Poised for Success Freestyle



Guide to the Transition Tango

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Etude Titles

Etude Titles are "Special Event" Titles that are offered by Poised for Success Freestyle for a limited time.

In music, an "etude" is a short musical composition that is designed to provide practice material for perfecting a particular musical skill in an aesthetically pleasing way.

Likewise, the Etude Titles provide Poised for Success Freestyle teams with the opportunity to create short practice exercises to perfect a particular Freestyle skill in an enjoyable way and to earn titles for performing those exercises.

These are offered through Poised for Success Freestyle at certain times throughout the year, and each one is offered for a limited time.

Anyone is eligible to enter submissions for Etude Titles. No prerequisite titles are necessary. All you need is a Poised for Success Registration number. For information on how to register, see the "Titling in Musical Freestyle" page on the Poised for Success website.

http://www.poisedforsuccessfreestyle.com/titling-in-musical-freestyle

Titling Classes

Three titling classes are offered for the Etude Titles:

- **Debut Class:** Puppies and adult dogs who are new to training are eligible to enter the Debut Class
- **Laude Class:** Senior dogs and dogs with disabilities are eligible to enter the Laude Class
- **Performer Class:** All dogs are eligible to enter the Performer Class

For teams in the Debut and Laude Classes, treats may be visible to your dog during a performance, and you may treat at any time during the performance. Handlers are encouraged to reinforce in a way that maintains as much flow as possible within the performance, although loss of flow for reinforcement will not cause a team to NQ.

For teams in the **Performer Class, treats or toys being used as reinforcers may not be visible to your dog during a performance, although you can have them in a pocket or bait bag**, and you may not treat until after the performance is fully complete.

A team may enter any given Etude event in one titling class only per offering of that event.

However, a team that enters in the Debut Class one year can enter the same event in the Performer Class in another year, once the dog is ready to do so. And a team that enters in the Performer Class in one year can enter the same event in the Laude class in a later year, once eligible to perform in that Class.

The Transition Tango
Title Open for Entries June 15, 2026 – September 15, 2026

This revived title is open at two levels:

- First Level – The Transition Tango
- Second Level – The Transition Tango - Sonata

Video Editing

For the Transition Tango, the only editing that is allowed is a music overlay.

Use of a title on your video and/or some kind of closing picture/thank you screen is allowed, but not required.

Whether you are going to use a music overlay or not, you should always video with music playing in the background. You should be performing to music even if you are going to use a music overlay for your submission.

Performance Video

Remember, as always in Poised for Success Freestyle, all of you and your dog should be in the picture throughout the majority of the performance. If you "lose" a bit of yourself or your dog briefly, it is OK, especially if you move in close to the camera, but the overall impression of the performance should be that you and your dog are both performing. Take care not to cut your head off completely throughout the video of the performance.

The Transition Tango

To earn this title, the handler must **perform two short movement sequences that feature synchronized movement connected together by a transition of position.**

Each sequence should be performed as follows:

- **Start with your dog facing you.**

  Your dog may begin standing, sitting or in an opening pose.

- From that opening, **take some steps of movement (forward or backward) in a line with your dog in position in front of you** (moving forward or backward, opposite you).

  If you have a large space, you can move some distance. For a small space, you can take just a few steps – just get moving a bit.

- Once you have moved at least a few steps, **have your dog perform a transition move (or combination) that results in him or her ending up on your right or your left side.** Perfect position is not required.

  See "Transitions of Position" information below for details.

- **Take a few steps of movement** (forward, backward, or sideways) **in a line with your dog in that position** (heel or side).

- **Have your dog perform a different transition move, or combination, that results in him or her ending up in front of you again.**

- **Take a few steps with your dog in that position to finish.**

- Your dog may perform a closing pose in front of you, or can end simply standing (or sitting) in front of you.

Film two different sequences demonstrating four distinct transitions of position (or combinations).

Props may be used, but if a prop is used, it must be incorporated into at least one of the transitions somehow.

There is no minimum or maximum time for the performance of these movement sequences.

Transitions of Position

A transition of position is a move that your dog performs where the dog starts in one position relative to the handler and ends up in a different position relative to the handler.

These are some suggestions. You and your dog are not limited to these options:

- Switch (Dog and handler spin/turn together, handler pick dog up on a different side)
- Multiple Leg Weaves (Single leg weave is OK for Debut or Laude)
- Cut (Dog cuts behind handler to move from heel to side or side to heel)
- Dog Circles Handler
- Dog Pivots from one Position to Another
- Send Around a Prop (Handler picks dog up in a different position)
- Pose on a Prop (Dog holds a pose on a prop while handler moves around dog to pick dog up in a different position)
- One Full Scallop (or multiple Scallops)

Note well: **A simple "call to position", or "swing" cannot be used as the transition of position for this title, nor can a single leg weave**, except for dogs in the Debut or Laude classes, with whom each may be used one time.

Combined Transitions of Position

If you want to add more "zing" to the performance, or are looking for more of a challenge, you can have your dog perform one or more combined transitions of position. (This is not required).

In order to perform a combined transition of position, the dog performs two different moves, one flowing right into the other, that results in the dog moving from one position relative to the handler to another. Both moves do not have to be transition moves.

Note well: **A single leg weave and/or "swing" can be used** as part of a combined transition.

Some Examples:

- Dog starts in front of handler, performs a spin in front of handler, immediately flows into a single leg weave, ends up in heel or side position.

- Dog starts in front of handler, performs a spin in front of handler, immediately flows into a circle around, ends up in heel or side position.

