

CONTRAPASSO NUOVO

A Balletto for six

Dances called '*Contrapasso*' occur in many sources, in versions for one couple (where it's a processional dance) and for three couples (in which case it's done in a circle). The characteristic features seem to be: changing places using the progression - hands, arms, both hands; the figure - two *seguiti* flankingly backwards, two flankingly forwards; heys, or chains (in the versions for three couples), and the 'turn in the *Contrapasso*' - a figure-eight done with four *seguiti* (not used in this version).

If you find it difficult to remember when to use *seguiti ordinarii*, and when *seguiti semidoppii*, or *doppii presti*, you can use *seguiti ordinarii* throughout: in this dance, the figures are more important than the steps. However, the *semidoppii* are pretty, if you can manage them, and can actually make it easier to change directions at the end of movement.

Three couples begin, standing on the rim of a circle about 3m in diameter, looking in. Alternate men and women; stand close enough together that you could easily take hands with the person on either side of you (don't take hands yet).

Introduction:

- 1-2 **Riverenza** L, to all the other dancers. Don't hold hands.
3-4 **2 Seguiti ordinarii** LR turning left. Each dancer turns out of the 'wheel' in a small anti-clockwise circle; ending back in place.

First "Passeggio":

- 1 **2 Passi** LR to left, in a wheel - along the 'rim' of the large circle
2 **Seguito semidoppio** L, to left along wheel. Finish this facing the centre of the circle
3 **2 Passi** RL to right along wheel
4 **3 Trabuchetti** RLR, facing centre again
5-8 **Repeat** the *passeggio* (on the same side - go to left again).

During the three 'mutanze' (variations) you work your way slowly around the circle, men going clockwise, women anticlockwise. At the end of the third *mutanza* you will be back with your original partner (though you might not be where you started on the circle).

First Mutanza: HANDS

- 1-2 Take **right hands** with partner.
Change places with **2 Passi** LR, and a *Seguito ordinario* L
3-4 Take **left hands** with next person.
Change places with **2 Passi** RL, and a *Seguito semidoppio* R
End facing the centre of the circle

"Chorus":

the "Flanking passage"

- 1-2 **2 Seguiti ordinarii** LR flankingly backwards, out of the circle
3-4 **2 Seguiti ordinarii** LR flankingly forwards, returning to place

A SELECTION OF DANCES FROM CAROSO'S *IL BALLARINO*

Second Mutanza: ARMS

- 1-4 Repeat first *mutanza*, but taking right arms with the next person, then left arms with your partner (who will be the next person you encounter).
5-8 "Flanking passage"

Third Mutanza: BOTH HANDS

- 1-4 Repeat first *mutanza*, but take both hands with next person, and both hands with the person after that. You still pass by right shoulders the first time, then left shoulders.
5-8 "Flanking passage"

The Slow Chain:

A hey, or chain, using six slow *seguiti ordinarii* to get all the way round the circle. These *seguiti* take twice as long as the ones in the "flanking passage". Again, men go clockwise, women anticlockwise.

- 1-2 Take **right hands** with partner.
Change places with one **slow *seguito ordinario* L** (*seguito grave*).
3-4 Take **left hands** with next person.
Change places with one **slow *seguito ordinario* R** (*seguito grave*)
5-12 Take hands and change places another four times, with four more *seguiti*.
You will end next to your partner, in your own place, facing into the circle.

Conclusion:

- 1-4 ***Riverenza* L, 2 *Continenze* LR** facing into the circle
5-8 "Flanking Passage"

1 **2 *Passi*** LR forwards, into circle (take small steps)
2 ***Doppio presto* L** forwards (replace this with a *seguito ordinario* if you like)
3 **take hands** with the people on either side of you, **2 *Passi*** RL backwards, returning to place
4 **2 *Riprese*** to right; release hands
5-8 "Flanking Passage"

1-2 Turn to your partner, take **right hands, *Riverenza* L**
3-4 Turn to the person on the other side, take **left hands, *Riverenza* R**
Final Flanking Passage - with a twist
5-6 **2 *Seguiti scorsi***, RL, flankingly backwards, moving to right first, then left
7-8 **2 *Seguiti scorsi***, RL, flankingly forwards, moving to right first, then left

After the music finishes make a last graceful *Riverenza* to all the other dancers.