



# Wedding Dance 101:

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO  
MAKING A MEMORABLE FIRST DANCE



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## *Introduction*

*Step One: Convincing Your Fiancé to take Dance Lessons*

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## *Introduction*

### *You've said yes, the date is set, and now you're planning for the big day.*

Weddings are celebrations of intimacy, joy, passion, and ultimately a show of love between two people. This sentiment is also true of dancing, and there is no better way to express this love than through an intimate, eloquent, or jaw-dropping first dance. Nothing can display a sense of romance like two people effortlessly sweeping across the dance floor, completely enraptured with one another, as each step falls in sync with the music.

If this sounds like something you'd like to have on your wedding day, Arthur Murray Dance Centers can help. We specialize in making your big day the best it can be by working with you to create a memorable dance routine, or by simply teaching you how to dance so you can create your own. In this guide, we give you the information and tips you'll need to decide what type of dance fits best for you and your partner, and how to prepare for your first dance lesson.







## Step One: CONVINCING YOUR FIANCÉ TO TAKE DANCE LESSONS

Just like dancing, convincing a doubtful partner to go to dance lessons requires some finesse. If we're going to be completely honest with ourselves, we have to realize that taking wedding dance lessons are not usually at the top of anyone's priorities. This is especially true for males. If you have a fiancé that is ready and open to the idea right off the bat, you've definitely found someone special, but for the majority of women, this usually isn't the case. A stubborn fiancé doesn't mean you should throw the idea of dance lessons out the window, of course. This only means you need to change your approach to convincing your significant other that dance lessons make all the difference to a successful wedding. We've compiled a few ideas that can guide this process.

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### Allow Him to Select the Song

Giving him a choice also gives him a sense of control. By placing the song decision in his hands, he's more apt to agree to dance lessons. Even if he chooses a song that might clash with your tastes or is too up-beat for a first dance, you still have options. You can do a Mashup routine, which starts with a formal, elegant opening and turns into a fun-filled break-out to the song of his choice, or you can do a Second Dance, with the first dance being formal and the second allowing him to tap into his inner rock star.

### Strike a Deal

You can offer him a trade for something he really loves. Whether it's a night out with his friends, more free time to watch his favorite T.V. shows, or tickets to a game he'd really like to see, there is always leverage. You get the dance lessons you need, he gets something he really wants, and everyone ends up happy.

### Give Him the Facts

When all else fails, tell him just how important dance lessons can be. Show him examples of other couples who had epic wedding dances, or if you really want to strike fear into his heart, show him an episode or two of *Bridezillas*. Dance lessons, like any type of exercise, produce endorphins, which reduce pain, inhibit stress, and help you feel happy. The time set aside for dance lessons can be a small escape from the other stresses of wedding planning and can quickly become a hobby that you both share. It's time together in the midst of hectic schedules where you can really connect and get closer before the big day arrives. In the wise words of Kathryn Murray, "With male students, you have to drag them in, but before long, you have to drag them out."

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## Step Two: ENVISION YOUR FIRST DANCE

Did you know that your first dance at Arthur Murray can cover any dance, at any skill level? Whether you want to do an elegant Waltz, a romantic Rumba, or a spicy Salsa - we've got you covered. Tell us your vision, and the professionals at Arthur Murray can make it happen for your wedding, and beyond. Need some more inspiration? Take a look at these additional ideas to make your wedding day memorable.

### Freestyle

A Freestyle is how dancers dance. This can only be achieved when you have started your lessons early enough that the moves are completely installed in your muscle memory. While this may take more time, couples who take this approach can dance together on any dance floor, on any occasion. Not to mention, they can focus their attention on each other, instead of their dance steps. This can be done with any number of dances. With the Arthur Murray teaching system, it is just as easy to learn "to dance" as it is to learn "a dance".

### Mashup Routine

The Mashup has been a serious trend lately, and we can see why. It begins like a traditional, formal wedding dance and then abruptly turns into a fast-paced routine to an upbeat song. For example, you start slow dancing to "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley (or insert a traditional first dance song of your choice) and after a few seconds the DJ switches the song to "U Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer, to which you and your partner break out into a full-on Hammer Time dance (with or without parachute pants). This serves to shock and delight all the friends and family in attendance, making a memorable, energetic, and highly entertaining first dance that will be talked about for years to come.

### The Second Dance

This is a favorite for couples who can't decide between having a formal dance or something modern. The first dance is kept traditional, while the second can be goofy, funky, sexy, or a combination of all three. The Second Dance is usually held later in the reception and works wonderfully for a bride who has a "dancing dress" for the reception.

### The "High School Bear Hug"

Arms wrapped around the neck or waist, standing either too close or too far apart, spinning around in a circle, and possibly swaying your hips back and forth. This is a dance move usually reserved for awkward teenagers at prom, and something you can easily avoid with a few wedding dance lessons.

Tango or Foxtrot, classy or sassy, survival or freestyle - your wedding dance has limitless possibilities with the professionals at Arthur Murray.



*Step Three:*  
SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

*Arthur Murray offers a free 45 minute consultation that is packed with useful information from our specialists.*

First, you'll meet with our Administrator, who scheduled your consultation, and they will give you a wedding consultation page to fill out. Once the wedding consultation sheet is complete, you'll meet with our New Student Director who will act as your guide and mentor through the process. Finally, you'll meet the Wedding Specialist, who will work with you and be your primary instructor. After all of the introductions are made, you'll move on to dancing. You'll learn the basics, dance with your partner, and by the end of the appointment the Wedding Specialist will recommend a program that fits your ideal choice of dance style, routine, and reception.

Once your consultation has ended, the Wedding Specialist and New Student Director will help you decide on a lesson schedule and tuition. These two experts will work closely together to make sure your first wedding dance is an original, creative, and memorable moment.

You now have all of the tools, tips, and information you need to get started. Starting as early as possible is highly recommended so that our team can give you all the time and help you need to make your big night an amazing success. To schedule your free consultation visit us at [www.arthurmurraylive.com](http://www.arthurmurraylive.com) or give us a call at 844-40-DANCE. We'll be waiting and ready to turn your wedding dance into a fantastic, unforgettable routine.



*Schedule Your Free Consult Today!*

GET STARTED





[www.arthurmurraylive.com](http://www.arthurmurraylive.com) 844.40.DANCE

