

Exploring Dance Holds: Outside (Tango) Hold

The partners face in opposite directions—one partner skating forward, the other partner skating backward. However, unlike the closed position, the partners are offset with the man to the right or left of the lady so that the front of his hip is in line with the front of her corresponding hip.

The gentleman's right side and the lady's right side should be almost touching. If there is too much of an air gap between the gentleman's right side and the lady's right side, it will be very difficult for you to partner successfully in this hold. On the other hand, if the lady's body position overlaps the gentleman's too much (in such a way that she is almost in waltz hold), the hold will also be very difficult to control.

Tips

- Gentlemen, keep your **right** elbow raised so that the lady can rest her **left** arm **lightly** on your right arm.
- Gentlemen, keep your **left** arm out to the side but bent slightly. If it is bent too much, it will be difficult for you to lead your partner. On the other hand, if it is too straight, and your partner's arms are much shorter than yours, it will be very difficult for the lady to stay in the hold correctly because she will be stretching to reach your palm.
- Ladies, keep your **left** elbow raised as you press against the gentleman's **right** shoulder with your **left** palm.
- Ladies, you should rest your **left** arm lightly against the gentleman's right arm...the key is **lightly**. Do **not** simply relax your left arm on the gentleman's right arm as if it were just going along for the ride; this is incorrect and will make it very difficult for your partner to lead you correctly.
- Ladies, you should press lightly with your **left** palm on your partner's **right** shoulder. This pressure will help your partner lead you and will help you be in the right place as you skate your steps.