

# RUSSIAN NAPOLEONIC FLAGS

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This is a small series of articles to illustrate as many Russian Napoleonic flags as I can. Books I have read on the subject tend to describe Russian Napoleonic flags as a 'complex' subject, which on the face of it is true. There seem to have been a number of 'issues' of flags, in 1797, 1800, 1803, 1806/7 and 1813, but the old patterns were not always withdrawn, so that some regiments carried older pattern flags right through the Napoleonic Wars. Precisely which regiments did so is more of a problem and not one I have found a satisfactory answer to, I'm afraid. Only in the case of the Battle of Borodino do we get a clear idea of who was still carrying old flags, and then only for the particular regiments recorded here. Frankly your guess is a good as mine regarding the rest, and probably better. I will simply provide all the flags I have been able to find and leave it for you to decide which unit shall carry what and for how long.

Up to 1813 each infantry regiment carried both coloured and white flags; after that the white flags were discontinued.

## USING THE PRINTED FLAGS

The flags have been drawn in the size that I use. I know they are somewhat over-large, but I like them that way. It also makes them easier to copy and cut out! If you like smaller flags, reduce them in the copying process.

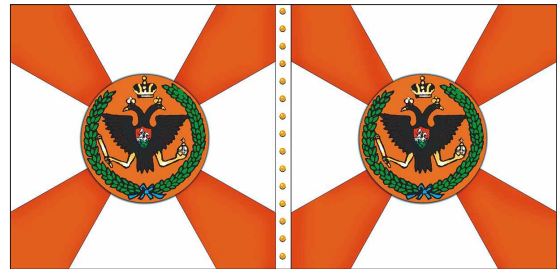
- Once you have copied them, cut them out slightly oversized, leaving some white surround.
- Fix them around a suitable pole with white PVA glue.
- Allow this to soak well into the flag, then press the two sides together around the pole.
- Leave to cure for a while; keeping it pressed flat under an old book.
- Bend the flag whilst it's still flexible, to create folds as if it's blowing in the wind.
- Once the flag is hard trim it with a sharp pair of scissors so that none of the surrounding white paper shows.
- You can now varnish it for extra strength or even add some painted-on highlights.
- For extra strength and bendability you can make a sort of sandwich, with a thin bit of aluminium foil between the two 'sides' of the flag before you stick it together.

As an alternative to colour copying you might like to visit our web site ([www.wargamesfoundry.com](http://www.wargamesfoundry.com)) and download the flags from there. Here you will also find a 'dark' version of each flag, so that you can paint on the next brighter level of colour and highlight yourself after printing them out; this will give less of a 'printed' and more of a 'professional painter' look.

