

FLYING THE FLAG IN DENMARK

The Dannebrog, the national symbol of Denmark, should be respected as befits the flag of a country.

From a flagstaff ashore the swallow-tailed state flag may be flown only on a special licence. For general, civilian purposes the square flag is used, the size and proportions of which are shown below.

These proportions must be observed, and the flag must not be embellished with logos, embroidery or the like.

The width of the flag must be $\frac{1}{5}$ of the flagstaff. In hard weather a storm flag may be used, the minimum width being $\frac{1}{10}$ of the staff's height.

No other flag may be flown from the same flagstaff at the same time.

The flag may be flown between 8 a.m. (but no earlier than sunrise) and sunset – or for any part of that period. Outside the above period, the flag may be flown if illuminated.

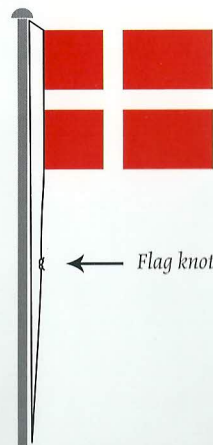
In connection with death or mourning the flag may be half masted after first having been run up. Before lowering, the flag is run up again. On the day of the funeral, it is customary to half the flag until just after the funeral service, when it is run up.

During periods when the flag is not flown, a Danish streamer may be used. The correct length of the streamer is half the height of the flagstaff.

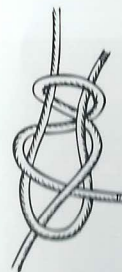
In Denmark the following flags may be flown: the other Scandinavian flags, the UN flag and the EU flag. The flying of all other flags requires a permission from the local police.



A sheet bend with round turn.



Flag knot.



Crossover sheet bend.



Danmarks-Samfundet

Idrættens Hus

Brøndby Stadion 20

2605 Brøndby

www.danmarks-samfundet.dk

RULES FOR THE USE OF THE DANISH FLAG



How to use Dannebrog

A brief orientation



Patron: His Royal Highness Prince Joachim

THE DENMARK SOCIETY

The foundation of the Society took place in 1908 during a period characterized by political tension before the outbreak of the First World War and by national conflicts. This inspired a group of citizens to found the Denmark Society, the main objective of which was to strengthen national solidarity.

Very important decisions were made right from the start. For instance, the Society's work should be carried out on a non-political basis, and the symbol of the Society should be the Danish flag, Dannebrog.

After four years of intensive work, the Society became nationwide, and at the same time the idea of having a yearly national subscription on the 15th of June emerged, hereafter called Valdemar's Day. In 1912 King Christian X granted the Society permission to sell small flags, the so-called Valdemar's flags, on that day.

The funds raised were mainly spent on procuring standards and flags which were donated to organizations, in particular youth organizations and sports associations, and furthermore to smaller groupings such as pensioners' associations, soldiers' associations, folk dancers, schools and kindergartens, Danish associations abroad etc. Since 1908 the Society has collected a sum of about 20 million Danish kroner, which has been spent on the purchase of more than 30,000 standards and a corresponding number of flags.

As it has become increasingly difficult for volunteers to sell the Valdemar's flags, in 2006 it was decided to strengthen the Society's economy by selling memberships to individuals as well as organisations, associations etc. But the strength of the Danish Society is still its background, which will always be present in the work for the symbol of unity of the nation, as well as the fact that the work is carried out by volunteers.

The Society is a "help to self-help" organization. We emphasize that recipients of standards and flags must have understood the necessity of contributing to the Society's work through the sale of the small flags on Valdemar's day, to provide the funds to pay for the purchase of equipment.

Furthermore, the Denmark Society looks after the interests of the flag. In that context it is worthwhile mentioning that no special act of the Danish parliament has been made concerning the flag, but that the use of the flag is based on old statutory instruments and some circulars. This provides the possibility for different interpretations of various questions arising when the national symbol is part of daily activities in different situations.

To alleviate this situation the Denmark Society has published this orientation about the Society and some of the rules and traditions concerning Dannebrog.



DANNEBROG

The oldest Danish flag was the "Banner of the Raven", a red banner with the raven of the Nordic god Odin embroidered in black. It was widely known to be the banner of the Vikings and was called "Danebrog" i.e. the cloth (banner) of the Danes. Over time, the spelling of the name has changed to "Dannebrog".



After the introduction of Christianity in Denmark, Odin's raven was replaced by the symbol of Christianity. Around the year 1200 the white cross on a red background was probably the mark of crusaders attempting to Christianize heathen Estonia. Popular tradition and later written accounts have connected the origin of Dannebrog with the final battle at Lyndanisse Castle in Estonia on the 15th of June 1219. The unexpected appearance of the flag in the strong wind was regarded as a sign from God and stirred up the hard pressed Danes under King Valdemar's leadership to win the final victory. Since then, Dannebrog has been the national symbol of the Danes, although it did not come into popular use until relatively late. For hundreds of years the flag remained the King's banner, not least as the mark of assembly in warfare, from which followed that from 1410 it became the flag of the King's Navy.

The first colour painting indicating Dannebrog as the banner of the King of Denmark is from 1375 and can be found at the National Library in Brussels.