. Most merengue patterns require 4 beats or a multiple of 4 beats of music. The music tempo ranges from 120 to 160 beats per minute. The basic step can be thought of as side, close with strong Cuban motion, which is an essential defining element of the dance. It results from a combination of rolling the foot from the inside edge of the ball of foot to the flat of foot, delaying the full weight change, and the alternate bending and straightening of the knees. As full weight is taken on the supporting foot that knee straightens and that hip is pushed up and out while at the same time the knee of the free leg bends and that hip drops. The rolling action of the foot ensures the hip arrives after weight is taken over the new standing foot. Forward and back steps should be taken with forward poise and toes turned out. All steps are fairly small.

**NOTE:** In the Merengue context, the term "continuous" is used in the name of 2-measure figures which relate to already-familiar Rumba figures executed in "continuous" fashion, i.e., without the last beat hold, and ending with a 2-beat movement which is often a "side close".

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# Open Break to a Man's Wrap and Unwind

op brk to M's wrp & unwind

Open Break to a Man's Wrap and Unwind

1,2,3,4;

BK, REC, FWD, SD & BK;

1,2,-,-;

BK, HOOK, UNWIND, UNWIND;

(1,2,3,4;

(BK, REC, FWD, FWD;

1,2,3,4;)

FWD, FWD, FWD, SD;)

**MAN:** Rock apart left, recover right raising right hand straight up, forward left bringing right hand down and extending it to the side, side and back right ending in Man's Wrap Position with lead hands joined at man's right hip; back left slightly behind right, ronde right tightly and hook right behind left starting to rotate body right face, unwind right face on ball of right foot and heel of left foot, continue to unwind to end with weight on right foot;

**WOMAN:** Rock apart right extending left hand to the side, recover left, forward right towards man's right side, forward left beginning to circle around man to end behind him; continuing to circle around man forward right, forward left, forward right, side left to face man;

**NOTE:** The figure rotates one full turn and lead hands remain joined throughout.

## Phase V of Round Dancing

## # Stop and Go

1,2,3,4;

1,2,3,4;

none

Stop and Go

RK APT, REC, FWD, FWD CHK;

REC, BK, SD, CL;

(RK APT, REC, FWD TRN, BK CHK;

REC TRN, BK, SD, CL;)

**MAN:** Rock apart left, recover right, forward left placing right hand on woman's left shoulder blade, forward right checking and looking back at woman; recover left, back right, side left, close right;

**WOMAN:** Rock apart right, recover left, forward right turning  $\frac{1}{2}$  left face to end at man's right side, back left checking; recover right starting to turn right face, back left completing  $\frac{1}{2}$  right face turn, side right, close left;

**NOTE:** Starts and ends in Left Open Facing Position. The man has no turn. The woman has  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn left face then  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn right face.

## # Wrap Around

1,2,3,4;

1,2,3,4;

1,2,3,4;

1,2,3,4;

wrp arnd

Wrap Around

RK APT, REC, FWD WHL, FWD WHL;

FWD WHL, FWD WHL, FWD WHL, FWD WHL;

FWD WHL, FWD WHL, FWD WHL, IN PLC;

RK APT, REC TRN, IN PLC, IN PLC;

(RK APT, REC, FWD WRP, BK;

BK WHL, BK WHL, BK WHL, BK WHL;

IN PLC TRN, IN PLC TRN, IN PLC TRN, IN PLC TRN;

RK APT, REC TRN, IN PLC TRN, IN PLC TRN;)

**MAN:** With both hands joined rock apart left, recover right raising joined lead hands, forward left wrapping woman to man's right side and starting right face wheel, forward right completing  $\frac{3}{8}$  right face wheel; wheeling right face one full revolution in Wrapped Position forward left, right, left, right and raise joined lead hands keeping joined trail hands low; wheel right face left, right, left completing  $\frac{3}{8}$  right face wheel, in place right bringing lead hands down to Hammerlock Position [right hips adjacent, lead hands joined in front and trail hands joined behind woman's back]; rock apart left, recover right turning  $\frac{1}{4}$  right face and raising lead hands, in place left, in place right to Butterfly Position;

**WOMAN:** With both hands joined rock apart right, recover left, forward right turning left face  $\frac{1}{8}$  under joined lead hands to Wrapped Position, small back left; wheeling right face one full revolution in Wrapped Position back right, left, right, left and commence turning right face under joined lead hands with joined trail hands kept low; continuing to turn right face under joined lead hands in place right, left, right, left completing almost two full turns and bringing lead hands down to Hammerlock Position [right hips adjacent, lead hands joined in front and trail hands joined behind woman's back]; rock apart right, recover left starting left face turn under joined lead hands, continuing left face turn in place right, completing  $\frac{3}{4}$  left face turn in place left to Butterfly Position;

**NOTE:** Figure rotates two full revolutions with all hands remaining joined throughout. If started in Butterfly Wall, the first measure ends in Wrapped Position facing Diagonal Reverse Line and Center, as does the second measure, the third measure ends in Hammerlock Position facing Line of Dance [woman Reverse Line of Dance] and the fourth measure brings partners back to Butterfly Wall. The man's rotation is right face throughout:  $\frac{3}{8}$ , full turn,  $\frac{3}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ . The woman's turns are  $\frac{1}{8}$  left face under lead hands, full right face wheel,  $1+\frac{7}{8}$  right face turn under lead hands,  $\frac{3}{4}$  left face under lead hands.