

Reference Sheet for Rasche Notation 2

Rasche Notation enables structural analysis of Argentine Tango. You can write your Tango dance steps and figures!

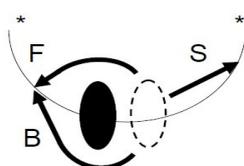


Steps

Argentine Tango dance steps are written using symbols with the syntax: '*what goes where*'. A step is a new foot placement and with full axis (weight) transfer onto that foot, unless noted**. We also assume prior knowledge of Tango dance lead & follow.

'*what...*' **L** and **R** Left and Right feet (or legs).

'*...goes where*' + and - forwards towards + or back away - from the partner.



These steps go around the partner, between * and * in the diagram:

S is a Side step (also called an open step).

B is a Behind cross step (across, behind the standing leg).

F is a Front cross step (across, in front of the standing leg).

s is a small close (side) step, with the feet together; with weight change.

b is a small behind cross step in direction **B**, with the feet together.

f is a small front cross step in direction **F**, with the feet together.

Examples **L+** Left foot (what...) steps towards (+) towards the partner; it takes axis.
 RF Right foot does Front cross step, around the partner; it then takes axis.
 Lf Cross step (*cruzada*), e.g. follower's small Left front cross; it takes axis.
 Rb Right foot steps behind, but touching the left foot; it then takes axis.

Special **R%** Right foot steps between partner's feet (%), a *sacada*. It then takes axis.
 examples **L=** Left foot step with contact against partner's foot (=). It then takes axis.

**Incomplete steps

Note: a step is defined as starting with a foot lifted from the ground; it ends with full weight transfer (not with feet together, as in *balanceo*). Incomplete steps have symbols added:

- c** collect. The foot is brought in, next to standing leg; no weight change.
- p** placement. The foot is projected and placed on the floor.
- r** partial weight transfer (**r**) onto placed foot. Aide memoir: 'r' is half of 'n'.
- n** full weight transfer (**n**) onto the placed foot. The 'n' looks like a bridge.

Also **@** embellishments. A movement in the air @ without placement.

Examples **LFp** Left foot does a Front cross step, projection only, no weight transfer.
 @LB embellishment @ of the Left leg (what...), in the direction of **B**, a *boleo*.
 Rc Feet together *balanceo*: Right foot collect (brought in) no weight change.
 nL Weight transferred **n** (what...), onto the Left foot (...goes where).

Rasche Notation stave

Write step combinations and dance phrases, the step symbols are put on a stave:

C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Compás line for rhythm/music phrase.
D	{ <i>paso basico</i> / basic step }								Description line for comments/notes.
M	R-	LS	RF	L+	Rs	L+	RS	Ls	Man's dance line, the leader's steps.
W	L+	RS	L-	R-	Lf	R-	LS	Rs	Woman's dance line, follower's steps.

...Note the vertical alignment of steps!

Other useful symbols

C and **G** Clockwise, and **G** anticlockwise turns ('G' looks like an anticlockwise arrow).

€ upper body ('€' looks like arms), for *torsion* and other aspects of the embrace.