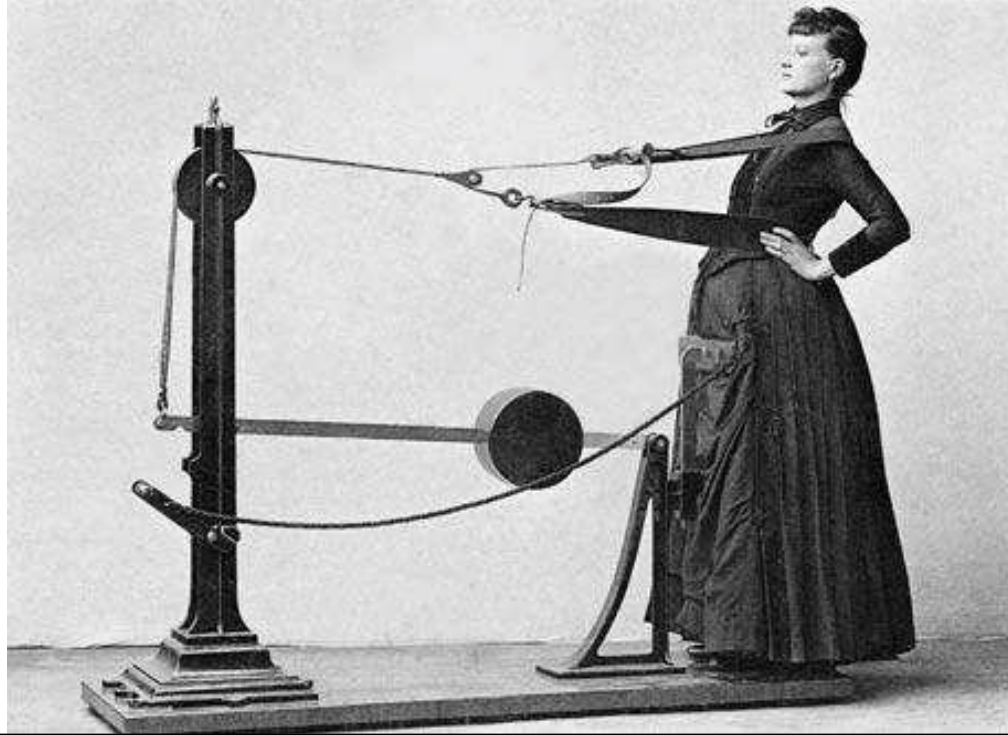


Acme Dance Partner



From a May 1995 *Innovations Today* review: Let's not beat around the bush: the Acme Dance Partner™ is a cockamamie contraption. Invented by a janitor at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio franchise in Toledo, Ohio, the gizmo attempts to mimic the foot, arm, and body motions of a real dance partner. By tugging “gently but firmly” on the user's shoulders, hips, and feet, the machine (according to the instruction manual) “will quickly teach the student to follow her partner's lead in such dances as the fox trot, waltz, mambo, lambada, polka, and hip hop, including the ever popular ‘popping ’n locking’.” Good idea; bad execution. Our test model proved to have nary a “gentle” bone in its body. Initial research was conducted by Gwen, IT's librarian and a first-rate ballroom dancer. She followed the directions and plugged herself into the ADP for an initial half-hour session of lambada training. But after only ten minutes, her spotter had to disconnect her, then whisk her off to the infirmary where she was treated for contusions, abrasions, a sprained neck, and hemorrhoids. Ruth, our pastry chef, then tried the simplest program of all – a five-minute “waltz refresher.” The result was the same. Within ninety seconds, she had dislocated her latissimus dorsi and lost her lunch (a redolent mulligatawny). Therefore, we pronounce this product “Unsafe,” and award it a 1 out of 10 on the *Innovations Today* Product Quality Scale. Bottom line: ***Not recommended!***