Samba — Figure Descriptions

Basic Movement - Natural, Reverse, Side, Alternative

NATURAL BASIC MOVEMENT
Start: RF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE -Timing: If used as a link between Natural and Reverse Roll, alternative timing of SQQ may be used with no bounce action.
REVERSE BASIC MOVEMENT
Start: LF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE -Timing: If used as a link between Natural and Reverse Roll, alternative timing of SQQ may be used
SIDE BASIC MOVEMENT TO L
Start: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS //
SIDE BASIC MOVEMENT TO R
Start: RF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS //

Whisks to Left, to Right

SAMBA WHISK TO LEFT
Start: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS //
SAMBA WHISK TO RIGHT
Start: RF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS //
NOTE - Couple Position: May end in PP

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Samba Walks - Promenade, Side, Stationary

PROMENADE SAMBA WALKS
Start: LF fwd (R Side Same; Promenade Hold)
Finish: LF slipped bwd (R Side Same; Promenade Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
SIDE SAMBA WALK
Start: RF fwd (R Side Same; Promenade Hold)
Finish: RF slipped leftwards (R Side Same; Promenade Hold)
//Timing: SaS //
NOTE - General: Man can start with LF and dance the Lady's steps and the Lady starts with RF and dances the Man's steps when starting from L Side Same Pos.
NOTE - Quantity of Turn and Couple Position: ¼ to R (Lady L) can be made to finish in Open Opposing Position or 1/8 to R (Lady L) to end in Open Promenade position. The hold will change according to the next figure
STATIONARY SAMBA WALKS
Start: Instep of LF to T of RF (Open Opp.; LH to RH and RH to LH Hold)
Finish: RF slipped slightly bwd (Open Opp.; LH to RH and RH to LH Hold, LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used. When dancing a Stationary Samba Walk Man may lead Lady to turn (Spot Volta making a complete turn) under raised arm.
NOTE - Hold: Normal Hold can be used through this figure.

BotaFogos –Travelling Forward, Back, Criss Cross (Shadow), Promenade Position to Counter Promenade Position, Contra

TRAVELLING BOTAFOGO FORWARD
Start: LF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (R Diag Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3, 4-6 or 4-9 only may be used.
TRAVELLING BOTAFOGO BACKWARD TO PP
Start: RF bwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (R Side Same; Promenade Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 1-6 only may be used.
CRISS CROSS BOTAFOGOS (SHADOW BOTAFOGOS)
Start: LF fwd (Ex. Open Prom; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: RF in place (Ex Open Prom; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
PROMENADE TO COUNTER PROMENADE BOTAFOGOS
Start: LF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (R Side Same; Promenade Hold)

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

//Timing: SaS SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3, 1-6, 4-6 or 4-9 only may be used.
NOTE - Quantity of turn: It is possible to dance steps 1-3 only, and in this case the Quantity o of turn will be ¼ to L for Man and ¼ to R for Lady.

SAME FOOT BOTAFOGOS (CONTRA BOTAFOGOS)

Start: RF fwd OP on R side (R Diag Opp.; LH to RH and RH to LH Hold)
Finish: LF in place (R Diag Opp.; LH to RH and RH to LH Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE - Hold: Normal Hold or RH to RH (LH to LH) Hold may be used.

Volta Movements - Travelling Volta's to Right, Left, Solo Spot, Criss Cross, Shadow Travelling, Maypole, Shadow Circular, Roundabout to R, to L.

TRAVELLING VOLTA TO RIGHT

Start: LF crossed in front of RF (Open Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF crossed in front of RF (Open Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 2-3 can be repeated. It may start from step 2. The last 2 steps of the Travelling Volta may be danced as the last 2 steps of a Botafogo (Botafogo Ending) when followed by Travelling Volta to L.
NOTE - Hold: LH to RH Hold may be used.

