

# MTango

## Milonga etiquette

### To Get a Dance... the *cabeceo*

-The *cabeceo* is the Argentine Tango way to ask someone to dance. Most commonly men ask women to dance by making eye contact with the follower and nodding towards the dance floor. The follower, if she would like to dance, nods back and moves toward the dance floor with the leader. If the follower does not want to dance, she avoids eye contact. A leader may also come up and ask "Would you like to dance?" where the follower may choose yes or can respond a polite no.

-If a follower does not want to dance some polite responses are "No, thank you." "No, not right now, thanks." Or they can say "I'm resting right now." "My feet hurt, not right now." If a follower says they are resting, then they should not jump up to dance with the next leader who asks, it's considered rude.

\*\*A very important thing to remember: It is perfectly fine to say no and to receive a no. Dancing with someone is a privilege, it's not an obligation.

### During the dance

- There is a traffic flow to the dancing, moving counterclockwise along the dance floor at the same speed as the other couples. It is also considered rude to pass someone or to talk on the dance floor without dancing and hold up traffic behind you. The leaders should be conscious of the couples around them, making sure to take up the space in front of them so not to cramp others behind them.

- If a collision does occur (which it will, especially on a crowded dance floor) either a verbal "I'm sorry" or make eye contact. No road rage please!

-The music is played in a set of 3 or 4 songs called a *tanda*. In between tandas the DJ plays 30 seconds of non-tango music called a *cortina*. During the *cortina*, couples may either decide to keep dancing or say "Thank you" which in tango means 'I'm done dancing with you at this moment.' So if you would like to keep dancing, do not say "Thank you" during the *cortina*. It is also fairly common to dance more than one *tanda*, sometimes even 3 *tandas* if the couple is really enjoying the dance but dancing for more than that seems like the couple is monopolizing themselves. If you ask someone to dance, you're expected to dance until the end of the *tanda*.

# MTango

## Milonga etiquette

- The DJ will play tandas of Tango, Vals, Milonga and sometimes some alternative or NeoTango. Each has its own musical classification, and even different orchestras who are playing the same song may have a different "feel". Each tanda will contain similar music within itself, and the style of music will tend to differ between them.
- To talk or not to talk? It depends on the couple. Some enjoy a friendly conversation while dancing, others like to be swept away by the dance. It is perfectly ok to say "I'm sorry but I find it hard to concentrate on the steps while talking."
- A practica is when people practice challenging steps where it is acceptable to ask for advice and help. But during a milonga, it is rude to critique technique and give advice on steps; save comments for the practicas.
- Don't feel pressured to bust out your entire repertoire! In fact, most followers prefer leaders who use steps they have mastered well (even if they are simple). Enjoying the dance and moving to the music is the key...the steps are just the means by which to enjoy the dance.
- Most importantly: Enjoy the dance, the friends, and the environment!!

Happy Dancing!! ;)

Modified from <http://www.tangomuse.com/TangoManners.html>