Rumba — Figure Descriptions

Basic Movements – Closed,Open, In Place, Alternative

CLOSE BASIC MOVEMENT
Start: LF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE -Couple Position: May be danced in Open Opposing position with appropriate hold

OPEN BASIC MOVEMENT
Start: LF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH hold)
Finish: RF fwd (Open Opp.; LH TO RH hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE -Lead-Hold-Shaping: May be danced without hold

ALTERNATIVE BASIC MOVEMENT
Start: LF closed to RF (Ex. Open Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

Progressive Walks Forward or Back, Forward in Right Shadow (kiki), Forward in R or L Side Position

PROGRESSIVE FORWARD WALKS
Start: RF fwd (R Diag. Same; RH on Lady’s R shoulder)
Finish: RF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 4-9 only may be used.
NOTE - General Action: Lady may dance a Spiral Turn on step 6 and then continue as chart.

FORWARD AND BACKWARD WALKS AMALGAMATIONS
Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //
NOTE - General: After any figure or part of figure that ends in Open Opp. Position a series of Fwd or Bwd walks may be danced for a maximum of 2 bars of music (6 walks). When the Man is dancing Fwd Walks the Lady is dancing Bwd Walks and vice versa. The walks may curve to R or L. Man and Lady may dance a series of Fwd Walks for a maximum of 2 bars (6 walks) in R Side or L Side Same Position (e.g. following a Hand to Hand).

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

Spot Turns – to Left, Right

SPOT TURN TO L
Start: RF fwd and slightly across (Right Side Same Pos.; no hold)
Finish: RF to side (Open Opp.; RH to LH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

SPOT TURN TO R
Start: LF fwd and slightly across (Left Side Same Pos.; no hold)
Finish: LF to side (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

Switch Turns –to Right, Left

(ISTD only)
Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

Under Arm Turns - Right, Left

UNDERARM TURN TURNING R
Start: RF bwd (Left Diag. R Angle Pos.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

UNDERARM TURN TURNING L
Start: LF fwd and slightly across (Left Diag. Same; LH to RH)
Finish: LF to side (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

New York – to Left Side or Right Side Position

NEW YORK TO L
Start: RF fwd (Right Side Same Pos.; RH to LH)
Finish: RF to side (Open Opp.; RH to LH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

NEW YORK TO R
Start: LF fwd (Left Side Same Pos.; LH to RH)

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

Finish: LF to side (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

Hand to Hand – to Right Side, to Left Side

HAND TO HAND TO R
Start: RF bwd (Left Side Same Pos.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //
HAND TO HAND TO L
Start: LF bwd (Right Side Same Pos.; RH to LH)
Finish: LF fwd (Open Opp.; RH to LH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //

Alemana

Start: LF fwd (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
Finish: RF fwd and slightly across body (R Diag. Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE - Couple position: May start in Open Opp. Position.
NOTE- General Action: Steps 1-2 for Man may be danced as a Cuban Rock Action. Man may dance step 9 as a Side Walk or a Walk in Place depending on the following figure.

Fan

Start: RF to bwd (L Diag. Opp.; RH releases hold)
Finish: RF to side (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - Couple Position: May end in Open Opp. Position

Hockey Stick

Start: LF fwd (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
Finish: RF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

Natural Top

Start: RF crossed behind LF (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF fwd and slightly across body OP (R Diag. Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 7-9 only may be used.
NOTE - General Action: Man may lead the Lady to dance a Spiral Action turning to L on step 4 turning under the Man’s arm, or a Spiral Cross turning to R on step 3. Man may dance step 9 as a Side Walk or a Walk in Place depending on the following figure.

Natural Opening Movement

Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

Side Step to Right or Left

Start: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal hold)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; Normal hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3, 4-6, 7-9 or 10- 12 only may be used. Man may dance Lady’s steps and vice versa

Cucarachas RF or LF

Start: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal hold)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; Normal hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3, 4-6, 7-9 or 10- 12 only may be used. Man may dance Lady’s steps and vice versa

Shoulder to Shoulder – Left Side or Right Side

Start: LF fwd (l Diag. Opp.; w/o Hold)
Finish: RF to side (Open Opp.; w/o Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used. Man may dance Lady’s steps and vice versa.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

Reverse Top Aida

REVERSE TOP
Start: LF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF to side (Close. Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 4-6 only may be used
NOTE - General Action/ Couple Position: Lady may dance two backward walks on steps 5-6 to finish in Fan L Angle Position (OPENING OUT FROM REVERSE TOP)
AIDA
Start: RF fwd(R Side. Same; RH to LH)
Finish: RF to side (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2& 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General Action: Lady may dance a Spiral Cross or Spiral Turn at the end of the preceding step and follow as chart. Man may replace steps 1-3 with 3 bwd Walks, having turned 1/4 to R on the preceding Step. Both Man and Lady may dance steps 1-3 as 3 BWD walks after a back Swivel on the preceding step (¼ to R Man, ¼ to L Lady)

Hip Twists – Closed, Open, Advanced

CLOSE HIP TWIST
Start: LF fwd (Back R Diag same; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF to side and slightly Fwd (Fan L Angle.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
OPEN HIP TWIST
Start: LF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF to side (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 4-6 only may be used.