TRAVELLING VOLTA TO LEFT

Start: RF crossed in front of LF (Open Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF crossed in front of LF (Open Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 2-3 can be repeated. It may start from step 2. The last 2 steps of the Travelling Volta may be danced as the last 2 steps of a Botafogo (Botafogo ending) when followed by Travelling Volta to R.
NOTE - Hold: LH to RH Hold may be used.

SOLO SPOT VOLTA TURNING LEFT

Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

SOLO SPOT VOLTA TURNING RIGTH

Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

CRISS CROSS VOLTAS TO RIGHT

Start: LF crossed in front of RF (Ex Open Prom; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: Weight on L foot (Open Opp.; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaSaSaS //
NOTE - General: The last 2 steps of the Criss Cross Volta may be danced as the last 2 steps of a Botafogo (Botafogo ending) when followed by Travelling Volta to L.
NOTE - Quantity of turn/Couple position: It can be turned only ¼ to L (Man) and ¼ to R (Lady) to end

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

in Extended Open CPP.
NOTE - Couple Position: It may end in Close Opp. Position- Normal Hold

CRISS CROSS VOLTAS TO LEFT

Start: RF crossed in front of LF (Ex Open Cnt Prom; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: RF crossed in front of LF (Open Opp.; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaSaSaS //
NOTE - General: The last 2 steps of the Criss Cross Volta may be danced as the last 2 steps of a Botafogo (Botafogo ending) when followed by Travelling Volta to R.
NOTE - Quantity of turn/Couple position: It can be turned only ¼ to R (Man) and ¼ to L (Lady) to end in Extended Open CPP.
NOTE - Couple Position: It may end in Close Opp. Position - Normal Hold

MAYPOLE - LADY TURNING RIGHT (CONTINUOUS VOLTA SPOT

Start: LF crossed in front of RF (Ex Open Prom; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: LF crossed in front of RF (Open Opp.; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaSaSaS //
NOTE - General: The last 2 steps of the Maypole Lady Turning R may be danced as the last 2 steps of a Botafogo (Botafogo Ending) when followed by Travelling Volta to L or Maypole - Lady turning L
NOTE - Couple position: May end in Close Opp. position

MAYPOLE - LADY TURNING LEFT (CONTIUOUS VOLTA SPOT

Start: RF crossed in front of LF (Ex Open Prom; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: Weight on R foot (Open Opp.; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaSaSaS //
NOTE - General: The last 2 steps of the Maypole Lady Turning L may be danced as the last 2 steps of a Botafogo (Botafogo Ending) when followed by Travelling Volta to R or Maypole- Lady turning R
NOTE - Couple position: May finish in R Side Same Pos with Both Hand Hold. May end in Close Opp. position

CIRCULAR

Start: RF crossed in front of LF (R Diag Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF in place (L Diag Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaSaSaS //
NOTE - General: During steps 1-5 Sway to L (Lady R) may be used. The Man may dance a Circular Volta Turning R and the Lady a Circular volta Turning L starting in Close Opp.Position making 1 full turn, in that case the figure is called SOLO CIRCULAR VOLTAS TURNING RIGHT (3.4.36)

CIRCULAR VOLTAS TURNING LEFT (ROUNDABOUT TO LEFT)

Start: LF crossed in front of RF (L Diag Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (R Diag Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaSaSaS //
NOTE - General: During steps 1-5 Sway to R (Lady L) may be used. The Man may dance a Circular Volta Turning L and the Lady a Circular Volta Turning R starting in Close Opp.Position, making 1 full turn, in that case the figure is called SOLO CIRCULAR VOLTAS TURNING L (3.4.37)

SOLO CIRCULAR VOLTAS TURNING R

Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

SOLO CIRCULAR VOLTAS TURNING L

Start:
Finish:
//Timing: //

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Rocks - Closed, Open, Back

CLOSE ROCKS
Start: RF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF crossed behind RF (L Diag Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SQQ SQQ //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
OPEN ROCKS
Start: RF Fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RFcrossed behind LF (R Diag R Angle; Release LH Hold)
//Timing: SQQ SQQ SQQ //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3, 4-6 or 1-6 only may be used.
BACKWARD ROCKS
Start: RF bwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in Place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SQQ SQQ //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.

