



Edinburgh University Swing Dance
Society notes on:

The Lindy Rueda



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A “Rueda” is an idea that really belongs to Salsa, where a Rueda consists of a group dance in which a caller calls out moves that all dancers do simultaneously, and in which partners are swapped frequently during the dance. A quick Google search reveals that many different dancers claim to have invented the Lindy hop version of this, which may well be true given the variation between the lists of moves that appear on their websites. The version described here uses our normal beginners’ moves, plus a few special moves and conventions that belong just to the Rueda: these were taught to us by Cathy Harrison, who learned them in London.

Conventions:

- 1) Start with men facing in to the circle.
- 2) Always begin with a “Rueda turnout”
- 3) If you have just caught a new partner side-by-side, do a Rueda turnout
- 4) If you have just caught a new partner facing, do a circle then a Rueda turnout
- 5) If none of the above apply and you have not been told what to do, just do swignouts from facing until you hear a new instruction

Callers must call early enough for the dancers to react.

Rueda-specific moves:

The Rueda turnout.

From side-by side, no connection with left hand:

- 1-2: Rock step
- 3&4: Triple step, leading the lady round towards your front, so that she is facing your left side (you can see her left ear).
- 5-6: Step step: turn the lady out clockwise & let go of her: she begins a lazy turn
- 7&8: Triple: finish the turn and collect the hand, generally left-right.

(Of course you can play with the foot rhythm as much as you want – these notes are being written at a relatively simple level).

Dame (‘give me one’ in Latin American Spanish)

From side-by-side:

- 1-2: Rock step
- 3&4: Triple step, leading the lady round towards your front, so that she is facing your left side (you can see her left ear).
- 5-6: Step step: push the lady towards the man to your left and, at the same time, turn her clockwise: she begins to travel and do a lazy turn
- 7&8: Triple, turning to your right, and collect your new partner side-by side.

(This is followed by the Rueda turnout)

Dame dos ('give me two')

This is effectively a 'Dame' with more wellie.

- 1-2: Rock step, the man stepping back a bit to create space
- 3&4: Triple step, leading the lady across your front with energy, so that she is already moving strongly across you to the left. Start turning her by 4, and aim her for the man at the next place but one to your left.
- 5-6: Step step: continue to lead the lady for as long as you can. Let the lady coming from your right pass you completely
- 7&8: Triple: collect your next partner side-by-side.

Firedrill

In theory, this is a 'reset' for when things do wrong. In practice, it is a generator of chaos!

On the call of "Fire Drill", guys run around the outside of the circle clockwise and ladies run around the inside of the circle anticlockwise. Pass your partner twice without collecting her, and on the third time of meeting collect her side by side, and do a Rueda turnout on the next beat "1".



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