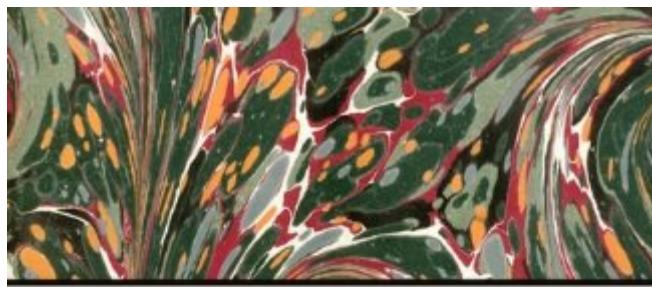


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# Modern Ballroom Dancing



**Modern Ballroom Dancing**

Victor Silvester



## **Synopsis**

Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

First, this book on international style will never replace a teacher. If you want to learn international style, give yourself about a year with a private teacher. If you're a couple, figure 2 years. It is impossible to learn to dance from a book. Footsteps show alignment only. Books do not teach technique, and international style is all about technique. If you want to learn to dance socially, take private ballroom dance lessons with a good studio. This book is not for you. A piece of advice, Forget about group lessons. No one learns to dance in a group. This book is very clear and written for someone who knows how to dance. Last, you need to learn amalgamations, i.e., continuity. Learning one step at a time doesn't work. This book will tell you which figure precedes or follows a given figure.

I purchased this book to compliment my dance instruction. Being that I take lessons in Japan, I needed a book, in English, which would reinforce and further explain what was being taught to me in class. I have found it a very useful book. However, this is not a book for a beginning dancer! The explanations and footwork patterns are detailed, but if you have no experience with ballroom dancing, the figures and explanations will mean very little to you. Some of the more complicated steps do not have foot diagrams, which would have been helpful. All and all, an excellent book!

Modern Ballroom Dancing: All the Steps You Need to Get You Dancing is an accurate title for a great little book. A dancer who studies and practices what this offers will indeed be dancing soon. It is good for steps but needs follow up with a coach for body positioning to help make the dancing more comfortable.

This is a good book to summarize all steps for many popular dances. My only problem is it does not have step graph for every steps. Only about half of them are illustrated. One step graph wins thousands of words.

I have both the Victor Silvester book and Alex Moore's ISTD ballroom manual. I personally find the ISTD manual more compact, and a lot better organized. It is a little more expensive than Silvester, and it also has no pictures, but it is much more useful in my opinion. The Victor Silvester book is a ballroom instructor's manual with pictures, and the reader's understanding of the material will be exponentially proportional to his prior experience. That is, the beginners will not find it useful at all, while the intermediate and advanced dancers will be able to learn quite a bit from it. The pictures and figures are more like eye candy, as they are taken from dance competitions. They are not used to illustrate the steps. Although the book covers all ballroom steps from beginner to gold, it doesn't tell you which one is which. Also, it only covers up to latin bronze steps, and does not explain essential concepts such as Cuban motion and samba bounce. Unlike the other manuals, the Victor Silvester book also go over the basic steps for Viennese Waltz and (huh huh ...) disco. These steps are fairly basic. If the user are already at the level at which he can learn from the book, I doubt these steps would be too challenging. Also, a word of warning for the prospective dancers. I have seen (and met) a lot of people who try to learn from the book directly, only to be discouraged by the less than desirable results. What a lot of these books won't tell you, or at least convey effectively, are the fundamental aspects of partnered dancing, such as posture, communication, movement, and body connections. These aspects have to be taught and shown by a qualified instructor, because these

points can't simply be put in words and are fundamental to all partnered dancing.

This is a pretty good book for anyone who's currently taking lessons in International-style dancing. It goes through all 10 dances used in International Rhythm and Smooth competition. The author presents about 12 or more variations in each dance. There are foot diagrams for about half the variations. He details the footwork (written), contrary body movement, timing, sway and amount of turn. All of the photos are of competitors at a dance event so they're not helpful if you're trying to learn how any figure looks. I don't think it's a book to buy if you're starting to learn how to dance but if you're already taking lessons, it's a good book to reinforce what you're learning. American-style is not covered at all.

This text is a very good reference for International style dancing. It is very complete and conforms fairly well to the syllabus. As stated by other reviewers, if you're a beginner its probably too much, but if you have a good teacher nearby to help explain some of the ambiguities you can learn a lot on your own from it. Definitely not a book that you can just pick up and start dancing, it requires some intellectual effort to digest, but once you've done that you'll have a clear and systematic conceptualization and schema for dancing that few teachers can impart. My only major complaint: an excess of glossy pictures from dancing competitions. This book is really most helpful for the standard dances (which is OK with me since that's my style, not latin.)

I looked high and low for a ballroom dance book that I could recommend to my fellow ballroom dancers at Harvard. Most of the literature tended to be either too simplistic (for novices) or too boring (ISTD manuals). I especially loved the format of the book and the beautiful photographs of competition dancers. The foot patterns and detailed descriptions are helpful for the non-novice dancer. One big plus of this publication is that the author describes Silver & Gold patterns.

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