

Trousers legs: wide or very wide?

A plea for Tango trousers for men

By Martien Bron

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[INTRO] On a tango marathon in Hungary last month, I found an interesting phenomenon: tango trousers for men. With superb fit, very wide legs and carried out in a beautiful fabric, in which men look sublime and ready for an excellent dance. I got to talk with a designer and eventually bought myself tango trousers.

In tango fashion we tend to think of shoes or sexy dresses in black or red. Tango trousers for men are not so common. But this is going to change if we must believe Anita Maria Hornyák, designer of beautiful tango trousers for men.

In one day tailor made

Anita Maria Hornyák from Budapest is owner of tango fashion la MilongaM Menswear. She is a passionate Tanguera and convinced of the importance of tango trousers for men. In early January, during the Danube Tango Marathon (DTM) Budapest she is present in Café Bakalit in an old factory in a suburb of Budapest, with two clothes racks with tango trousers, for both men and women. The trousers on the racks are fitting models; after measurement each trousers is custom made. Friday measurement means Saturday ready and if needed delivery on Sunday.

Anita Maria emphasizes the importance of tango trousers for men: "Good tango trousers are fifty percent technique and fifty percent emotion. This applies to all tango dressing, as a dancer you want clothes that fit perfectly and are beautiful."

Anita Maria delivers trousers that fit perfectly in which the man feels himself a top dancer, ready for a sublime dance. She shows me several models from low to very high and trousers with a split in the legs and models with legs ranging from wide, very wide to extremely wide. Prices range from 70 to 100 euros.

Too short legs

I think I now have to go for tango trousers and I already have something in mind: trousers in a dark fabric with a stripe and not too wide legs, with nice details such as belt loops and back pockets for money or a pass in to store.

Anita Maria picked from all the trousers two classical models that meet my wishes. One is a low model and the other a little higher. I have to fit the trousers with my tango shoes on. The high model I like most is too small, because it pinches in my crotch. After Anita Maria has measured me and recorded everything we agree the following evening to fit again. Saturday evening after midnight, the marathon is in full swing, it's time to fit my new trousers. Help! the legs are too short. How can that be? Suddenly I realize that I'm not wearing the same shoes I was wearing last night, these have higher heels. But Anita sees something else: I wear my trousers too high. "Many men are doing this often and it doesn't look good," she says laughing. When I put my trousers on in the right way it fits perfectly.

In my new trousers I go to the grand salon of the marathon. It's very nice dancing in my new trousers, spacious for my legs, tight in the waist and round the top of my hips. It pinches nowhere and it's super light, very different from the 'normal' trousers I was dancing in till now. I also find the flutter both round my own legs as well as those of the follower very graceful, for example when doing sacadas.

Man friendly fabric

Sunday afternoon I continue my talk with Anita Maria about tango fashion: "At tango festivals and marathons there is a wide variety of tango clothes and shoes available for women. For men

sometimes there are shoes for sale, but often they come off badly. In webshops with dancewear you see the same picture", Anita Maria says.

As a marketer she worked for companies like Samsung, Unilever and Nutricia, and she comes from a family where women made their own clothes. She started making tango trousers when she lost her job as a marketer. She can use her marketing experience well in her business 'La MilongaM Menswear' which she started four years ago.

Anita Maria: "My unique selling point is tango trousers tailor made for men and executed in a man friendly fabric. Incidentally I can, if desired, also deliver trousers for women. We use only high quality materials and all trousers are made with beautiful details. We can provide trousers during festivals within 48 hours.

What are the characteristics of good tango trousers? She hesitates: "I'm not going to give away my designer secrets here," she says, "Important is that men have to make sure the trousers fit perfectly around the waist and hips and that bent knees are hidden by wide legs. Pay attention that your buttocks are brought out well and also make sure that the legs are long enough so that socks aren't visible. Finally choose a fabric in a blend of wool/cotton with lycra. "

Fitting and measuring

Anita Maria continues: "When fitting tango trousers I first check what type of dancer the man is, open or closed, because that gives direction in choosing a model and fabric. Then I want to know if he wants legs with slits, straight legs or perhaps a root form. The latter is often worn by classical dancers and wide and extremely wide legs are often chosen by Nuevo dancers. The fabric choice depends on several factors. Does he sweat a lot; does he want to pull on his pants at home or in the salon? Then I'm going to measure; waist at two points, hip size, length inside leg from ground to cross both sides, length outside leg from ground to waist both sides, finally the length of navel underneath the crotch to the back at the waist. A man can't measure himself, that should do another person and this must be done while the man is in an upright position with his head looking straight forward. This is very important; even though many webshops do not pay attention to this. Most web shops offer an average length and ask clients only the waist size. The result is trousers that do not fit properly.

After the measurement is done, the man is going to fit trousers in order to see himself in trousers he likes. Buying trousers from a piece of fabric doesn't work, because you don't see the whole. Currently denim trousers with a bright colored stripe along the side are popular in Western Europe, while in Eastern European countries often a classic fabric is chosen."

Working through the night

When all this is done Anita Maria starts to manufacture the trousers. She has an experienced professional dressmaker employed and if more work has to be done an extra dressmaker is available. Because she sells especially during festivals and marathons in Hungary and neighboring countries, in short periods a lot has to be done. Orders also come in through her website. Some customers order in advance and pick up their trousers during a festival. Anita Maria and her team work during festivals often through the night so that the trousers are ready the next day. Making trousers is labor intensive, because after the first fit it is often necessary to change small details.

Anita Maria: "I assume that for perfect trousers fitting twice is needed."

Sunday night during the after party of the Danube Tango Marathon in Urania, a beautiful Art Deco cinema in the heart of Budapest, I see Anita Maria walking around with a big black bag delivering trousers. "No delay is possible", she says, "because participants go home on Sunday or Monday and want to take their trousers, besides I would like to see that the trousers are perfect".

Of each customer she retains measurements and makes a few pictures of him in his new trousers. If his body does not change much she can make new trousers for him within 48 hours and ship it to him. Anita Maria: "It's nice to see men dancing in my trousers because they look better in it and I find it funny that I have influence in such a way in salons".

STREAMERS

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"Trousers in which he feels a top dancer, ready for a sublime dance"