

The Best Kept Secret in the Salsa World Today by Morry Krispijn from Salsaventura

It was a Saturday. Just thinking of my frustrations not being able to remember my moves finally made me stay at home.

I say 'finally' because this was a period in my life that even when I decided to stay home I would find myself on a dancefloor within half an hour. Recognize this? Totally addicted to Salsa dancing!

But there was something about all those moves. I learned hundreds of them through workshops, bootcamps and video's. But once I got on the dancefloor I was not able to remember about 10% of them. Why was that?

So I remember I sat down with a piece of white paper and asked myself one simple question: "*How many turns can I do with my dancepartner when I am facing her on the dancefloor*". That was it. And I started drawing and writing.

After I wrote down the 6 simple options of turning the lady two ways in front of me, on my left and on my right, I took out some video recordings of a Salsa congress in Toronto just checking if my thoughts made any sense.

And what I found out just rocked my world. **80% of everything the best dancers in the world are doing is based on just 6 turns!!!!**

Really? Yes Really!

Then what about the other 20%?

Ever heard of the law of Pareto? You can reach 80% of all turns in 20% of your time. The other 20% of the turns will take you 80% of your time.

Not convinced? Let me give you another example.

Let's say you are buying a house. Not a new house, but an old house. Within 20% of your time you can finish 80% of the house. If you want it perfect to 100%, then the last 20% of the finishing touch will cost you the other 80% of your time. Another example: 20% of your customers give you 80% of your income.

Back to those 6 turns. I just could not believe I putted so much time and effort in trying to remember all those moves and that below the surface it all came down to just 6 turns!

So I took a deeper look.

If there were only 6 turns then how many ways were there to hold each other hands? The answer is 7! Yes, just 7 ways to hold each other hands, starting a turn.

See for links below.

The next question that came up was: "Do all 7 hand holds work with the 6 turns". The answer was NO! At least not in a comfortable way. From the 6 turns always 5 hand holds work! That was great news. Now we had $6 \times 5 = 30$ turns!

The finishing touch came with the final question because I knew that I sometimes turned my partner under my arm, sometimes folding hands on her back and sometimes keeping them on shoulder height: *"How many high/low options are there"*. The answer is 4! 3 high and low and one neutral.

Let me explain: When I turn the lady in a single right turn that is what we call an underarm turn. That is what I call height #1. When I turn the lady in a shouldercheck that is what I call height #2. When I keep the hand lower than her elbow (leading into wraps or hammerlocks) is what I call height #3.

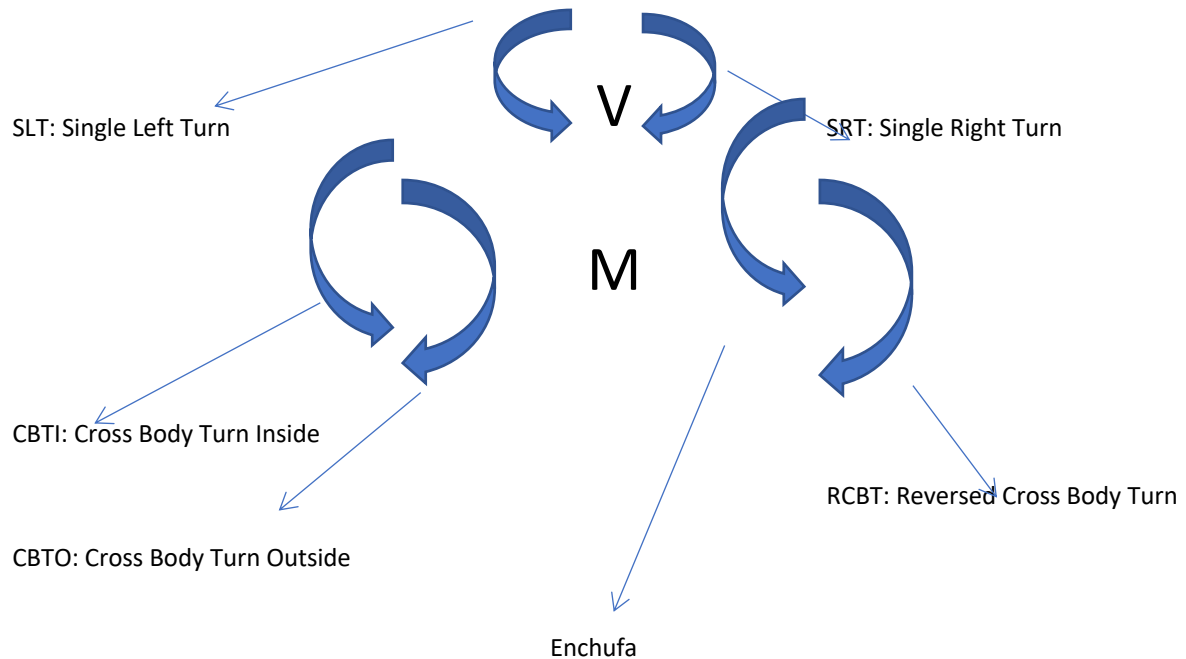
So what is number 4? If I keep the hand of the lady on the same height as her elbow (of that same hand) then I can now create push and pull effect. The lady will push slightly back when I push and she will pull slightly back when I pull. This position is what I call the neutral position.

You can find the digital results of my original drawing below.

Please let me know what you think. I appreciate it:

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Salsaventura's 6 Turn Pattern System



7 Ways of holding hands

1. Left / right
2. Right / left
3. Paralel holds
4. Right / right
5. Left / left
6. Right / right – left / left (right up/left below)
7. Right / right – left / left (right below / left up)

3 Levels of high & low

1. High
2. Shoulderhigh
3. Low

Links:

- [Salsaventura.tv – Online platform with hundres of high quality instrucion video's](https://www.salsaventura.tv)
- [Youtube channel](#)
- [YouTube 6 Turn Pattern System](#)
- [YouTube 7 Ways of Holding Hands](#)
- [Salsaventura playlist on spotify](#)

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article.

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About myself

I started dancing back in 1996 and picked up my first Salsa steps in Cali, Colombia. When I came back to Holland after this great latin adventure I decided to take classes. With a background of martial arts I had received great teachings from great teachers. During that time there were not many great teachers around in the latin scene so after receiving another quit disappointing class I decided to make a change. My main goals then was, and still is, to offer step by step, structured dance classes with an eye for detail and space for fun.

I developed a system called “The 6 Turn Pattern System”. This was till recently probably the best kept secret in the Salsa scene. I am very happy to see how people are picking up on the system using it in their dancing.

My main goal is to spread the passion for Salsa around the globe. So if you are interested in partnering up, let me know. You can reach me at: morry@salsaventura.nl



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E-mail: info@salsaventura.nl

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