Progressive Basic Movement

Start: RF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF in place (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.

Reverse Turn

Start: RF fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 may be used.
NOTE - Timing: Alternative timing SQQ SQQ may be used.
NOTE - Hip Design: The Lady may straighten her knees with pelvis tilted bwd at the end of step 3.

Natural Roll

Start: RF diag fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF closes to RF (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SQQ SQQ //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

NOTE - Quantity of turn: Less turn can be made on steps 1-3 and 4-6.
NOTE - Couple Position: Bodies are in contact.

Corta Jaca

Start: RF fwd (Open Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF slipped rightwards (Open Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SQQ QQQQ //
NOTE - General: After step 7, Man may dance Lady's steps 1-7 (Lady dances Man's steps 1-7).
NOTE - Lead-Hold-Shaping: LH for Man and RH for Lady may be lowered

Foot Changes

FOOT CHANGE METHOD 1 - LF FORWARD
Start: LF fwd (preceding figure)
Finish: RF closed to LF
//Timing: SS //
NOTE - General: Lady dances Volta Spot Turn to R or L, Botafogo on RF, Botafogo on LF or Three Step Turn to R or L.
NOTE - Quantity of turn: The Quantity of Turn may vary depending on the preceding and following figure.
FOOT CHANGE METHOD 2 - RF FORWARD
Start: RF fwd
Finish: LF closed to RF
//Timing: SS //
NOTE - General: General: Lady dances Volta Spot Turn to R or L, Botafogo on RF, Botafogo on LF or Three Step Turn to R or L.
NOTE - Quantity of turn: The Quantity of Turn may vary depending on the preceding and following figure.
FOOT CHANGE METHOD 3 - KICK BALL CHANGE
Start: RF kick fwd
Finish: LF in place
//Timing: SaS //
NOTE - General: General: Lady dances Volta Spot Turn to R or L, Botafogo on RF, Botafogo on LF or Three Step Turn to R or L. Man may replace Kick Ball Change action with a RF point fwd and point bwd.
NOTE - Quantity of turn: The Quantity of Turn may vary depending on the preceding and following figure.

Plait

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Start: LF bwd, small step, LK bent, RK straight) (Open Opp.; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: LF bwd, small step, LK bent, RK straight (Open Opp.; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SS QQS //
NOTE - General: Plait may start with RF (Man) and LF (Lady)
NOTE - Lead-Hold-Shaping: When Plait is preceded by a figure that ends in Normal hold, the change of Hand hold should happen on step 1.

Argentine Crosses

Start: RF crossed in front of LF (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS SaS SaS //
NOTE - General: May start from step 4. Steps 1-6, 1-9 or 4-9 only may be used.

Samba Locks

SAMBA LOCKS LADY ON LEFT SIDE
Start: RF fwd (L Side Same; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: RF fwd (L Side Same; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: QQS QQS QQS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 1-6 only may be used.
SAMBA LOCKS LADY ON RIGHT SIDE
Start: LF fwd (R Side Same; RH to LH Hold)
Finish: LF fwd (R Side Same; RH to LH Hold)
//Timing: QQS QQS QQS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 1-6 only may be used.

