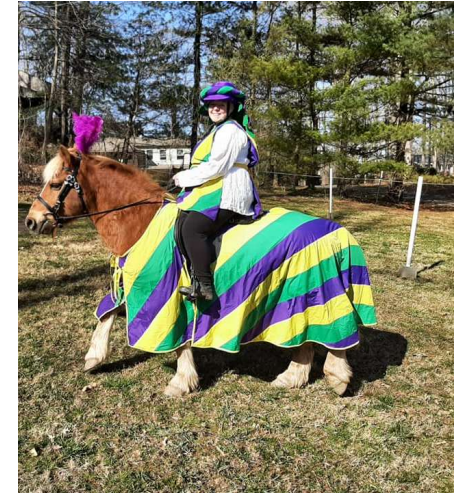




PATTERNS FOR A PONY:

A Review of Tourney Cover Patterns
From Drei Schnittbücher: Three Austrian
Master Tailor Books of the 16th Century

Presented by Arielle de Pontoise
Pennsic 52 (August 2025)

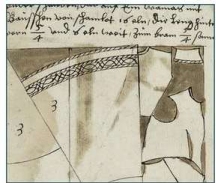


INTRODUCTION

Arielle de Pontoise, scrummycat@gmail.com, Natalie Henderson Baird on Facebook

Drei Schnittbücher

Three Austrian Master Tailor Books of the 16th Century



Katherine Barich · Marion McNealy

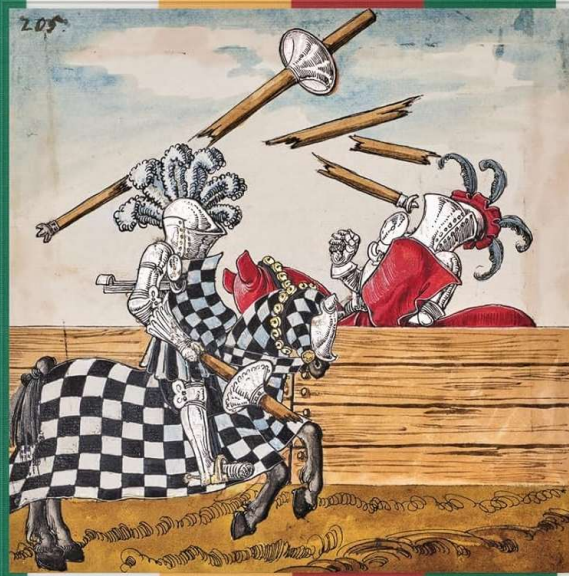
Source Book #1:

Drei Schnittbücher: Three
Austrian Master Tailor Books of
the 16th Century

ISBN-10 : 0692472452

ISBN-13 : 978-0692472453

FREYDAL MEDIEVAL GAMES



THE BOOK OF TOURNAMENTS OF EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN I
DAS TURNIERBUCH KAISER MAXIMILIANS I.
LE LIVRE DES TOURNOIS DE L'EMPEREUR MAXIMILIEN I^{er}

STEFAN KRAUSE

TASCHEN

Source Book #2:

Freydal Medieval Games:
The Book of Tournaments
of Emperor Maximilian I

ISBN-10 : 3836576813

ISBN-13 : 978-3836576819



Full Caparison



Partial Caparisons



Half Caparisons

Caparison / Tourney Cover

- Derived from the Latin word "Caparo", meaning cape.
- Cloth covering for animals (horses, elephants, etc.).
- Popular in tournaments, parades, and other ceremonies during the 13-17th centuries, throughout Europe.
- Full caparisons cover the animal entirely, and include hoods, front, and rear pieces.
- Partial caparisons cover the front and rear, but not the head or neck.
- Half caparisons cover the rear only.
 - A great way to start if you don't want to sew a full one.

Caparison / Tourney Cover Styles:

French



Le siège de Tartas, by Martial d'Auvergne,
France, 15th C

Spanish



Lipp OZ 114, 45v © Kunsbibliothek,
Staatliche Muaawen zu Berlin

German



Album of Tournaments and Parades in
Nuremberg | German, Nuremberg |
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
(metmuseum.org)



From Le Livre des
tournois by Barthélemy d'Eyck

French Style Cover:

- Two-piece construction
- Fitted front piece
- "Table cloth" like piece on the hind quarters
- Can have a hood, but not always.
- A pattern for this style and construction details are included in the back up slides.



