
Medieval Costume Patterns

Cross-gartering

Needs:

- ✓ 2-3 yards of tape or ribbon, half or three-quarter inches wide.
- ✓ Plain long pants or plain kneesocks.

Steps:

1. The pants may be cross-gartered, or plain kneesocks may be worn over the pants and cross-gartered.
2. Shoes may be omitted. If needed, they should be plain dark leather. The "dorm-boot" style of slipper looks appropriate.
3. Since hose was baggy, it was tied to the leg with a strip of cloth starting just below the knee and ending at the ankle. Use 2-3 yards of ribbon or tape in a color that contrasts with the hose or pants being gartered.
4. Tie one end of the tape around the leg just below the knee, then wind it in a circular pattern down to the ankle. Go around the ankle and then wind it back up the leg to the knee, ending with a bow.

Crown

Needs:

- ✓ Cardboard, 6 x 24 inches.
- ✓ "Gold" or "silver" foil or paint.
- ✓ Duct tape. Staples.
- ✓ Optional: Fake jewels and glue.

Kings and queens in the Middle Ages wore golden crowns that were often shaped in a leafy or flower pattern.

Steps:

1. Measure around the wearer's head, then cut out a piece of cardboard 6 inches high and as wide as your head size, plus 3 inches.
2. Mark off 3 inches at one end. Draw your crown design on the cardboard, leaving the marked 3 inches blank.
3. Cut out your crown, and cover it with gold or silver foil, or gold or silver paint.
4. Fasten the crown together with duct tape on the inside, or staples, overlapping the 3 inch section.
5. Glue on jewels.

Gown

Needs:

- ✓ Length of cloth, plain or brocaded, 54 inches wide by 8-10 feet long. Old tablecloths or upholstery remnants can be used, but they should not have a printed pattern. The cloth must be twice the length of the wearer's shoulder-to-ankle measurement.
- ✓ Trimming: braid, fake fur, fake jewels.
- ✓ Belt (optional): 4-6 feet silk cord.
- ✓ Fabric glue. Needle and thread.

The gown is full-length and high-necked with long full sleeves. It should be worn over a long-sleeved plain-colored blouse. Slippers or plain-colored socks may be worn on the feet.

Steps:

1. Fold the fabric lengthwise. At the fold, measure in 20 inches from each side (A). From point A, measure down 10 inches (B).
2. Along each outer edge, measure down from fold 15 inches (C).
3. From point C, mark a line to point B. At the lower edge, measure in 10 inches on each side (D).
4. Cut and sew along lines C - B and B - D.
5. Neck opening: Measure in from sleeve ends 24 inches (E).
6. From center point, measure down 4 inches (F). Join F to E with a curved line. Cut E - F - E.
7. Belt: The gown may either hang straight or be belted with a long loose silk cord, knotted at the waist with the ends hanging down in front.
8. Trimming: Decorate neck opening, sleeve ends and hem with fake fur, fake jewels, and rows of braid or ribbons, attached with fabric glue or stitched on.

Hennin

Tall cone-shaped hat with a veil worn by ladies and magicians in the late Middle Ages. The jester's hat is a soft version of the hennin, hanging down to the shoulders rather than standing up.

A simple version can be made from stiff paper or poster board; a more durable hat is made from felt or heavy fabric over poster board. Merlin's hat is a black hennin, decorated with stars, moon and sun cut out of silver or gold foil and glued on. A jester's hat is made like a hennin from felt or other soft fabric in a bright color, but without any stiff cardboard; bells are sown on the tip or around the forehead.

