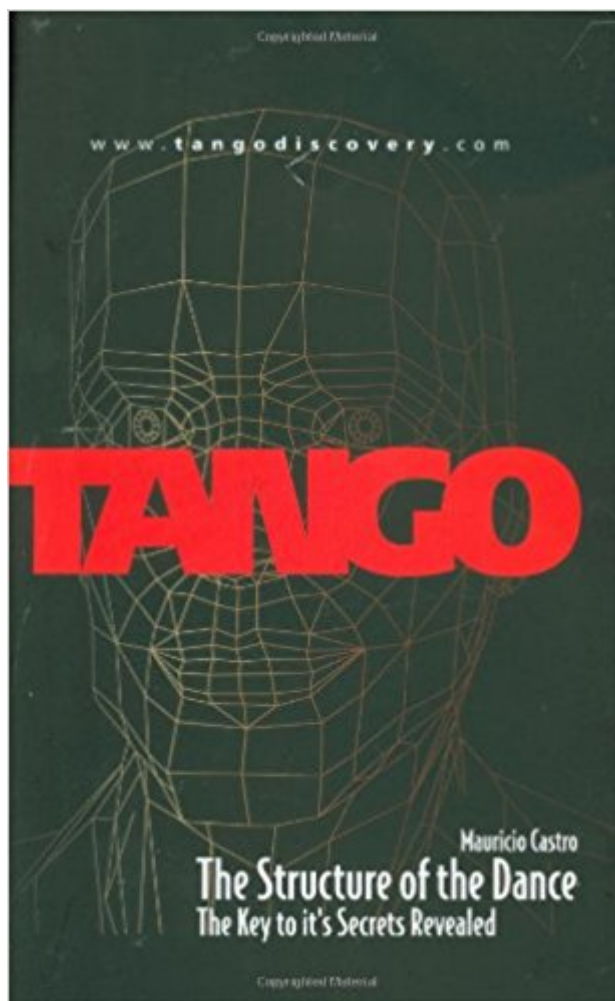


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Tango: The Structure Of The Dance Vol.1



Synopsis

Mauricio Castro's book offers a new system to help the dancer creatively develop his/her tango using solidly established technical foundations. The instructions can be easily followed with the help of a series of two and three-dimensional diagrams especially designed by the author. The method is explained in a clear, concise and efficient way and includes lessons for the beginner to the most advanced in tango dance theory. This book revolutionizes all of the traditional concepts used until now in the teaching of this sensuous, passionate and complex dance form which acquires enthusiastic new followers daily, all around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Mauricio Castro is the founder of Tango discovery and a renowned dancer and teacher of Argentine Tango. He created and developed a personal style of dancing and teaching tango in Buenos Aires and then, through Tango discovery, he brought it to the rest of the world. To his solid musical education at the prestigious Berklee College of Music (Boston, USA), he added contemporary dance and movement technique studies (Laban Analysis, Bartenieff Fundamentals and The Skinner Releasing Technique, among others). In addition, he also studied Human Sciences in Neuro Linguistic Programming, Design Human Engineering and Human Ecology. The joining of these disciplines and influences allowed him to create his particular and unmistakable style, systematizing it into an innovative method to accelerate the process of learning to dance. Breaking out from rigid sequences, his focus is to develop improvisation skills through a simple and dynamic technique where students discover not only a relaxed and released style, but

also a new way of expressing and communicating with their bodies. The synthesis of his method, recognized worldwide by hundred of dancers, is available not only by attending his classes but also in his books and cutting-edge multimedia CD-ROMs, available in several languages. From the beginning, Castro insists that the tango may and should be for anyone, something so pleasurable and common like breathing . From a review of *Tango, The Structure of the Dance Vol. 1* . In the newspaper *La Nación* (10/07/2001). Argentina.

Tango is usually taught using a series of well-known patterns -- students might recognize ideas such as the "eight-count basic," "back ochos," or the "ocho cortado." Dancers usually learn to dance by learning these sequences, then assembling and inventing little variations. Late in the 20th century, several tango dancers (the author among them) discovered that there is a far more basic structure underlying all these sequences. Every known sequence -- almost every possible sequence, in fact, can be described in terms of just three basic kinds of step combined in different ways. This is a surprisingly but incredibly powerful revelation: it is as if you've been learning a language from a phrasebook, and all of a sudden somebody introduces you to the grammar. You've only learned whole melodies, and somebody teaches you to name the notes. It opens up an entire world of possibilities for invention, improvisation, and personal expression. Some people are bewildered by this. They need prearranged sequences, things that they can memorize and repeat. If you find the idea of improvisation threatening instead of exciting, skip this book, and keep learning your sequences. If, however, you are a creative person, and you feel that there are many things you *could* do with the dance -- if only you could figure out the possibilities! -- then get this book. The whole thing is good, but what you really want is the first 15 or 20 of the "Theory" section. That's the heart of the book, and it will change your tango world. Complaints: (1) As with "Tango Awareness," the editing is poor, and there are some conspicuous typos. Hopefully a new edition will fix this. (2) Much of the book is really just exercises working out many possible combinations of the same things for you to practice. While working through all those combinations is good -- essential, in fact! -- that material is quite tedious in a book, and probably better presented in video or audio form. I don't own the CD ROM, but it might be a better buy. Regardless, get this book -- and if nothing else, read the first part of "Theory" carefully, word by word, until you understand it thoroughly. Your effort will be rewarded many, many times over.

The CD ROM is an outdated technology.

I have finally found a book seriously written about this beautiful dance. I recommend it to anyone that really wants to improve.

GREAT ! I am a beginner dancer and I found this book to be very clear and to the point. Happy tangos everyone !

I have been taking Tango lessons in the San Francisco Bay Area on and off for 3 years. The instructors always refer to the Spanish names of the patterns or moves, such as a "Barrida" or "Curzada". I wanted a book that would be a reference to the patterns I was using so I ordered this book. However, I was amazed to find that all the moves lack the Spanish name, instead using terms like "front cross", "open step". I cannot tie those patterns back to what I am learning and returned the book. I did like all the wonderful footwork diagrams in the book and would have been thrilled if they were titled with the Spanish name, such as "ochos".

I had 3 years of serious tango experience when I ordered this book. At first I was puzzled and didn't understand what Mr. Castro was telling that I not already knew. I thought the diagrams were funny and confusing. Then I saw Mr. Castro teach and walk and vary on the 'basico' and walk and walk... and everything became clear to me. It gave me a complete new outlook on what I had learned and what I still want to learn. The book is not only a good help in learning the first steps, it is especially a good help to lift you up to a higher level, where variation and improvisation are more important than the movements. I understand a CD-Rom is in the making, I can't wait!

Mauricio's handbook is both a great starter book for those looking to get into the tango scene, and a great refresher for those who have had some tango classes. It introduces the basic steps that you will need to know in order to get any further in this line of dance. The instructions are very easy to understand and the pictures are very helpful. If you would like to learn some of the moves (and feel comfortable doing them) before you take a class with a live instructor, this book is what you need.

My boyfriend who is a computer programmer has been struggling with tango and refusing to dance with me. I bought him a copy of this book to try to encourage him. He read the section on ochos and said "Aha! It says here you can do it in parallel or cross systems" then all of a sudden he knew how it all works. I still prefer to learn kinesthetically by taking lessons, but for his analytical mind this approach worked like a charm.

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