

# CHRYSANTHEMUM

**LEVEL: 1**    **SUGGESTED TRACKS: 2 or 6** (Polkas)

**SUMMARY:** A very simple dance with only 1/4 of the dancers moving at any one time. Works particularly well for a disparity of ages, uneven numbers, and differently abled dancers.

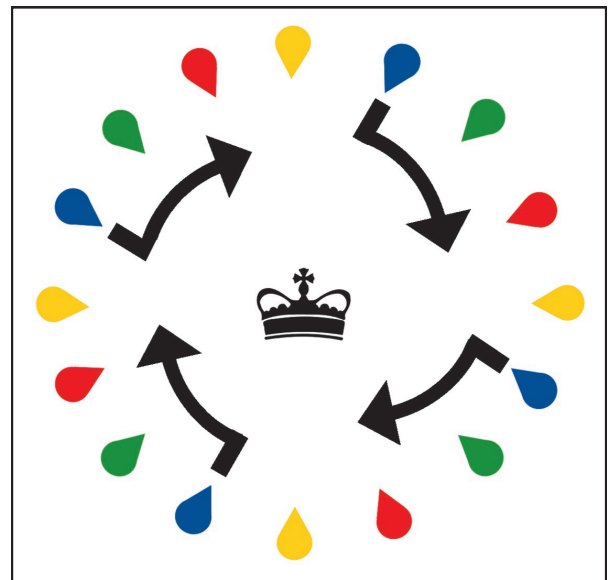


This is a very simple dance originally created by Chris Turner and described in *Dancing Round the Maypole*. We have adapted to make it even simpler to teach.

In this dance, one colour goes into the middle, turns to the left, and makes a single, clockwise circuit of the pole before returning home. This is repeated by each colour in turn. With a little imagination, the pattern resembles the long petals of a chrysanthemum...



*The turn of the Reds! Look at the even spacing.*



## Dance at a Glance

1. Blues\* move in and circle the pole once, clockwise;
2. Repeat with Reds, Greens & Yellows;
3. Continue sequence as desired;
4. Yellows start the unwind.

*\*Colour sequence arbitrary*

## Stepping

This can be a walk, a skip or something more complicated suggested by whatever music you choose. However if you continue the dance for more than a few turns each, then stepping will become much harder. Much better to concentrate on the phrasing for this one.

# DANCE INSTRUCTIONS

## Before you Begin:

Make sure that:

- Everyone knows what colour ribbon they are holding!
- Your dancers know their position in the circle. Who is on either side of them?

## Making the Pattern:

1. All face into the middle, holding the ribbon with the right hand raised;
2. All the **Blues\*** take 2 steps towards the pole and turn to the left. When everyone is ready, dance once around the pole and back to place;
3. Stand facing into the middle again with the right hand raised;
4. **Repeat steps 1, 2 and 3 with the Reds, Greens and Yellows\***. This can be repeated as often as the enthusiasm and concentration of the dancers allows, usually two or three times. For really young dancers, once might be enough!

*\*The choice and sequence of colours is completely arbitrary, but be consistent once you have started.*

## The Unwind:

Starting with the last colour to have moved (in this case Yellow), reverse the sequence and direction of dance until the pattern is completely unwound.



*It's getting harder now the pattern is lower—duck!*

## Performance Tips:

- Each colour becomes a team, helping each other know when to start, and moving at the same speed - it's not a race to the finish!
- Listen to phrasing so that this becomes more instinctive than counted (*see p18*).

## Next Steps:

- Add an introduction or coda by getting the dancers to go in and out, either all together, or by colour group.
- Add extra flourishes by turning underneath your own ribbon, or parading around the pole.
- See Challenges (*p51*).

Extracted from *The Maypole Manual* by Mike Ruff and Jenny Read. This PDF can be used and shared free of charge, without alteration, for non-commercial educational use only. You can buy the full publication and accompanying CD from [Mike Ruff](#) or from the English Folk Dance and Song Society's [Folk Shop](#).



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