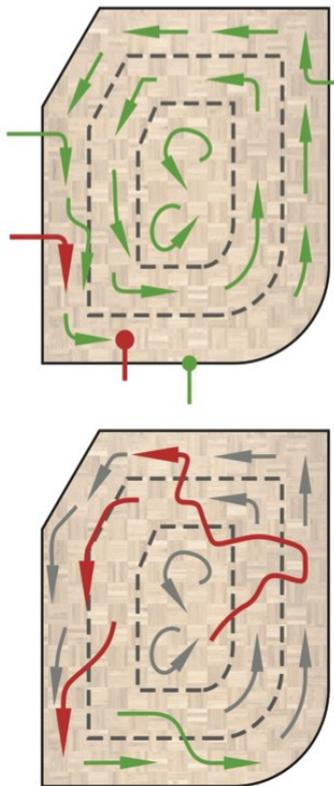


The Flow of Tango

The tenets of good floorcraft came into being over many decades of the milongas in Buenos Aires. Respecting the line of dance and the adjacent dancers also allows everyone to focus more on the music and their partner, enjoy the tanda more, and mitigate accidents. Remember that we are dancing with everyone on the floor.

- ✓ Follow the lanes in counter-clockwise direction, and avoid changing lanes.
- ! The number and width of lanes depends on the size of the dance floor and the number of dancers. Generally there are two lanes about 3ft wide.
- Enter the dance floor at the corners or where there is space, and only after the couple to your left has seen you.
- ✓ Don't start right next to another couple and force them out of their lane.
- Never cross the middle of the dance floor.
- ✗ Preferably hug the sides, and ideally wait for the song or better, for the tanda, to end.
- ✗ Resist the urge to dance into gaps wherever there is space in the next lane. This only causes chaos on the dance floor.
- ✗ Avoid "the dreaded back step" or dancing back towards the couple behind you.
- ✗ Avoid changing between the two lanes. Hovering near or zig-zagging over the lane margins is extremely annoying. Try to keep your line of dance in the middle of your 3ft. lane.
- ! If you must change lanes, ensure that you have been noticed. Give space to others who want to change lanes.
- ✓ Changing lanes is preferable to passing, but if you must pass within your lane, pass only on the left, never ever on the right, where the lead you are passing has a blind spot.



✗ Don't crowd the couple in front of you—known as "tailgating". They still need to be able to do a giro, or may do an ocho cortado.

✓ In case of a traffic jam, do your best to stay in your lane. Usually, after passing it is not much better. Use small space sequences.

✗ If there is a lot of space in front of you, most likely there is a traffic jam behind you—known as "dawdling".

! Followers: Keep ganchos and boleos low and close to the floor, except if you know that there is space or if you completely trust your partner. Accidents and injuries are not always your partner's fault.

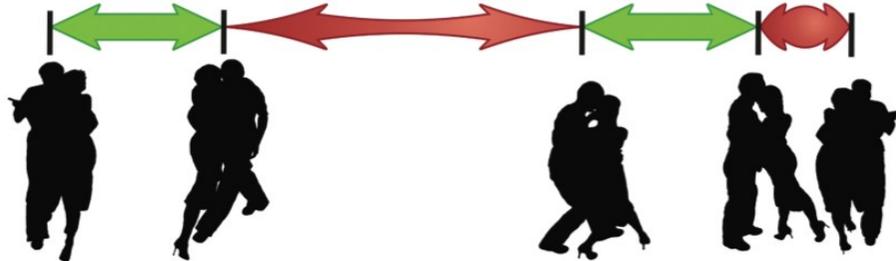


! Don't forget to leave the dance floor during the cortina!

✓ Remain aware of the adjacent couples using your peripheral vision.



! Small counter-clockwise giros help you see better and other small-space vocabulary is beneficial on a crowded dance floor. Keep movements small as the dance floor becomes more crowded.



✓ Aim for equal distribution between the couples.

