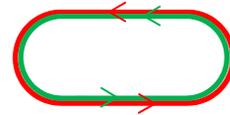


Formation flying is about two or more aircrafts (birds) flying together in a disciplined flight usually with some synchronizes patterns or motions, perhaps under the command of a flight leader.

RC planes formation flying is harder than real aircrafts formation flying due to lack of true relative sight with respect to each other inside an aircraft. Ideally it is preferred to use RC planes with similar power so that each plane could perform similarly on all motions during the flight. Formation flying need flying together in harmony not racing, usually planes are flying at 50%-75% of throttle within each other's comfort zone. Throttle above 75% is reserved for catching up or recovery purposes during a formation flight.

Before each formation flying, it is suggested to briefing each other what is this flight going to do. Since all partner(s) knew what to do during the flight, the results are usually much better.

Two planes (basic formation flying tasks in an oval rectangle circuit)



Follow the leader: (practice to flying at a constant speed)

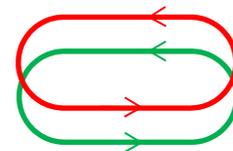
Taxi out, take off in sequence, and level the flight, join-in (as follower), and circle in circuit, just follow the leader at behind. The leader could say out "prepare to turn, I'm turning please follow me after 3 seconds." The aim of the practise is to keep a same speed with each other, at a same distance as well as the same path and altitude level of the circuit. The follower keeps following the leader the whole flight.

Alternative leader: (leader training)



Taxi out, take off in sequence, and level the flight, join-in (as follower), and circle in circuit, leader would say "turn together in 3, 2, 1 turn", (the follower turns with no delay here) after 180 degree turns the follower will become new leader, last leader will become follower, keep circling and alternate the leader position, landing in sequence, taxi in. The aim of this practise is to take turns in commanding as well as keeping same speed, level, and path. This is a preparation for formation acrobat flying in future.

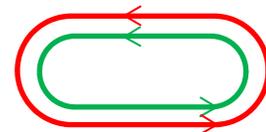
Side by side: (same size circuits)



Taxi out, position in parallel, take off in parallel if comfortable, otherwise in sequence, level, join-in (parallel side by side), circle in circuit, leader say "turn together in 3, 2, 1 turn together", after 180 degree turns the two planes should remain side by side to each other. Keep flying in circuit.

The aim of this practise is to keep each other in parallel all the time as well as flying the same path.

Side by side: (big and small circuits)



Taxi out, position in parallel, leader in big circuit (closer), take off in parallel, level, join-in (parallel side by side), circle in circuit, leader say "turn together in 3, 2, 1 turn together", in this case the leader will turn with a bigger circuit and the follower will fly and turn with a smaller circuit. In other words the leader is circling the follower's circuit all the time. Leader needs to increase the throttle to catch up during the bigger turns, after 180 degree turn the two planes should remain side by side to each other. Keep flying in circuit. The aim of this practise is to keep up with your partner by adjusting your throttle during turns.