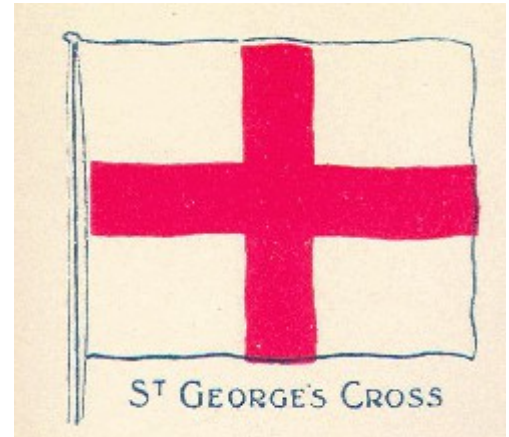


The Union Flag

First we had St George's flag – a red cross on a white ground.



Then when Scotland joined England we had to bring in St Andrew's banner.

That's where the blue comes in. St Andrew's cross is white but it goes corner-wise.

St George went on top of it with just a little bit of its own white.

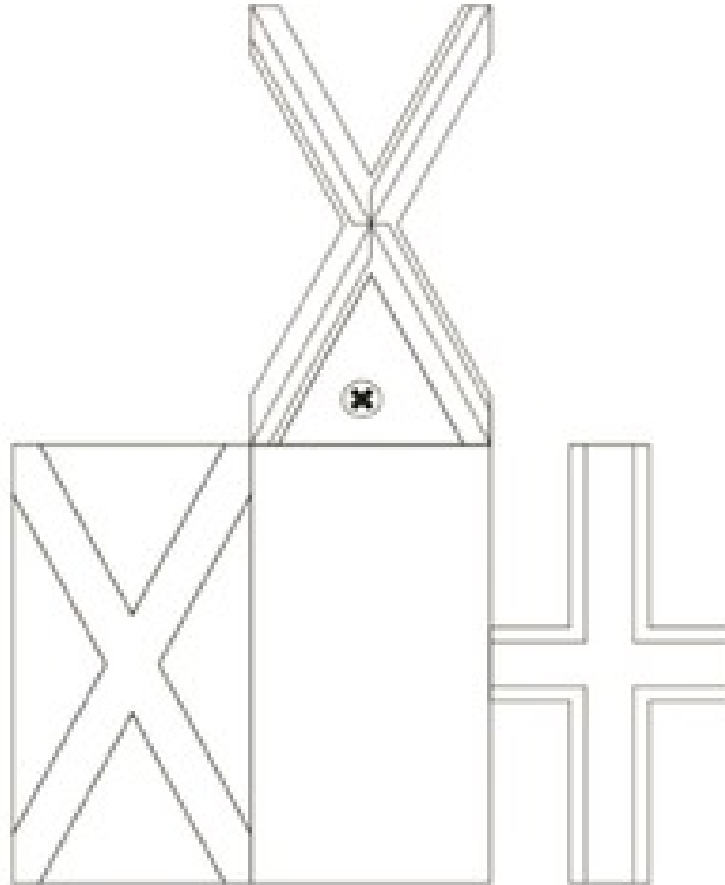
When Ireland came in in 1801 it was more difficult. St Patrick's banner is red and white too, like St George's only his red cross is corner-wise like St Andrew's.



If they stuck it on as it was it would quite wipe out St Andrew's. So they did a funny thing; they cut St Patrick's cross in half and kept just a little white with it is they did with St George's... they put the lower half of St Patrick's cross near the staff, and the upper half on the side farther

away... to show that St. Andrew's came first. If you fly the flag the other way it is all wrong...

(From *A Madcap Brownie* by Sibyl B. Owsley 1929)



Cut out the figure above being careful to keep the four parts joined together.

The centre blank rectangle is the base. The cross on the left is the St Andrew's cross of Scotland. The four triangles that form its background should be coloured blue and the St Andrew's cross itself left white. The cross on the right is the cross of St George which is red in the centre with a white border. The cross at the top is the trickiest one to get right. It is the cross of St Patrick and has a red centre with a white border. Carefully cut away the triangle marked with a cross in a circle, making sure that the "legs" of the cross are still attached to the central rectangular base. To form the crosses into a Union Flag first place it coloured face down on the table. Now fold over the St Andrew's flag onto the base so that the base is completely covered. Next fold down the St Patrick's flag over the St Andrew's flag. Then fold the St George's flag on top.