

Jive

Fast Facts:

Jive is a rhythmical and swinging dance which was influenced by the Boogie, Rock & Roll, African/American Swing and the Lindyhop. The roots of the Jive are in New York's Harlem.

It is the fastest of the Latin dances and should show lots of kicks and flicks and twirling of the woman. Although on first impression it might look like the feet are all over the place in every direction, the feet/legs should actually be under the body and the knees should always be close together.

Jive doesn't move around the dance floor like other dances.

Distinctive moves:

The basic movement is *chassez* to the left *chassez* to the right and a rock step (changing weight from one foot to the other).

Look out for the *flick, ball, change* movement - where you stand on one foot and kick down at the same time.

Look out for the distinctive kick action in jive where toes are always pointed to the ground when kicking.

Watch out for the *American Spin* - when the man lets go of the lady and lets her spin on her own.

Jive (Latin)

The jive is part of the family of swing dances — it started in African American clubs in the early 1940s, as a variation on the popular Lindy hop, also known as the "jitterbug." American servicemen took the dance to England during World War II. Once they left, the girls they danced with kept dancing it, and later adapted jive to British popular music. English dance studios refined it, giving us the very fast, precise competitive form we see here.

America's Ballroom Challenge is a production of Moreno/Lyons Productions, LLC, and is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston © Moreno/Lyons Productions, LLC. All Rights Reserved.