

Harris (Silver) Tango Promenade

In this set of tips, I'm going to explain how I teach the Promenade section of the Harris or Silver Tango. The promenade is the section of the dance that starts right after the lady completes her back swing, and continues through the end of the dance. I've found that many dancers have problems with control and edge quality throughout this stretch of the dance.

Ladies:

As you complete your Back Swing immediately after the RFO cross-3 turn, you should try to keep your shoulders level and parallel to the short barriers (parallel to the width of the rink). As you push onto the RFI edge, **DO NOT** turn your body or shoulders to see the corner, instead, think of cutting the corner off, so that you will start coming around the corner during the 2 counts of the RFI.

Many ladies tend to step onto this RFI edge instead of strongly stroking onto it. To help you get a good stroke onto this edge, keep your weight over your left side as you complete the back swing and bring your right foot back next to your left foot and turned out. Bend your left knee and push strongly onto your right inside edge.

Once you're skating on the right inside edge, you will need to keep your weight over right shoulder and hip and bring your left hip through to the quick progressive and the last left outside edge. The first 2 edges of the progressive sequence (the LFO and RFI) should be as deep as you can skate them with control, so that you finish coming around the corner and start across the ice, roughly following the edge of the hockey circle.

The next bit of the dance is where many ladies make a very common mistake: Instead of skating a plain LFO followed by the RFO to set up for the swing mohawk, many ladies skate a cross-stroke. This incorrect cross-stroke happens when the skater doesn't have enough weight on the left side because she is beginning the weight transfer onto the RFO too soon. Keep the weight firmly over your left side and be sure to bring the RIGHT FOOT right next to the left foot. Then stroke strongly onto the RFO on beat 3 and turn your upper body to face the short board where you just came from so your right shoulder is forward and you are leading with your right hip.

Next, swing your left leg through and directly down the rink, keeping your left hip open and right shoulder leading. As you finish skating the mohawk, your back will be facing the short wall, just as in the beginning of the promenade.

Now you are set up to do a big push onto the RFI to do your 3 turn and 6 beat edge into the restart. As you check the 3-turn, make sure you keep your right shoulder and hip leading until you've finished your cross back chasses.