

1987 UNIVERSAL RD CONVENTION - CLINIC NOTES (COMMENTS)  
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Rather than write very detailed notes about RUMBA we have decided to stay with more general comments and leave the solutions to specific skills, questions and problems for the Clinic session.

Although there are basic rules and guidelines that form the basis for different types of dance and rhythms, much of what develops is due to the creative talents of the individual or couple. We must always remember that dancing is an art form and as such is very individualistic in its performance.

Most of the basic approach to Rumba such as the ball heel foot action, hip movement created by the use of ankles and knees, etc., have been written each year by the different clinicians at URDC. All saying much the same thing, each one emphasizing the points that they feel are the most important. When attending a clinic you will often hear something said by the teacher and wonder why no one has told you before. In fact it has probably been said in your presence by other teachers many times but you were not ready to absorb the content or level of the figure in question. Sometimes it is just a matter of the way it is presented that turns the lights on for you. It is for this reason that one often finds one can learn from one teacher better than another.

Basically, most Clinicians acquire their in depth theory from other teachers and text books, most of which are written and published as an extension of the ballroom movement. There are many of these available and each teacher has their own preferences, they all cover the same basic theory but are written in different styles, much the way Clinicians use the same basics but approach them differently.

For reference purposes in Latin dancing we use the following text listed in order of preference and find them very useful.

1. "The Revised Technique of Latin Dancing" by the Imperial Society of Dancing.
2. "Latin and American Dances" by Doris Lavelle.
3. "The Technique of Latin Dancing" by Walter Laird.

However, we emphasize that although a book is very useful reference to check a figure or action that you may have forgotten or are not sure of, etc., there is no substitution for the real thing. Learning either from personal attention or group class participation by far out weights a text book and trying to learn alone.

The following definitions are taken from "Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary".

CLINIC - A group meeting devoted to the analysis and solution of concrete problems or to the acquiring of specific skills or knowledge in a particular field.

DANCE - A series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements performed to music.

RUMBA - a ballroom dance of Cuban Negro origin in 2/4 or 4/4 time with a basic pattern of step close/step and marked by a delayed transfer of weight and pronounced hip movements.

We hope you enjoy the Rumba Clinic/Teach we are honoured to present, that you leave with a little more skill and knowledge than when you entered. If you have learned just one thing you will be that much richer in your ability to move to music and enjoy this wonderful world of Round Dancing in which we all participate.