The Dukes of Brittany (left) and Bourbon on caparisoned horses at a tournament fight (1460s), from [*Le Livre des tournois*](#) by [Barthélemy d'Eyck](#)



Spanish and German Style Covers:

- Period patterns available in Enns and Leonfeldner master tailer books (16th century Austria)
- Both are fitted across hindquarters (not flowing like French style)
- Spanish has no hood
- German is one piece w/ hood attached
- No eye holes in German hood
- Ear holes?



Folio 157
from the
Freydal
tournament
book.
Freydal (left)
jousts with
the Elector
of Saxony



Miniature
(folio 9) from
the Freydal
Tournament
Book held by
the
Kunsthistoris
ches
Museum,
Vienna,
Austria (ms.
KK5073)



Miniature
(folio 17) from
the Freydal
Tournament
Book held by
the
Kunsthistorisc
hes Museum,
Vienna, Austria
(ms. KK5073)

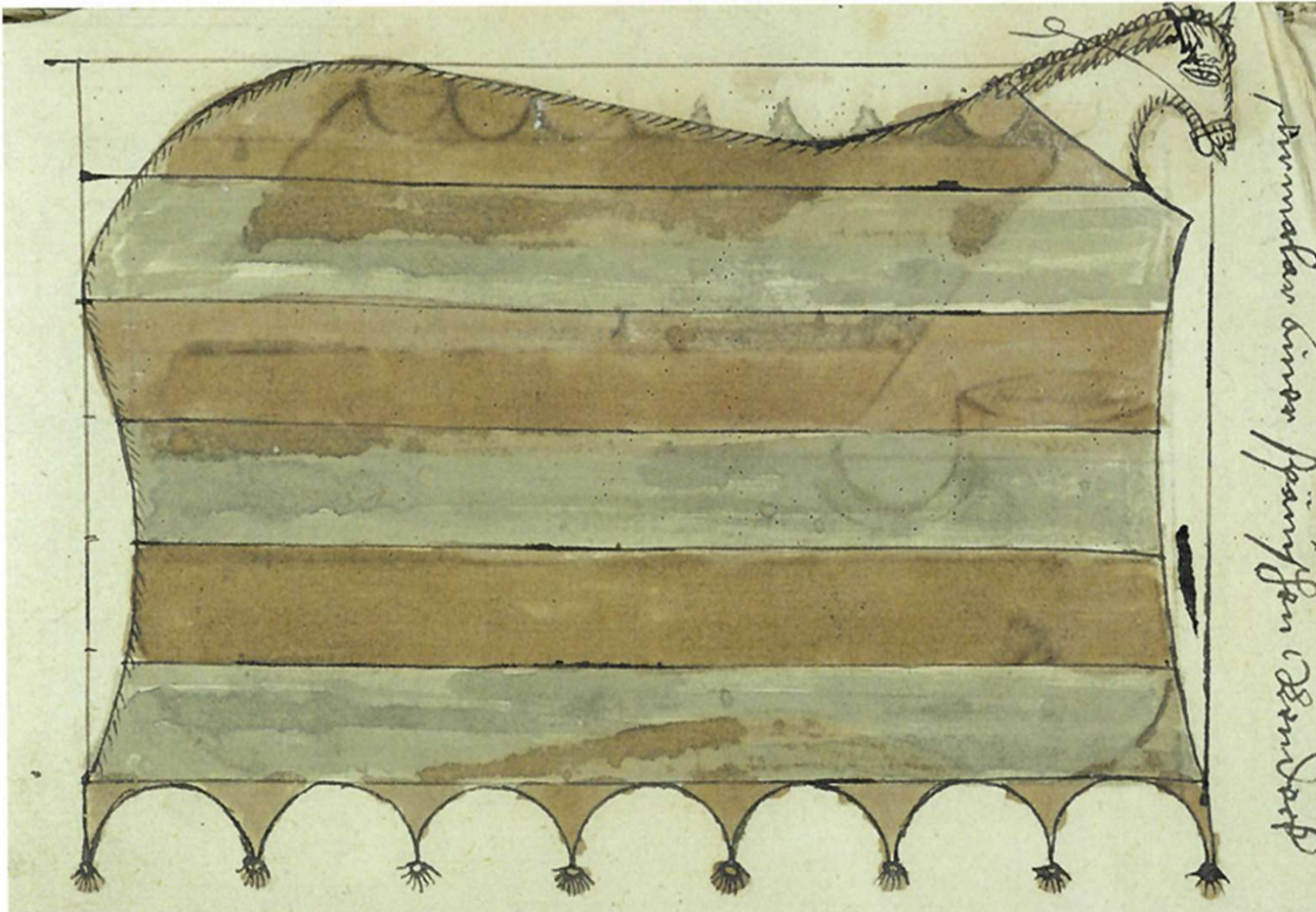


Miniature
(folio 237)
from the
Freydal
Tournament
Book held by
the
Kunsthistorisc
hes Museum,
Vienna, Austria
(ms. KK5073)

Fabrics referenced in the Enns/ Leonfeldner Tailor Books:

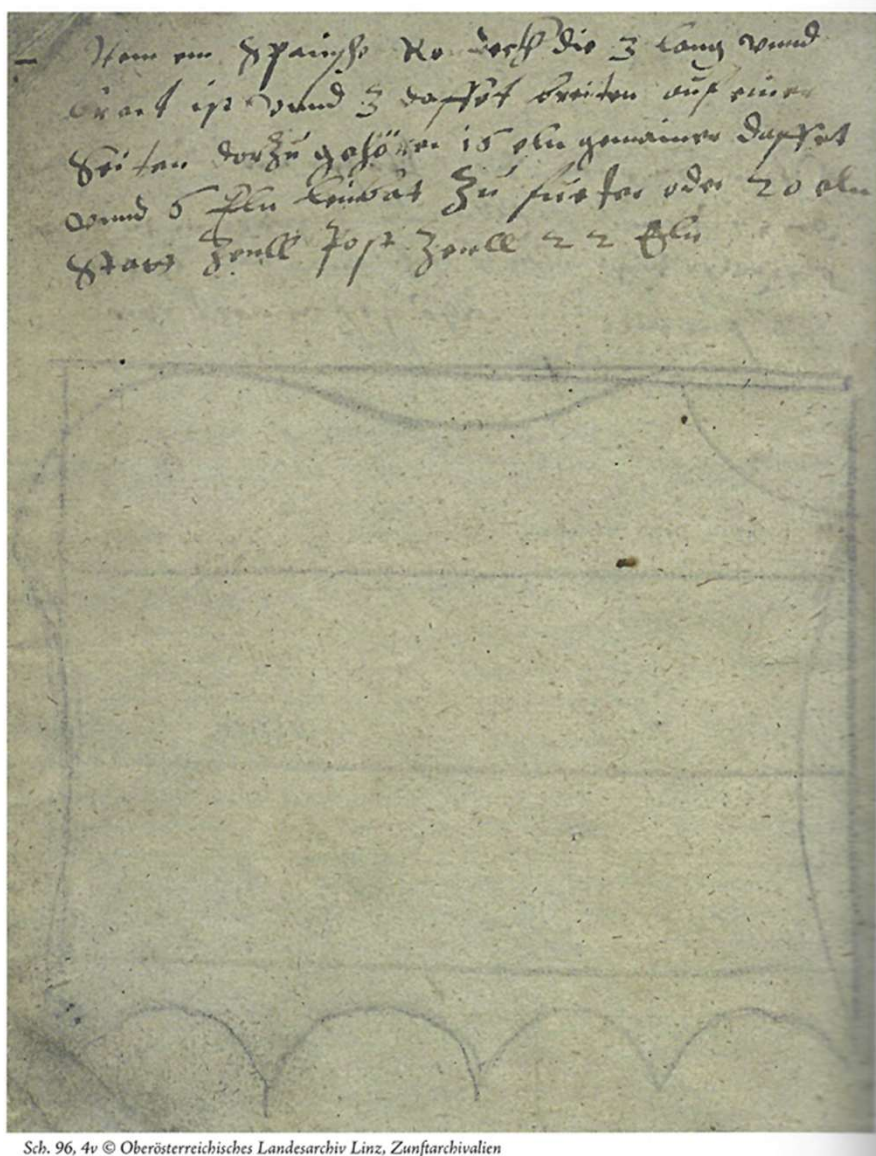
Fabric Name	Description	Width
Daffet (Taffeta)	Plain lightweight silk fabric in simple tabby weave.	1/2 to 3/4 ell (15"-23")
Leinwat (Linen)	Basic linen with plain tabby or twill weave.	1 to 1.13 ell (31"-35")
Statt zendel (Silk)	Light silk fabric similar to veiling. Tabby weave.	1/2 ell (15")
Post zendel (Silk)	Very sheer silk fabric (like a spider's web).	1/3 ell (10")
Atlas of Bruges	Fabric with Silk warp and linen weft.	2/3 to 7/8 ell (20"-27")