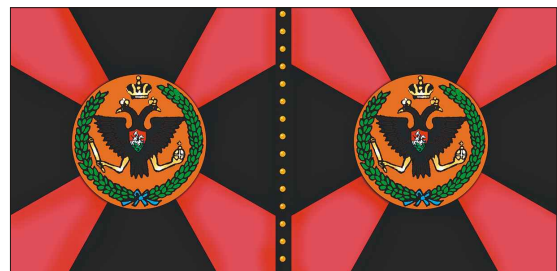
\* Carried at Borodino  
1812



PAVLOV GRENADEIERS COLOURED 1797 ISSUE\*



PAVLOV GRENADEIERS WHITE 1797 ISSUE\*



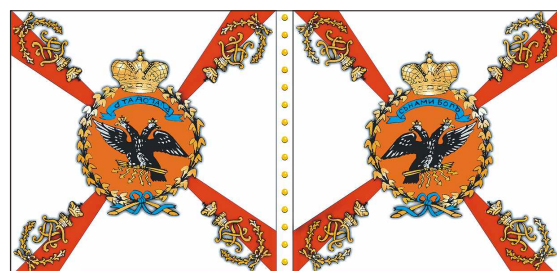
LITTLE RUSSIA GRENADEIERS COLOURED 1797 ISSUE\*



LITTLE RUSSIA GRENADEIERS WHITE 1797 ISSUE\*



GUARDS COLOURED 1800 ISSUE

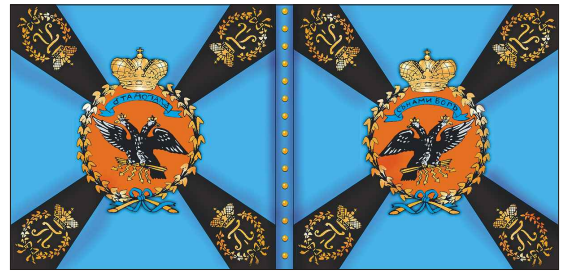


GUARDS WHITE 1800 ISSUE

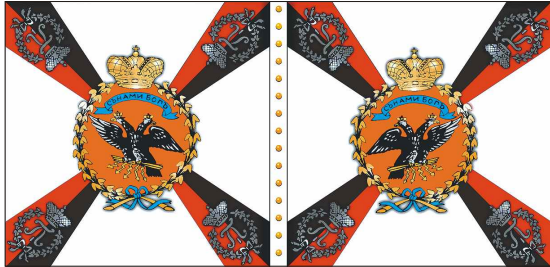




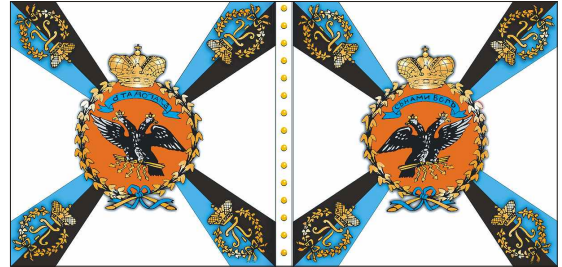
BREST LITOVSK, LITHUANIA, LIVONIA, SMOLENSK  
COLOURED 1800 ISSUE



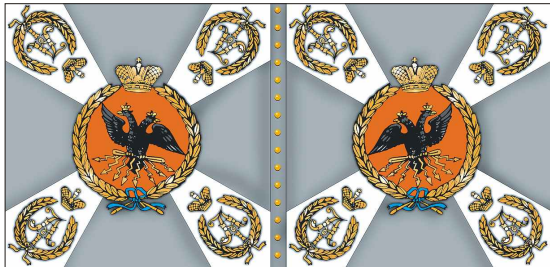
FINLAND, MOSCOW  
COLOURED 1800 ISSUE



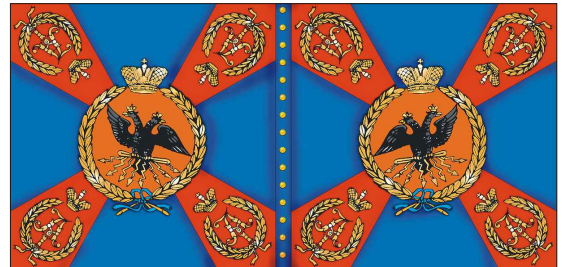
BREST LITOVSK, LITHUANIA, LIVONIA, SMOLENSK  
WHITE 1800 ISSUE



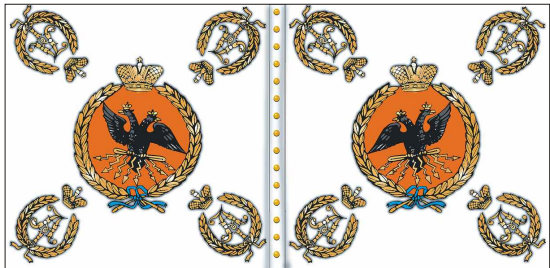
FINLAND, MOSCOW  
WHITE 1800 ISSUE



SIBERIA  
COLOURED 1803 ISSUE



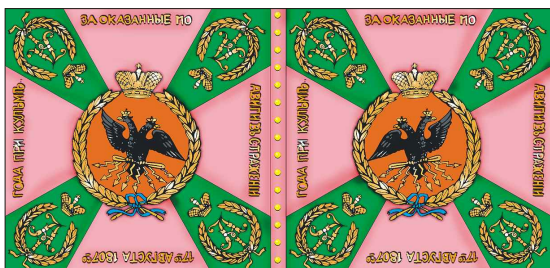
BELOSTOKSKY MUSKETEERS  
COLOURED 1807 ISSUE



WHITE 1803 ISSUE



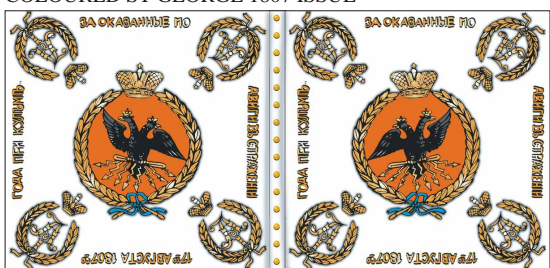
AZOVSKY  
COLOURED 1807 ISSUE



FANAGORISKY GRENADIERS  
COLOURED ST GEORGE 1807 ISSUE



ALL LINE INFANTRY 1813 ISSUE



WHITE ST GEORGE 1807 ISSUE



PAVLOV GRENADEIER GUARDS 1813 ISSUE