Examples of Combined Transitions of Position (Continued):

- Dog starts on the left or right side of handler and sends out around a prop, as dog approaches handler again, dog and handler perform a simultaneous spin with the dog ending up in center position.
- Dog performs a half-spin in heel or side position and flows right from that into a circle behind the handler to end up in the opposite position.
- Dog starts in front of handler, sends to left or right to land in "pony", dog backs up and moves forward into heel or side position.
- Dog starts in any position, performs multiple leg weaves, flows into a circle around handler to land in a different position.

The key idea to keep in mind with any transition of position, whether a single transition move, or combined transition, is that the dog must clearly start in one position relative to the handler, and "land" in a different position.

Transition Tango Examples:

Sherry and Bowie:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN11ppx59p0
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jFPg1cVKLk

Kristine and Bandit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtgXcQVIzwU

Kristine and Stella – Debut Class Example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_bqq3iJ9OY

Transition Tango Title

The first level title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Transition Tango Etude Title.

PFS – TT

Or

PFS-TT (Debut)

Or

PFS-TT (Laude)

The Transition Tango - Sonata

To earn this title, the handler must **design a short performance made up entirely of synchronized movement and at least 3 transitions of position that are performed within the flow of the performance.**

The team must move together with the dog in at least two different positions, relative to the handler, throughout the performance.

Use of an opening and/or closing pose or move that is not a transition of position is welcome, but not required.

Movement with the dog in position is required. At minimum, the team should take at least 3 steps together in between transition moves – more, if possible. See "Movement Elements" below for some suggestions.

Transitions of position can be simple transitions or combined transitions.

Note well: **A simple "call to position", or "swing" cannot be used as a transition of position for this title, nor can a single leg weave**, except for dogs in the Debut or Laude classes, with whom each may be used one time. However, either, or both, can be incorporated into a combined transition of position. (Example – Dog starts in front of handler, performs a single leg weave, flows into a circle around the handler, and ends up in a new position).

Note well: While a minimum of three transitions of position are required in the performance to qualify, more than three can be used in the performance, if desired. If additional transitions of position are used, they can be repeats, and you can use a "swing" or single leg weave transition – as long as you and your dog have completed the first three transitions of position in the performance.

Perfect position is not required – the performance will not be judged on precision of position. The dog simply must clearly move together with the handler (in front of handler, to the left of handler, and/or to the right of the handler). For teams for whom this skill is new, I highly recommend creating a performance in the Debut class for the experience and training opportunity.

Props are permitted, and props can be incorporated into opening and closing poses or moves, but if a prop is used, it must be used as part of at least one of the transition moves and/or as part of a combined transition in the flow of the performance.

The maximum time for all performances is 1 minute and 30 seconds. There is no minimum time required.

A music overlay may be used for the Transition Tango – Sonata, but no other editing may be used within the flow of the performance.

Use of tango music would be very fun, but it is not required.

Movement Elements (TT)

"Synchronized movement" means that you and your dog must take at least three (handler) steps with dog moving with you on one particular side of you as you move together. No defined position is required, it simply must be clear that your dog is moving with you (in front of you, to your left, to your right, etc.)

You and/or your dog may move forward, backward, or sideways.

Use of "movement elements" is not required for the Transition Tango Sonata title, but I am offering these suggestions just to provide ideas.

These are not exactly the same as the Rose Cotillion Movement Elements.

- Continuous forward heelwork in straight or curved patterns, featuring the dog on the outside of the curve.
- Continuous forward heelwork in curved patterns, featuring the dog on the inside of the curve. (Please use this only if your dog moves comfortably on the inside of the curve – some dogs do not).
- Rally-style turns with your dog on the outside of the curve (or on the inside of the curve if your dog is comfortable moving on an inside line) Recommended Turns: 270 degree, 360 degree, 450 degree, Double Schutzhund. It is recommended to perform them wider than in Rally if space permits.

- Dog moving toward handler (either the two moving together, or the dog returning from a send) in a straight line or curve.
- Figure 8s together around props. Or "outside curve" Figure 8 with transition move in between each circle around the prop.
- "Paperclip" around two props (dog and handler move together around two props, using the space in between them to feature movement.
- Cha-Cha (Handler moves backward, dog moves forward toward handler, then handler moves forward with dog moving backward away from handler).
- Modified Cha-Cha (Dog and handler move forward with dog on right or left of handler, transition move is performed and dog ends up in center, dog moves toward handler as handler backs up. With another transition move, this could be repeated)
- Spiral (Dog is on left or right of handler. Handler moves forward while making small circling movements. Dog moves with handler to move in a "spiral" pattern (like an old phone cord) on the floor.

Again, none of these movement elements are required in this performance. These are just suggestions to help you create your performance.

Transition Tango Sonata Title

The Transition Tango Sonata title consists of only this one leg, and teams who qualify on this single submission will earn the Transition Tango Etude Title.

PFS – TT-Sonata

Or

PFS-TT-Sonata (Debut)

Or

PFS-TT-Sonata (Laude)

Submit Your Entry

The entry fee for each submission is $15.00. One video makes up a single submission for each Transition Tango title.

Each qualifying team will receive a printed certificate and flat ribbon in the mail. If you prefer to have your certificate emailed, please indicate that preference when you submit.

Entries – Transition Tango

Please fill out the Jotform entry at the following link:

https://form.jotform.com/253188116592058

Submit $15.00 payment to:

pfsfreestyle@gmail.com

Entries for the Transition Tango will open on June 15, 2026, and close on September 15, 2026.

I look forward to seeing your entries!

