

Ocho Kandelikas – dance description by Stacy Rose

"Ocho Kandelikas" (lit. 'Eight Little Candles') is a Ladino song celebrating the holiday of Hanukkah, written by the Jewish-American composer Flory Jagoda in 1983.

The song is sung in Ladino, an Old Spanish-derived language traditionally associated with the Sephardic Jewish community. The song is often performed in an Argentine tango-rhythm with accompanying accordion and violins. The lyrics of the song describes a child's joy of lighting the candles on the menorah.

I learned these steps from Linnea Mandell, who put the sequence together from dance steps learned in a klezmer dance workshop.

Circle formation

Start on **ki** – the last syllable in the opening lyrics *Hanukkah linda sta aki*

The verse:

Beginning with R foot, do 6 two-steps (Q,Q,S; start with R-L-R, then alternate with L-R-L) in CCW direction (on the verse) End facing center.

Interlude:

Several steps in and out of circle (on the Ohhhh part)

The chorus:

5 salsa steps starting on the R (on the chorus) (forward and back and side and together)
The salsa steps start slowly and accelerate in speed.

Lyrics

Ladino (transliterated)	English
Hanukka linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi. (×2)	Beautiful Hanukkah is here, eight candles for me. (×2)
O — Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, trez kandelikas, kuartro kandelikas sintyu kandelikas, sesh kandelikas, siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.	O — One little candle, two little candles, three little candles, four little candles, five little candles, six little candles, seven little candles, eight candles for me.
Muchas fiestas vo fazer, kon alegriyas y plazer. (×2)	Many parties to have, with happiness and pleasure. (×2)
Los pastelikos vo kumer, kon almendrikas y la myel. (×2)	Little pastries to eat, with little almonds and honey. (×2)