



# Larrys Corner

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This is called Larrys Corner because when I teach I stand in the corner so I can see everyone.

If you want to read dance stories they are under Headlines or Larrys Corner.

[Http://www.comedancewithus.com](http://www.comedancewithus.com)  
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Do you have any likes or dislikes, stories, or helpful hints for dancing? If so, write it down and give to Larry Ablin or Barb Johnson. We will add it to one of the future News letters.

If you would like to tell us how you became interested in dancing, write it down and give to Larry or Barb, we will add your picture with it and put it in one of the future Newsletters. If you have anything you would like to write about, just write it up and give to Barb or Larry. I enjoy writing something for you.

Come Dance With Us

*Inside this issue:*

Rumba beginner mistakes

**American Rumba**

**Rumba**

## **Rumba Beginners usually make the following mistakes.**

### **Dancing on the wrong beat of the music** making their break step (Side together or Rock step) on the first beat of the measure.

The break step should occur on the second beat of the measure, not on the first, third, or fourth beat of the measure. As the music is slow, it is almost impossible to become a great rumba dancer without disciplining yourself to count the music and to dance strictly in conformance to the tempo.

### **Rushing the beat** and moving onto each foot placement abruptly.

### **Beginners fail to use leverage and compression connection** to effect and to follow leads.

Instead leading is often self-initiated. Finally, beginners usually do not develop the Cuban motion that is essential for characterizing this dance.

## **American Style Rhythm Rumba**

Ballroom Rumba is a sensual dance done to romantic music. But it didn't start out that way. Rumba comes from Cuba, where it is a folkloric dance performed to an orchestra of percussion. Cuban Rumba is something of a mating dance where the man plays the part of a rooster and the woman, the hen. It's fast and furious, not at all like the Rumba performed in ballrooms.

Ballroom Rumba actually comes from a Cuban form called "son" ("sound"), a slower, less eroticized music and dance form. Though sources are incomplete about the dance's development, we know that one of the first big son hit in the U.S., "The Peanut Vendor," sparked a craze in the 1930's for what Americans called "Rumba" music. We also know that the Rumba first began to be standardized as a ballroom dance in mid 1940's.

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The Rumba's distinguishing features are a romantic feel and a long beat. Perhaps most important to the character of the dance is its Cuban Motion; a rolling action of the hips that gives it its sensual look. The look is achieved by smoothly stepping on big toe then flexing and straightening the knee. The music is in 4/4 time, with a sensual feel, and the tempo is 28-31 bars per minute (112-124 bpm).

**Rumba** (RoomBah) was a generic term used to describe a music style rather than a dance style. The Rumba that is danced today is not really the Rumba of Cuba. The Ballroom Rumba of today is really the "**Son**" slower or "Danzon" even slower done in Cuba, a much slower and polite version of the true sexually "frantic" (FAST) Rumba. The "Son" was a popular middle class Cuban dance which is a modified version of the Rumba and the danzon' is even a slower version than the Son.

Originally it is said that the real Rumba came to Cuba through the African Slaves imported from Spain into that country over two hundred years ago. Cuba eventually banned the dance as being too wild to dance in public. Eventually the law was forgotten about and some people started dancing it which helped people become more aware of the dance during the 1920s and by 1925 President Machado put the ban back into effect, his decree stated: "this class of music (referring to african music) and the 'rumba' are contrary to the good custom and public order of Cuba". However it was reported that the upper class Cubans did not dance the Rumba anyway as it was too wild and frantic.

The Son is played in two parts (chorus and verse) while the Son dancers only dance to the chorus. The claves (instrument) create the mood of the dance. However, it may have been originally a *Pantomimic* dance of Africa that found its way to Cuba (Afro-Cuban.) The son as a music began to take shape in the latter half of the 19th century in Cuba's Oriente province, and gave birth to several hybrids including the afro-son, guajira-son, son-pregón and son-montuno. The son is perhaps the most important form at the root of today's popular salsa music. After a period of change and development here in the States, the Son evolved into a popular sensual couples dance known today as the Rumba.

Lew Quinn and Joan Sawyer is said to have tried the first real attempt at introducing the Rumba to Americans as far back as 1913, followed by Emil Coleman in 1923 and by Benito Colada in 1925 at a club called "El Chico" in Greenwich Village. In 1929 a small interest was growing in Latin-American music and in 1930 a Nuevos Ritmo (new rhythm) song called "The Peanut Vendor" by Don Azpiazu's Havana Casino Orchestra was released which became a hit as a new DANCE to America dance form.

By the 1930's all of America had become knowledgeable of Latin music and the Rumba. The American Rumba of today is a version of the son that Quinn and Sawyer tried to introduce years ago. Today it is known as a Latin-Ballroom couples dance, also known as the Dance Of Flirt.

Many of the erotic movements stem from the original dancers doing the tasks of the day such as "shoeing the mare", "climbing a rope" or the "courtship of barnyard fowls." The costumes that many performers wear, represent this in the woman's long ruffled train of her skirt (hens feathers) or the mans ruffled shirt sleeves and or chest which represents the cocks hackle feathers. The Rumba is a nice dance for dancers to showcase their technique ability on a dance floor.

The Rumba is erroneously spelled Rhumba at times. The Jamaican Mento dance closely resembles the Rumba. The Rumba was replaced in popularity by the Mambo, and later the Cha-Cha.

Also a new dance (c.1975) called the Night Club-Two Step was originally known as "Disco Two Step" (Buddy Schwimmer) is a modern semi-version of the Rumba, (a few say samba), it is done to modern slow music by pop artists such as Madonna etc. NC-2 is mainly done in the West Coast Swing community.