Promenade to Counter Promenade Runs

Start: RF fwd OP (R Diag Opp.; preceding figure; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: RF fwd and across body (R Side Same; Release LH Hold)
//Timing: 123 123 123 123 //
NOTE - Timing: Alternative Timing may be used (QQS QQS QQS or SaS SaS SaS)
NOTE - Foot Placement: Step 1 can be taken FWD between Lady’s feet. When taken to side (RF Man, LF Lady) in Close Opp with LH to RH Hold, the alignment of this step for the Man will be Facing W (Lady Facing C).
NOTE - General Action: On steps 1 and 7 the Lady may finish in a Spiral Cross Position.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Cruzado Walks and Locks

CRUZADOS WALKS
Start: LF fwd (R Diag Same; w/o Hold)
Finish: RF fwd (R Diag Same; w/o Hold)
//Timing: SS //
NOTE - General: It may start with the RF.
NOTE - General/ Timing: Cruzado Walk on RF may be followed by steps 3-7 of Continuous Cruzados Lock starting with LF, Cruzado Walk on LF may be followed by steps 3-7 of Continuous Cruzados Lock starting with RF Timing: SQQQQS
CRUZADOS LOCKS
Start: LF fwd (R Diag Same; w/o Hold)
Finish: RF fwd (R Diag Same; w/o Hold)
//Timing: QQS QQS //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE - Couple Position: 1-3 of Cruzados Locks may be danced in R Side Same Position (Promenade Hold) on opposite foot.
NOTE - General/ Timing: May be danced as a CONTINUOUS CRUZADOS LOCKS (3.4.32) by repeating steps 1-2 three times - Timing QQQQQQS. If started on LF (Man) it may be danced in R Side Same Position (Promenade Hold) on opposite foot.

Rolling Off The Arm

Start: LF to side (R Side Same; Shadow Hold)
Finish: RF in place (R Side Same; Shadow Hold)
//Timing: SaS SaS (S&aS S&aS Lady) //
NOTE - General: Man’s steps 4-6 and Lady’s 5-8 may be substituted with a foot change to end in R Diagonal Same Pos on LF.
NOTE - Foot Placement: After step 4, Lady can dance steps 5-6-7 diag. Fwd and make an additional ½ turn to L on step 7 ,to Follow with Reverse Turn.

Three Step Turn

Start: Instep of LF closed to T of RF (R Side Same; LH to RH Hold)
Finish: LF slipped slightly Bwd (L Side Same; LH to RH Hold)
//Timing: SaS (Lady QQS) //

Rhythm Bounce on LF, on RF

Start:

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Finish:
//Timing: //
NOTE - General: Kick Ball Change may be used in place of Rhytm Bounce by both Man and Lady

Reverse Roll

Start: LF diag fwd (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: SQQ SQQ //
NOTE - General: Steps 1-3 or 4-6 only may be used.
NOTE - Couple Position: Bodies are in contact.

Side Samba Chasse

(WDSF only)
Start: LF to side (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
Finish: RF closed to LF (Close Opp.; Normal Hold)
//Timing: QQQQ SS //
NOTE - General: Man may dance Lady's steps and vice versa.
NOTE - Quantity of turn: May turn up to ¼ to L or R.
NOTE - Couple position: Open Opp (LH to RH Hold or w/o Hold) may also be used.

Continuous Cruzados Locks

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

Same Position Corta Jaca

(WDSF only)
Start: LF fwd (LK straight) (R Side Same; RH of Man to Lady's R shoulder)
Finish: RF in place (R Side Same; RH of Man to Lady's R shoulder)
//Timing: QQQQ QQQQ QQQQ QQQQ //
NOTE - General: In this type of Corta Jaca it is possible to repeat steps 1-4.

UNCONTROLLED COPY – the current version of this rule is published at https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Carioca Runs

(WDSF only)
Start: LF to side and slightly bwd (Open Opp.; w/o Hold)
Finish: LF fwd w/o weight, weight on R foot (Open Opp.; w/o Hold)
//Timing: QQQQ QQQQ //
NOTE - General: Man may dance the Lady’s steps and vice versa. Steps 1-4 or 5-8 only may be danced
NOTE - Timing: Alternative timing aS aS may be used

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

Permanent link:
https://dancesport.org.au/dswiki/doku.php?id=syllabus:samba:samba&rev=1782185940

Last update: **2026/06/23 13:39**

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:samba:samba&rev=1782185940