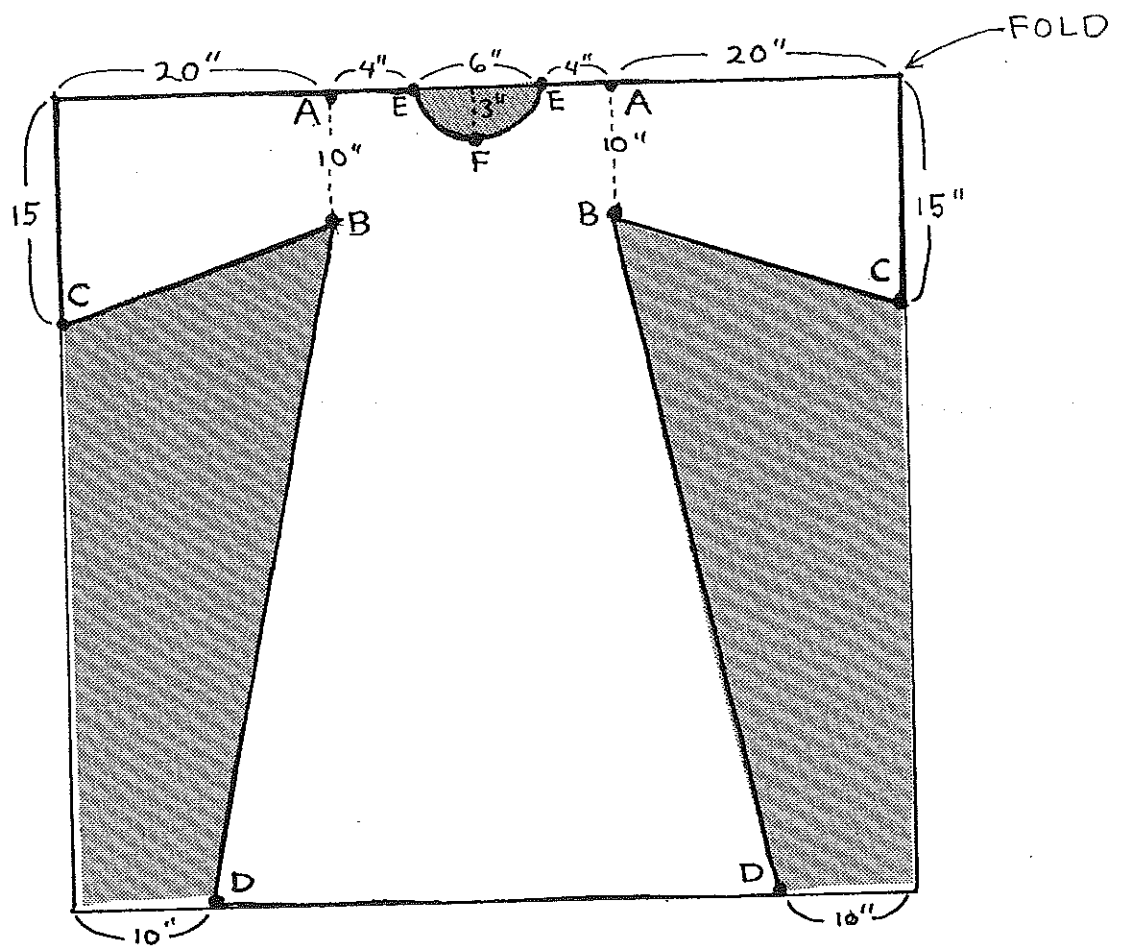
Needs:

- ✓ Sheet poster board 22 x 28 inches (not needed for jester's hat).
- ✓ Quarter-yard of chiffon or other sheer fabric (not needed for Merlin's or jester's hat).
- ✓ Half-yard of braid.
- ✓ Duct tape.
- ✓ For jester's hat: Bells.
- ✓ For Merlin's hat: Silver or gold foil stars, sun and moon or zodiacal designs.
- ✓ Optional: Half-yard felt or upholstery fabric to cover hat.
- ✓ Fabric glue. Fake jewels. 1 yard Ribbon to tie under the chin.

Steps:

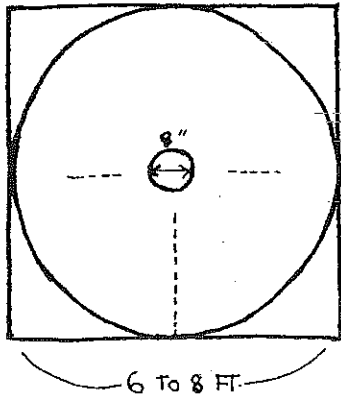
1. Take the poster board at one corner and fold it into a cone shape along the shorter side. Staple it at each end, and as far up the middle as your stapler will reach. Cut it around the end to even it, and make it 13 inches tall. The opening for the head should be 8 inches across. Cover the joint with duct tape on the inside.

