

THE WHITE COCKADE



This tune is believed to date back to at least 1669 in John Playford's tune collection, **Apollo's Banquet** (London, 1669).¹ It is later found in the American publication of **Evening Amusement** (Philadelphia, 1796) compiled by Benjamin and Joseph Carr.² The white cockade is thought to either refer to the white ribbon rosette associated with the Jacobite rebels in 1715 and 1745 in Scotland and Ireland, or the 'bouquets of ribbons worn by the young women of Munster at weddings and other such occasions' in the 17th century.³

The White Cockade can be played as a polka⁴ or as a Scottish Measure⁵ and can be found in the key of G, D, or C depending on the publication.

Eloise Hubbard Linscott includes The White Cockade dance steps in her collection, **Folk Songs of Old New England** (1939), stating that this dance was being performed in New England in the 1930s.⁶

Dance Name: The White Cockade

Music Used: The White Cockade

Contradance Formation

Six to Eight Couples

First lady down the center, first gentleman down the outside and back	8 bars
First gentleman down the center, first lady down the outside and back	8 bars
First couple down the center, back and cast off	8 bars
Right and left	8 bars

A similar White Cockade set dance is being performed here by The Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia: <https://youtu.be/zv1wxtbAIS4>

Vivian and Phil's Version: <https://youtu.be/30hyBXExJmM>

¹John Playford (1623 – 1686/7), London, England, best known for his **The English Dancing Master** (1651). **Apollo's Banquet for Treble-Violin** (1670) is an anthology containing country dances, theater tunes, marches, hornpipes, broadside ballads and French marches. This tune is apparently marked as 'Scots' tune' ([https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:White_Cockade_\(1\)_The](https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:White_Cockade_(1)_The)), but I could NOT figure out which tune it was when I searched the scan of the 1687 publication ([https://imslp.org/wiki/Apollo's_Banquet_\(Playford,_John\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Apollo's_Banquet_(Playford,_John))). If you find it, let me know which one it is.

²University of Washington has a digital copy of this. **Evening amusement: containing fifty air's, song's, duett's, dances, hornpipe's, reel's, marches, minuett's, &c, &c, for 1, and 2 German flutes or violins. : Price 75 cents.** 1796; Philadelphia : Printed & sold at B Carr's Musical Repositories Philadelphia and New York & J Carr's Baltimore

³tunearch, *loc. cit.*

⁴Scott, Jane Wells. **Tallahassee Irish Tune Book**, 1996. This is the Tallahassee area Irish Session tune book that I started with in 1999 and still refer to weekly.

⁵tunearch, *loc. cit.*, See https://socialfolkdance.org/dances/S/Scotch_Measure.pdf for Scottish Measure dance steps. YouTube has many videos of people dancing the Scottish Measure.

⁶Linscott, Eloise Hubbard. **Folk Songs of Old New England**. Dover, 1962, p 120.