

THE CHA-CHA

The Cha-Cha, which originated in Cuba in the 1950's, is one of the easiest of the Latin American dances to learn. However, although you should be able to master the basic pattern very quickly, you will need time to achieve attractive style in the dance. A good Cha-Cha dancer uses Rumba motion in almost all of the steps. (See page 10.)

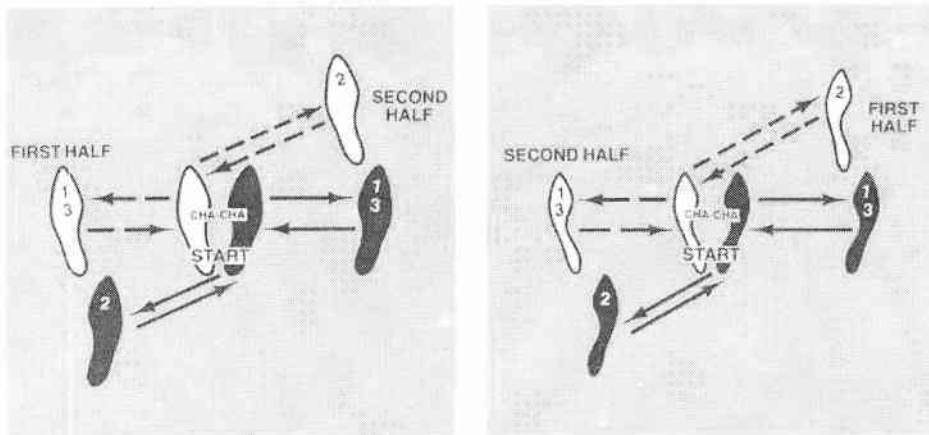
Before studying the Basic Cha-Cha pattern at right, first learn how to count in this dance. For there are two ways to count the definite and unmistakable Cha-Cha rhythm. So, as you are learning the pattern, use whichever count you prefer. You may count "1, 2, 3, 4-and" or "1, 2, 3, Cha-Cha." Practice counting aloud to Cha-Cha music in *Dance Party*. Accent count 2 of each measure. After you have learned the Basic Cha-Cha, use it while turning to your left.

The Open Break in the Cha-Cha

This is a universally popular Cha-Cha variation using the open dance position that you have already used in the Open Rumba Walk. In this pattern, both man and woman should be sure to read and study each other's part, since the woman's footwork is the second half of the basic step and is not the natural opposite of the man's.

MAN'S PART: Do the first four steps of the Basic Cha-Cha, releasing right-hand hold of partner on the 4-and (or Cha-Cha) count. Then: 1. Step to right side with right foot. 2. Step back with left foot, accenting step. 3. Step in place with right foot. 4-and (or Cha-Cha). Step to left side with left foot and bring right foot next to left, weight on right. (Accent count 2 of each measure.)

WOMAN'S PART: Follow the steps of the Basic Cha-Cha. Note that this means you will be stepping back, in open position, on the second count 2 while the man is also stepping back.



The Basic Cha-Cha

MAN'S PART

First Half

1. Step to left side with left foot.
2. Step back with right foot, accenting step.
3. Step in place with left foot.
- 4-and (or Cha-Cha). Step to right side with right foot and bring left foot next to right.

Second Half

1. Step to right side with right foot.
2. Step forward with left foot, accenting step.
3. Step in place with right foot.
- 4-and (or Cha-Cha). Step to left side with left foot and bring right foot next to left.

WOMAN'S PART

First Half

1. Step to right side with right foot.
2. Step forward with left foot, accenting step.
3. Step in place with right foot.
- 4-and (or Cha-Cha). Step to left side with left foot and bring right foot next to left.

Second Half

1. Step to left side with left foot.
2. Step back with right foot, accenting step.
3. Step in place with left foot.
- 4-and (or Cha-Cha). Step to right side with right foot and bring left foot next to right.