Making a hennin, steps 2-5 ➡

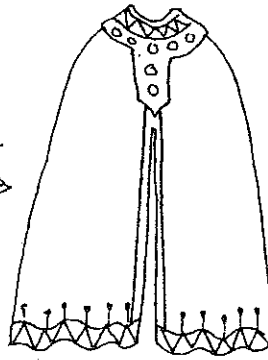


GOWN

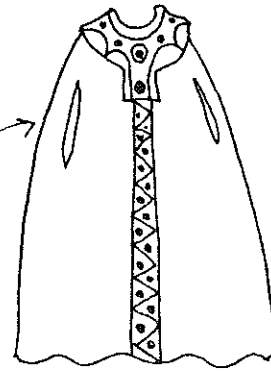
ROBE



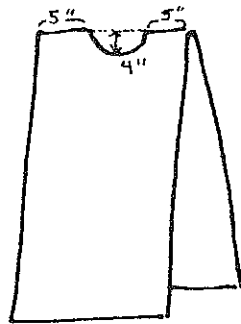
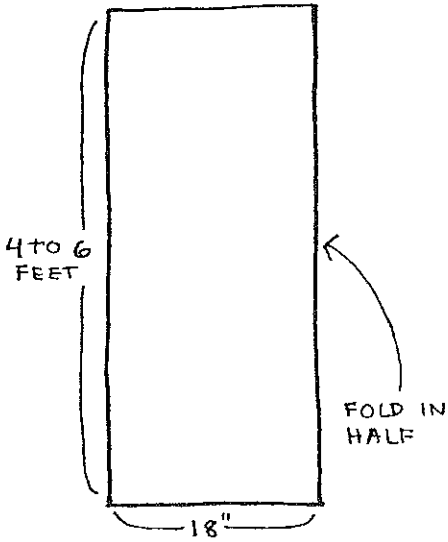
FRONT
OPENING



ARM
SLITS



TUNIC OR SURCOAT



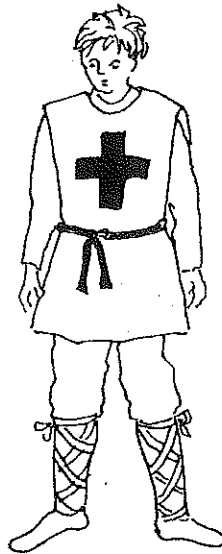
DECORATIONS



SINGLE
CHARGE



OR SHIELD WITH
CHARGES



2. Glue felt or other solid fabric over the hat, and trim to fit.
3. Gather the sheer fabric together at one end, and staple it to the top of the hat.
4. Glue braid around the end of the hat. Decorate with fake jewels.
5. If desired, punch a hole above each ear, and attach ribbon to tie under chin.

Robe

Needs:

- ✓ Fabric square, 6-8 feet across.
- ✓ Fake fur, braid, fake jewels.
- ✓ Needle and thread, fabric glue.

Steps:

1. A robe is made like a poncho, from a circle of fabric with a central opening for the head. Old tablecloths, bedspreads or sheets can be used, or burlap or fabric remnants can be stitched together to make a square.
2. Measure from the wearer's shoulders to ankles, then double the length. This is the size of the square piece of fabric needed.
3. Cut a circle from the square. Fold it in four to find the center; cut an 8 inch diameter circle for the neck opening.
4. Cut a 1-foot slit on each side, 12 inches down from the edge of the neck opening, for the arms.
Or: slit the robe up the front, fastening it with a large colorful "jeweled" pin.
5. Decorate the robe with fake fur, braid, and fake jewels, sown or glued around the neck opening, hem, and down the front.

Tunic or Surcoat

Needs:

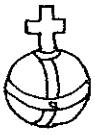
- ✓ Length of unpatterned cloth, 18 inches wide by 4-6 feet long. Burlap or inexpensive cotton remnants work well. The cloth must be twice the length of the wearer's shoulder-to-knee measurement. 36-inch-wide fabric may be cut in half the long way to make two surcoats from each length.
- ✓ Belt: 4-6 foot cord or tape to tie around waist.
- ✓ Coat-of-arms: Scraps of contrasting cloth or felt. Fabric glue (not school glue), or needle and thread.

