



MORE PATTERNS FOR A PONY:

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

Presented by Arielle de Pontoise
Atlantia University (07 FEB 2026)

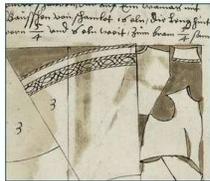


INTRODUCTION

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

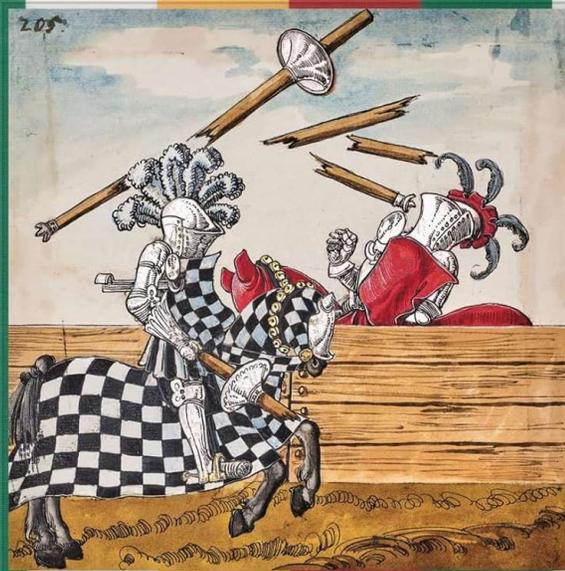
Source Book #1:

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
- "Tablecloth" 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 tailor 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?