Note - Tailors measured fabric with an "ell stick". The ell was not standardized and varied from town to town. The standard for Enns is 31". Leonfeldner's ell is identical to Enns.



Spanish Style - Pattern #1:

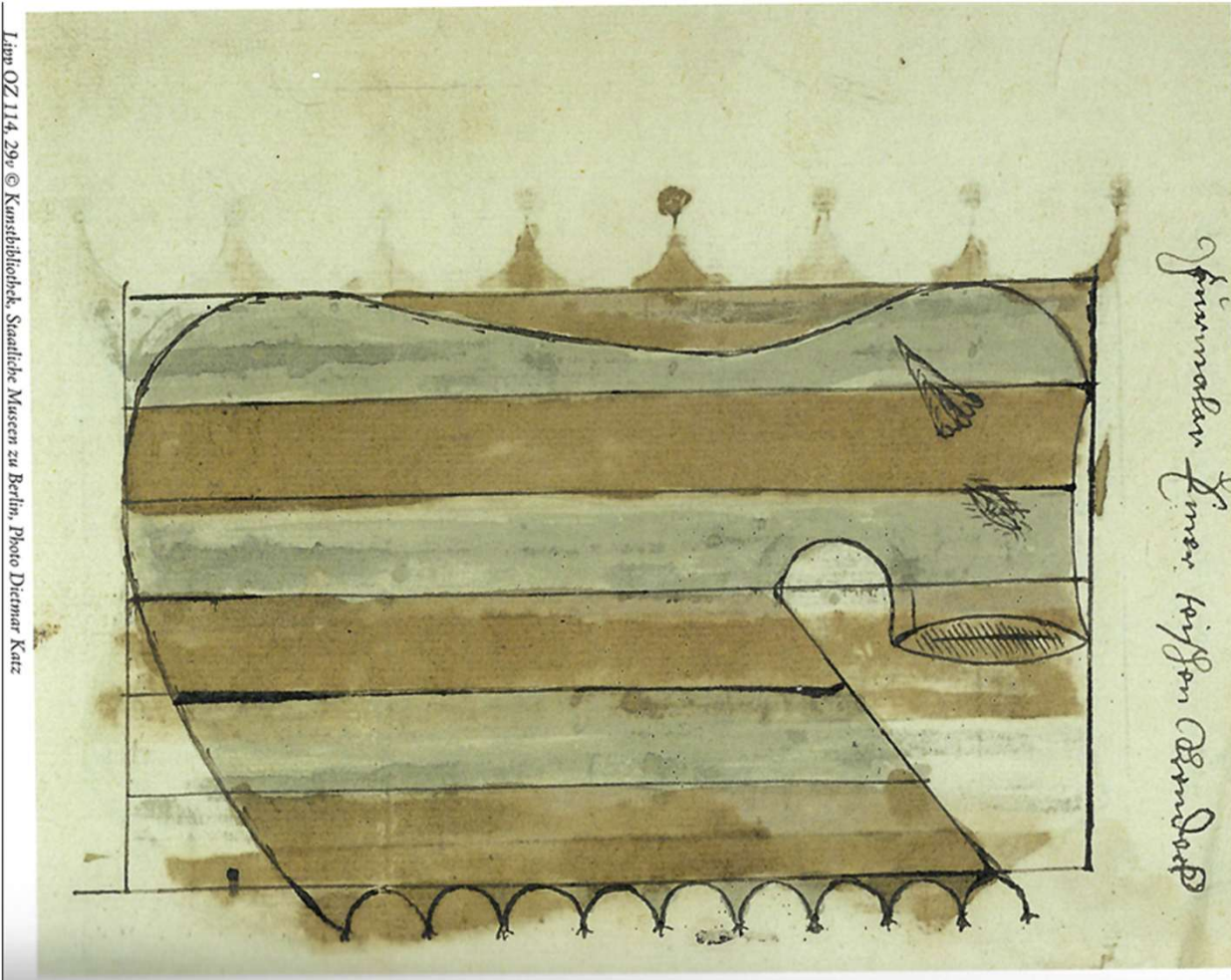
- Pattern from Enns Tailor Book
- No Hood
- Fitted around hind quarters
- 3 ells long across horse (2 yd/ 21in)
- 18 ells (15yd / 16in) of ordinary daffett
- 6 ells (5yd / 6in) leinwat for lining



