



# 3-steps plan

to improve your  
ability to read her



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There is no doubt that developing the ability to read the partner in your embrace will do miracles for your dancing. It seems that once you learn this, leading her in the complex patterns and steps becomes much easier.

The hardest part is **HOW TO LEARN THIS?**

...or, if you already developed some skills to read your partner,  
**HOW TO IMPROVE THIS?**

What stops people from getting better in reading their partners is that some consider this out of the reach of the tango teacher.

Some argue that those reasons are too personal, but, I would say, tango is personal as well. Tango faces us with our inner demons and weakness. Face them in tango and you are facing them in life. Become more caring partner in tango and you are becoming a better person in life as well.

This is fascinating topic and there is a lot to be said – but this plan is about action, not about talking.

There are 3 steps and I imagine that you will work on them for 3 weeks – take one step every week. Anyway, if you decide, you can take them all at once – what is the most important thing is the effect they have on your dancing.

Enjoy!

Ivica

# Step 1: Read her timing!

One of the biggest discomforts for a woman in tango is when she dances with a man who rushes her in to the moves, disregarding her readiness or willingness to follow. It feels rough and disrespectful.

How to read her timing? You have to understand that your role is not to make her do what you intended, but to invite her – and it is her part of the deal, to finish what you proposed.

If you already understand this concept and using it, don't skip this part – this step will still improve your ability to follow her timing, no matter what is your level or experience.

## exercise

*The goal of this exercise is to take away your ability to force her doing things she can't follow. At first it might seem awkward, but after you understand the trick – it works miracle for your ability to follow her timing.*



*Instead of creating embrace with your partner, just stay in front of her, touch each other fingers and try to lead her like that. Just lead her walking left or right, not to dance.*

*You will notice that if you try to rush her, she will be left behind and you will loose connection. The only way to lead her in this way is if you have complete focus on her timing.*

*Another version of this exercise is to dance in close embrace with your hands behind your back.*

## Step 2: Know her position!

No man can be a good dancer if he is not aware of the position of her feet. It is like you are able to find the light switch in your room even in complete darkness – you don't have to see it to know that it's there.

But how do you learn this? Even when we are not aware of it, our brain is mapping the world around us and this helps us find the light switch even in complete darkness.

This exact ability will help you to predict where her feet is, even without seeing it – even when she is moving. In order to do so, you will have to use your imagination, feel how her body moves and picture in your mind where her body parts are.

### exercise

*Try this exercise in close embrace. Close your eyes and make a sidestep. Let her stand on one feet and then try to imagine what is the distance between her and your feet. Try to get her out of her balance – just slight subtle move will help your brain to imagine where she is.*

*I recommend you try this exercise with more experienced partner – beginners usually have unpredictable patterns and it is harder to guess where they are. On the other hand, if you need bigger challenge, than I recommend you try it with a complete beginner.*



*You can try this exercise with just one sidestep or, if you want to make it more complex, with few steps. If you want to do the complex version – just make few steps (sidestep or forward), then stop and try to figure out where her feet is.*

*(what you see on the picture above are some of the students of my workshops)*

## Step 3: Correct her mistakes!

Your goal should be the following situation: the dance ends and she goes to her seat with this thoughts in her mind - “That was a good dance, I didn’t made a single mistake, everything was flawless!”.

On the other side, you are going to your seat aware how many mistakes she made and you successfully corrected them all.

Yes, it is your responsibility to correct her mistakes. Tango is not a competition, you lead the movements and it is your responsibility to correct the mistakes. If she makes a mistake, you follow her mistake and improvise in a way that it all looks like that was actually your intention.

### exercise

*This exercise will work best if you practice with someone who has some experience. Ask your partner to add some random extra steps or little pauses, even if you didn’t lead her to – and then, when you feel that she did that, you follow her and change the intended movements to match her steps.*





*If you practice with beginners you will probably get those extra steps or pauses even without asking that from them.*

*Try both ways – it will increase your ability to read your partner*

## Step 4: Feel her emotions!

Well, some might say that this goes beyond tango and I agree, but dancing with someone includes human interactions and this is something which includes emotions. Tango especially!

In this extra step I want to recommend you do something which will help you improve your emotional intelligence – something which will help you improve your personal connection with the human being you dance with.

Make some search on Internet or get a good book that will help you read and understand emotions better.

## Now what?

Your ability to read your partner will be challenged. Even if you are an advanced dancer. The milonga is often unpredictable place and if you don't have the right skills the distractions will overwhelm you.

This is why the milongueros from the Golden Age developed their style around the ability to use less space, so they can focus all their attention on the connection and musicality.

One way to learn some of those skills is to travel to Argentina and find some of those guys to teach you how to dance better in crowded milongas. Another is to travel to a big tango festival and find a maestro who can teach you.

I offer you a third option: an online course with more than 2 hours of video lessons... you can start learning right now and right here. No need to invest in trips or teachers. Click the red button bellow to find out more!

**Magician on the crowded dance floor**

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