

**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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<b>Snake</b>		
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## # Snake

1,2,3,4;

1,2,3,4;

1,2,3,4;

none

Snake

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

**MAN:** Raising lead hands and keeping trail hands low turn 3/4 left face under lead hands stepping in place left, right, left, right and bring lead hands down to a Man's Left Hammerlock Position [side by side left hips adjacent lead hands joined at woman's right hip and trail hands joined behind man's back]; raising lead hands and keeping trail hands low step in place left turning 1/8 right face, in place right completing 1/4 right face turn and bring lead hands down to momentary Back to Back Position, leaving lead hands down and raising trail hands step in place left turning 1/8 right face, in place right completing 1/4 right face turn and bring trail hands down to a Man's Hammerlock Position [side by side right hips adjacent trail hands joined at woman's left hip and lead hands joined behind man's back]; raising trail hands and keeping lead hands low turn 3/4 left face under trail hands stepping in place left, right, left, right to Butterfly Position;

**WOMAN:** With lead hands high and trail hands low step in place right, in place left, in place right turning 1/8 right face under joined lead hands, in place left completing 1/4 right face turn and lower lead hands to a Man's Left Hammerlock Position [side by side left hips adjacent lead hands joined at woman's right hip and trail hands joined behind man's back]; with lead hands high and trail hands low step in place right turning 1/8 right face under lead hands, in place left completing 1/4 right face turn and bring hands down to momentary Back to Back Position, leaving lead hands down and raising trail hands step in place right turning 1/8 right face under trail hands, in place left completing 1/4 right face turn and bring trail hands down to a Man's Hammerlock Position [side by side right hips adjacent trail hands joined at woman's left hip and lead hands joined behind man's back]; with trail hands high and lead hands low step in place right, in place left, in place right turning 1/8 right face, in place left completing 1/4 right face turn to Butterfly Position;

**NOTE:** Both partners step in place on each beat and all hands remain joined throughout. All the woman's turns are right face [1/4, 1/2, 1/4]. The man's turns are 3/4 left face, 1/2 right face, 3/4 left face. If started in Butterfly Wall the first measure ends in a Man's Left Hammerlock Position, man facing Reverse Line of Dance [woman Line of Dance], the second measure ends in a Man's Hammerlock Position, man facing Line of Dance [woman Reverse Line of Dance] and the third measure in Butterfly Wall.