Sch. 96, 4v © Oberösterreichisches Landesarchiv Linz, Zunftarchivalien

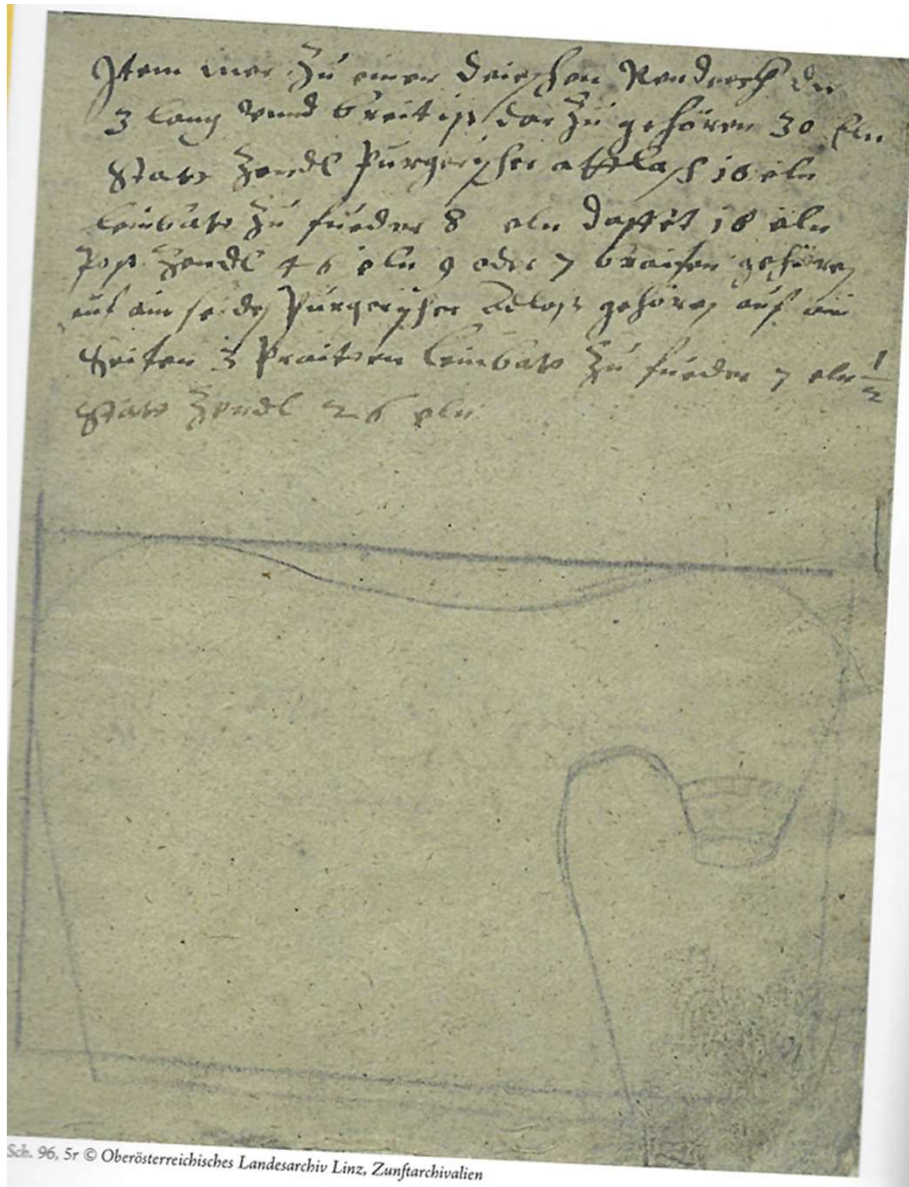
Spanish Style Pattern #2:

