

### Alexandresca by Guglielmo

A Bassadanza for 2. This dance exist in 8 versions. This interpretation is based on the version in Paris, Bibliotheque Nationale, Ital. 973. I chose this version because it fits an attractive Balletto from the Capriola Lute book (circa 1517) that has been associated with this dance for many years (1<sup>st</sup> used by Peggy Dixon at least 30 years ago).

Start standing close together, not holding hands with the lady tucked in behind the man's right shoulder.

Measure	Steps and directions
1	Forwards together with 2 Sempii (left, right).
2	Doppio (left).
3 - 4	Volta Tonda turning to the right in Sempio (right) Doppio (left). Mezavolta on the right foot taking 3 beats.
5	Ripresa (left).
6	Ripresa (right).

Note that in all other 7 versions 2 Continenze are inserted here, but that doesn't fit this music.

Measure	Steps and directions
7	2 Sempii back along the original line of dance so the woman is on the left of the man and slightly ahead of him.
8	Doppio (left).
9 - 10	Volta Tonda turning to the right in Sempio (right) Doppio (left). Mezavolta on the right foot taking 3 beats.
11	Ripresa (left).
12	Ripresa (right).
13 - 14	Going initially forwards and then turning to his left the man circles round behind his own place into the woman's place. The woman follows closely behind him and ends in his place with 2 Sempii and a Doppio (left, right, left).
15 - 16	Going initially forwards and then turning to his right the man circles round behind the woman's original place into his own place. The woman follows closely behind him and ends in her own place with 2 Sempii and a Doppio (right, left, right). Bars 13 - 16 are basically a figure of 8 led by the man.

Note that some versions specify taking hands for these turns, which gives an entirely different (and to my mind less interesting) figure. If you prefer that option then the above turns are right hand first then left.

One version (New York) adds a whole extra section here and one of the versions in Foligno has an extra turn.

Measure	Steps and directions
17 - 18	Separate with 2 Doppii and a Mezavolta (left, right). The woman goes back towards where she started the dance, the man goes forwards.
19 - 20	2 Riprese (left, right).
21	Riverenza.
22 - 23	Coming back together 2 Saltarelli (left, Right) Woman only mezavolta.
24 - 25	Taking hands 2 Riprese (left, right).
26	Riverenza.

About half the versions say to repeat the whole dance again starting from the beginning. If you do this then the second time the man and the woman have reversed positions and roles – so the lady leads in the figure of 8.