Spiral

Start: LF to side (Back R Diag. Same; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //

Cuban Rocks

Start:
Finish:

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

//Timing: 2 3 4.1 or 2&3 4.1 (SYNCOPATED CUBAN ROCKS) //
NOTE - Couple Position/ General Action: Cuban Rocks and Syncopated Cuban Rocks may be danced sideways in Close Opp. or Open Opp. Position, or fwd or bwd in Open Opp. Position. Syncopated Cuban Rocks may also be danced following any figure that ends in Fan L Angle position. The Lady will dance a fwd and the Man a sideways Cuban rock action.

Opening out to Right and Left

Start: LF to side (R Diag. R Angle; Release LH hold)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; RH to Lady's L shoulder blade)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be danced Man may close RF to LF on the preceding step

Curl

Start: LF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF to side (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //

Opening out from Reverse Top

(ISTD only)
Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

Sliding Doors

Start: LF fwd (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
Finish: RF closed to LF (R Side Same.; RH on Lady's R shoulder)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1- 6 only may be used. Steps 7 - 12 may be repeated.
NOTE - General Action/ Hold: When followed by the Spiral, it is danced without hold. Man may replace steps 4-6 of the Spiral with 3 Fwd walks.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

Rope Spinning

Start: LF to side (R Diag. Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE- Couple Position: It may end in Open Opp. Position
NOTE - General Action/ Couple Position: Man May dance step 6 as a Side Walk or both dance step 6 as a step fwd and slightly across body OP to end in R Diag. Opp. Position

Three Almena’s

Start: LF fwd (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
Finish: RF fwd and slightly across body (R Diag. Opp..; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - Couple position: May start in Open Opp. Position. May end in Open Opposing Pos. NOTE General Action: Steps 1-2 for Man may be danced as a Cuban Rock Action.

Continuous Hip Twists

Start: LF fwd, T turned out (Back R Diag. same; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF fwd and slightly across body (R Diag. Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General Action: Steps 1-3 may be danced as a Cucaracha to L. Step 6 may be danced as RF closed to LF, in that case steps 4-6 will be a Cucaracha to R

Circular Hip Twists

Start: LF fwd (Back R Diag. same; RH to RH or Normal Hold)
Finish: RF to side (Fan L Angle.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 10 - 12 may be replaced by steps 4 -6 of Close Hip twist finished to side.

Fencing

Start: LF fwd (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
Finish: RF to side (Open Opp.; Normal Hold or w/o hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2.3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-6 only may be used

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

NOTE - General Action/: Steps 7-8 may be danced by one partner only, the other partner will dance a Syncopated Cuban Rock When dancing only steps 1-6 Man and Lady may both turn and the end of step 6 Man 1 full turn to R, Lady to L) to end in Open or Close Opp. Position with free foot closed w/o weight. Man may also lead the Lady to turn a full turn to L under his LH on step 6.

Three Threes

Start: LF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF fwd (Open Opp..; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //
NOTE- General Action / Couple Position: Alternative endings • Lady may dance a Fwd Walk on step 9, turning ½ to R (Swivel) at the end of step 9 , followed by a Fwd Walk Turning, Wt Transfer in Place and Fwd Walk Turning to end in Open Opp. Position w/o Hold • Lady may dance a Fwd Walk on step 9 followed by a Fwd Walk Turning ,Weight Transfer in Place and Fwd Walk to end in R Diag. Opp. Position w/o Hold or in Normal Hold

Syncopated Open Hip Twist

(WDSF only)
Start: LF fwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: RF to side (Fan L Angle.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2& 3 4.1 //
NOTE - General: Steps 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE - Couple Position: May end in Open Opp. Position
NOTE - Timing: Alternative timing & 4.1 may be used on steps 3 and 4

Advanced Sliding Doors

(WDSF only)
Start: LF fwd (Back R Diag. Same; w/o Hold)
Finish: RF fwd and slightly across body (R Diag. Opp.; w/o Hold)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 //

Swivels

(WDSF only)
Start: RF to side (L Diag. R Angle.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF to side (Fan L Angle; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4.1 2 3 4. //

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

NOTE - Couple Position: It may end in Open Opp. Position

Overturned Basic

(WDSF only)
Start: LF fwd (Ext. Open Opp.; LH to RH)
Finish: LF bwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH)
//Timing: 2 3 4.1 2 3 4. //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-4 only may be used. After step 7 it is possible to follow with steps 4-6 of Alemana from Open Opp. Position, Curl, Open Hip Twist, Syncopated Open Hip Twist.....

From:
https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/ - **DSA Rules**

Permanent link:
https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638

Last update: **2026/06/23 13:17**

This printed or downloaded copy is not a controlled document. Always check the link above for the current version of this rule.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:rumba:rumba&rev=1782184638