- Pattern from Leonfelder Tailor Book
- No Hood / Fitted around hind quarters
- 3 ells long and wide (2 yd/ 21in)
- 3 widths of daffett per one side
- 15 ells (12 yd/ 32 in) ordinary daffet
- Or 20 ells (17 yd / 6in) statt zendel
- Or 22 ells (18yd/ 31in) or post zendel
- 5 ells (4 yds / 11 in) leinwat for lining



German Style - Pattern #1:

- Pattern from Enns Tailor Book
- Requires twice as much fabric as Spanish Style due to hood being attached to the body.
- 3 ells long and wide (2 yd/ 21in) (w/o hood)
- 42 ells (36yd / 2in) of post Zende
- Or 18 ells (15 yds / 16 in) of atlas of Bruges
- 8 ells (6yd / 32in) leinwat for lining



German Style - Pattern #2:

- Pattern from Leonfeldner Tailor Book
- Also 3 ells long and wide (2 yd/ 21in) w/o the hood section.
- 30 ells (25yd / 27in) of statt zendel
- Or 16 ells (13yd/26in) of Atlas of Bruges
- Or 18 ells (15 yd / 16 in) of daffet
- Or 46 ells (39 yd / 17in) of post Zendel
- Or 26 ells (22 yd / 11 in) of Statt zendel
- 8 ells (6yd / 32in) leinwat for lining

First Draft of Pattern for Spanish Tourney Cover

Followed pattern as laid out in book and drafted the following:



Back curve good, rear does not fit well. Hem is not even. Evened hem using yardstick. (marked fabric at 18" from the ground)



Second Draft of Pattern:

- Trimmed hem on initial pattern based on the measurement of 18" marked from the ground.
- This resulted in a noticeable curve on the back half, and shorter length on the front half.
- This is due to Bingo's build (short/stout with "drafty" hindquarters).
- Tweaked neck curve and rear end curve to fit better.



Construction of Spanish Tourney Cover

Cut two in lining fabric and sew together along the top.



Cut strips of silk 12", and sewed four strips together. Cut out two and sewed together along the top.



Final Product:

- Sewed lining to fashion fabric (Along the top seam – “stitch in the ditch”)
- Quilted to lining along seams (where green/ purple meet)
- Bound with bias tape around rear and neck.
- Added Scallops / Tassels to the bottom hem.



Still Pondering...

- Add slits for stirrups, so saddle is under the cover?
OR add slits for girth so saddle sits on top.
- Experiment with fastenings on front/ rear.
 - Button? Ties? Decorative Pins?
- How far down to fasten without impeding motion?
- Is the rear sewed completely shut? Hole for the Tail?
- Tassel styles?

Additional Resources:

- [Making an adjustable caparison](https://www.greydragon.org/Equestrian/Caparison/) (<https://www.greydragon.org/Equestrian/Caparison/>)
- [Caparisons | Medieval and Renaissance](http://larsdatter.com) (larsdatter.com)
- [Horse Caparisons in the Manesse Codex](http://coblaith.net) (coblaith.net)
- [Weiner-Gozen's Blog Page: Heraldic Caparison or Full Barding Project](#)
- [Weiner-Gozen's Blog Page: Medieval Horse Equipment Class Notes](#)
- [horse barding](http://medievalhorseandclothing.com) (medievalhorseandclothing.com)
- [Microsoft Word - Horse Barding.doc](http://bayrose.org) (bayrose.org)
- [The Wardrobe of a 13th-Century Warhorse | THE WRITER-LY WORLD OF ANDREA CEFALO](#)
- [History of Horse Bards and Tack](http://tripod.com) (tripod.com)