Steps:

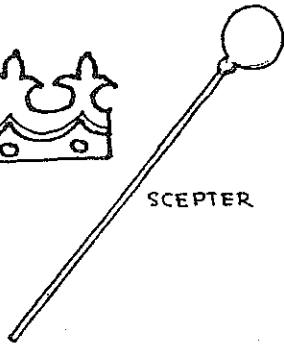
1. Fold fabric in half lengthwise.
2. Measure 5 inches in from each shoulder, and draw a curving line 4 inches down from the top edge at the fold. Cut along this line to make the neck opening.
3. The surcoat is decorated with a coat-of-arms on the chest and upper back.
4. The coat-of-arms may be a copy of the shield, made in felt or cloth, and glued or stitched on. A simple cross or stripe, 12 inches long, in a contrasting color is also effective. Remember - a stripe should run from the wearer's right shoulder to his left ribs. A stripe in the other direction is a **bend sinister**, and indicates illegitimacy. (*See Chapter Five for further suggestions*)
5. Under the tunic, men wear a plain long-sleeved knit shirt, and long plain pants that are cross-gartered. (Although they are anachronistic, knit shirts look best because they have plain collars and cuffs.)

KING

CROWN

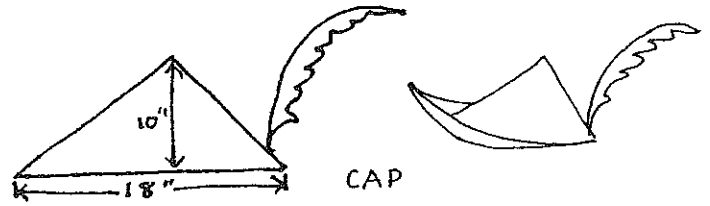


ORB



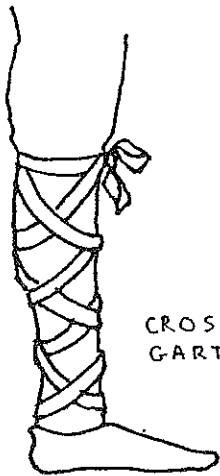
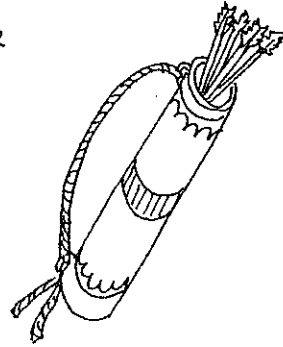
SCEPTER

ROBIN HOOD



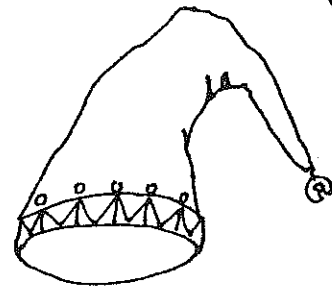
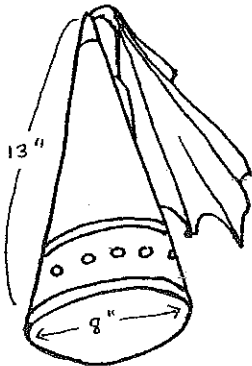
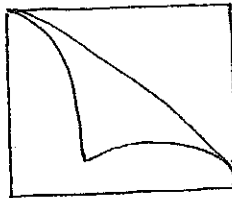
CAP

QUIVER



CROSS
GARTERING

TIP

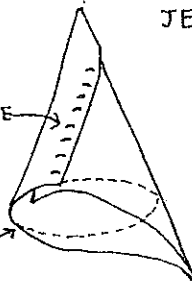


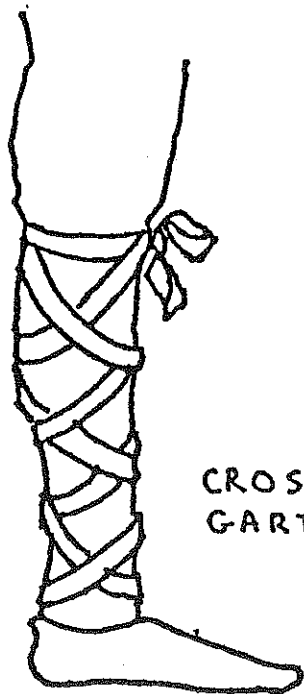
JESTER'S CAP & STICK



STAPLE

TRIM
AT
DOTTED
LINE





CROSS
GARTERING

CROWN

