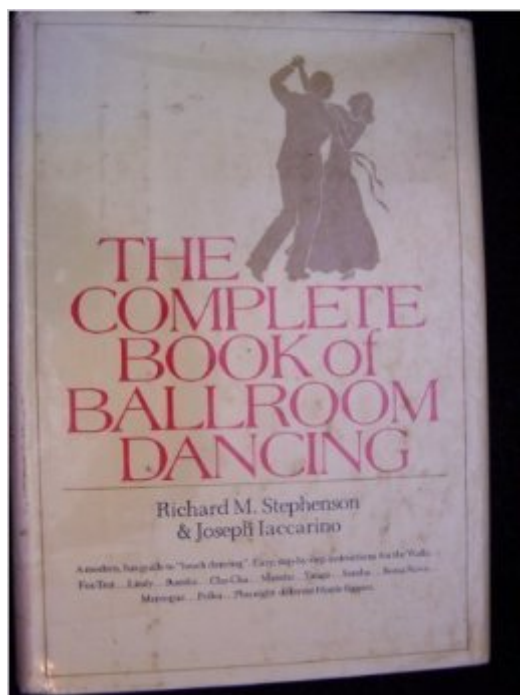


The book was found

The Complete Book Of Ballroom Dancing



Synopsis

More than 500 photographs and illustrations anchor this guide to social dancing that offers easy, step-by-step instructions for most popular ballroom dances: the waltz, fox-trot, tango, cha-cha, polka, and many others. B & W photographs and illustrations throughout

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book is a perfect example of what is wrong with much of the dance instruction in the USA - anyone can teach, as there is no required credentialing or licensing to do so! Teachers answer to no one - no authority in dance or the educational system in general. If the packaging is "slick" enough, the unarmed and unaware public will buy into it. To teach dancing and not error is a difficult profession. It requires years of experience. Unfortunately, to just show steps as this book does requires none. I find no credentials for the authors and no mention of any dance society that they have been tested by and this is reflected in the gross amount of error that exists in every single step pattern. This is probably why this book until now has not been reviewed by a competent professional ballroom instructor. A book as a tool for dance education is one of great value especially if it is reliable, not one like this, that conflicts with the accepted standards of every dance society that belongs to the National Dance Council of America and good principles of movement. It is apparent that the authors have taken someone's approved listing of dance steps called a syllabus and edited it without understanding leaving gross errors in footwork and complete omissions of how correct dance movement is created. This book leaves the unsuspecting reader with instructions that if followed, would produce flat-footed, awkward, unbalanced, non-musical, and non-rhythmic

movement. But many so-called dance instructors quickly find out how easy it is to fool the consumer into believing that if they can dance a little bit, they must also be able to teach.

My name is Diane Howard. I have been a dance instructor for over 10 years in the Northeast corridor. I take great exception to the negative reviews of Mr. Allen's book *Quickstart to Social Dancing*, especially in comparison to another book that I own by Mr. Stephenson called *The Complete Book of Ballroom Dancing*. Here is why:

1. *Quickstart* guides the beginner and helps develop the most important basic dance skills in systematic and incremental fashion. Foundational skills like correct postural movement with a partner, rhythmic movement, and leg action both for the smooth, swing, and Latin dances are wonderfully described in *Quickstart*. They are either completely omitted or where included, erroneously described in the so-called *Complete Book*!
2. *Quickstart* guides you through a primary development with easy to use physical instructions and analogies with a direct goal in mind. That goal is to be able to dance, **WITHOUT ERROR**, the most fundamental patterns in six major social dances. The *Complete Book* starts at stages beyond the beginner with a syllabus that assumes that a dance couple already **KNOWS HOW** to move together. They do not and will not simply by reading a syllabus, all competent dance instructors know this!
3. *Quickstart* does a terrific job in addressing these primary and necessary functions. The *Complete Book* leaves you to your own devices.
4. The *Complete Book* designed for the next stage of dancing, diversity in patterns, unfortunately is laden with serious error that the beginner would certainly not be aware of in their attempt to follow its syllabus. *Quickstart* does not pretend to be more than it is, simply the best guide for the beginning stages of your social dance experience.

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