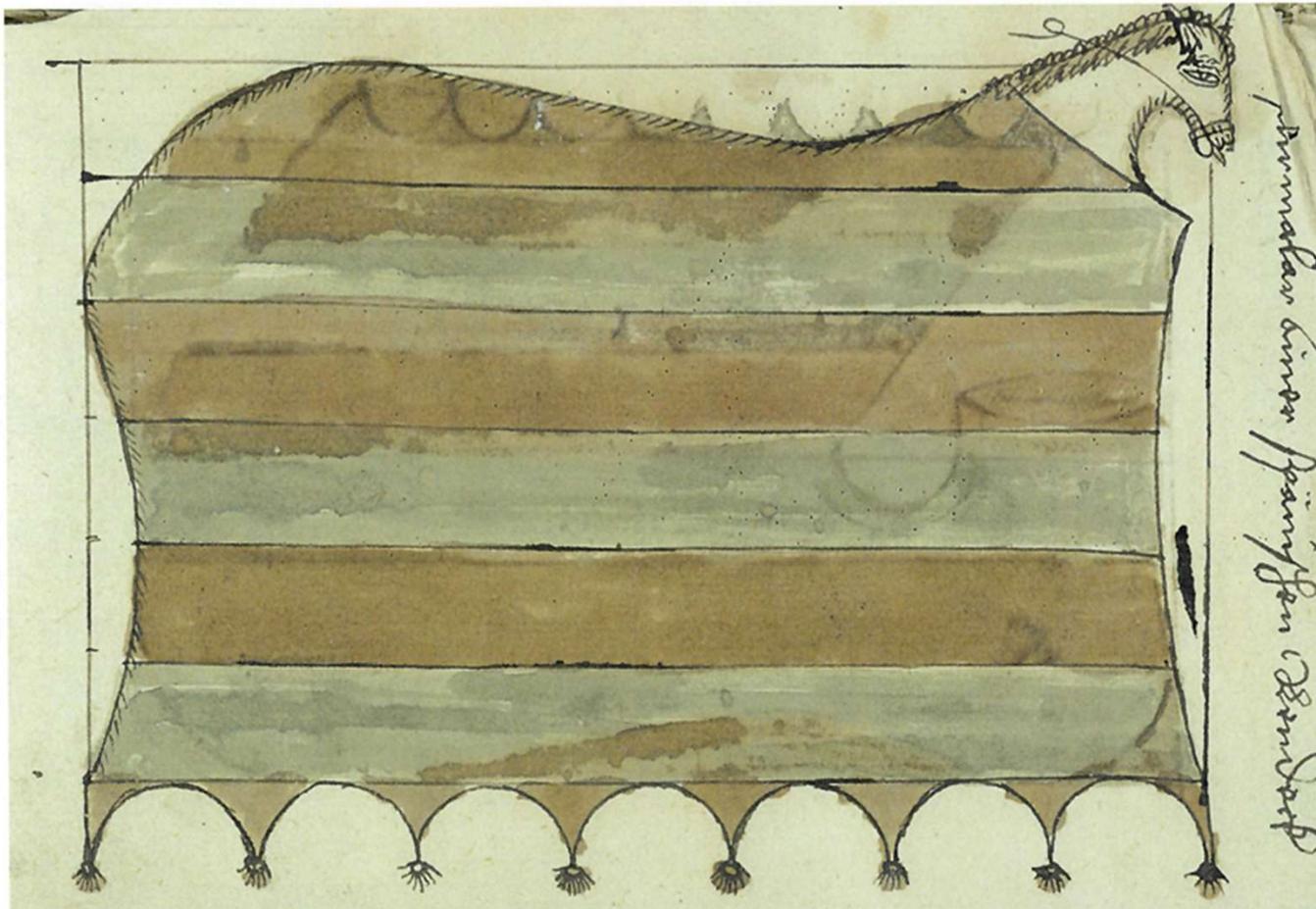


Miniature
(folio 9) from
the Freydal
Tournament
Book held by
the
Kunsthistoris
ches
Museum,
Vienna,
Austria (ms.
KK5073)

Fabrics referenced in the Enns/ Leonfeldner Tailor Books:

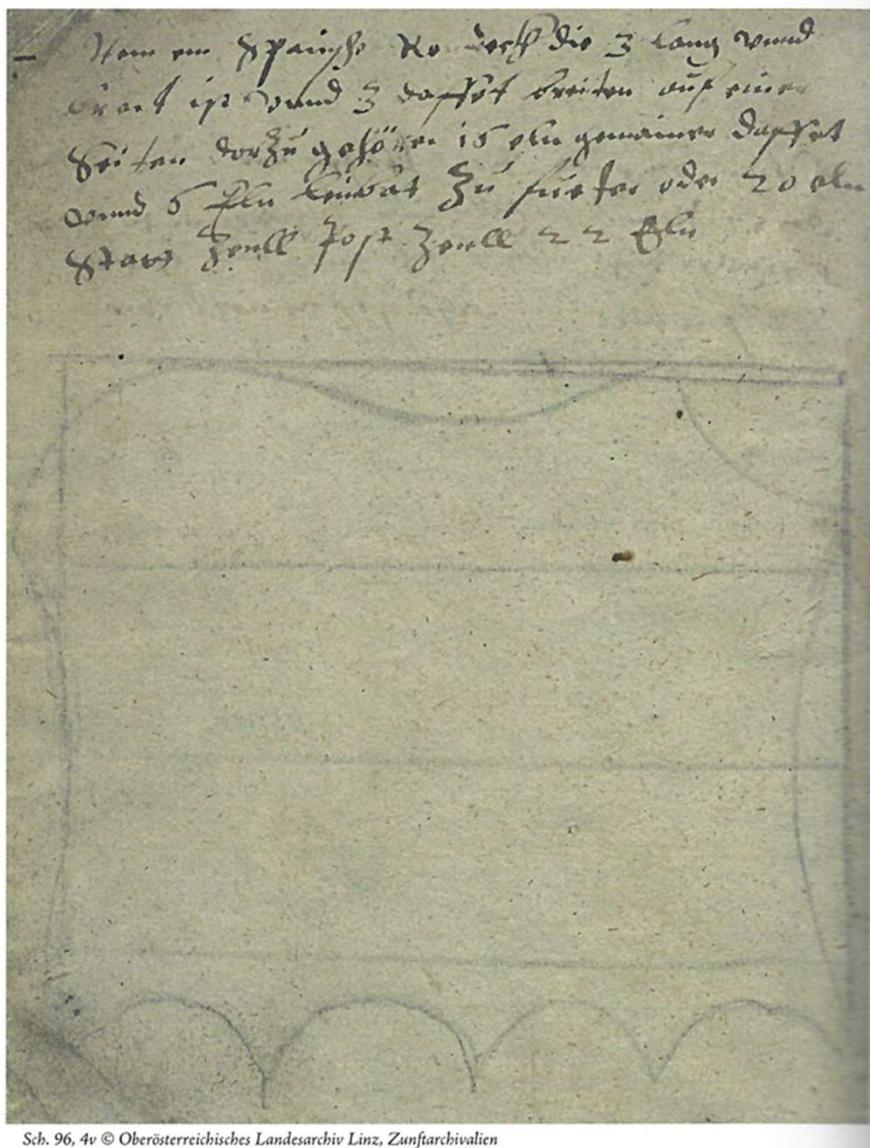
Fabric Name	Description	Width
Daffet (Taffeta)	Plain lightweight silk fabric in simple tabby weave.	1/2 to 3/4 ell (15"-23")
Leinwat (Linen)	Basic linen with plain tabby or twill weave.	1 to 1.13 ell (31"-35")
Statt zendel (Silk)	Light silk fabric similar to veiling. Tabby weave.	1/2 ell (15")
Post zendel (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

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.



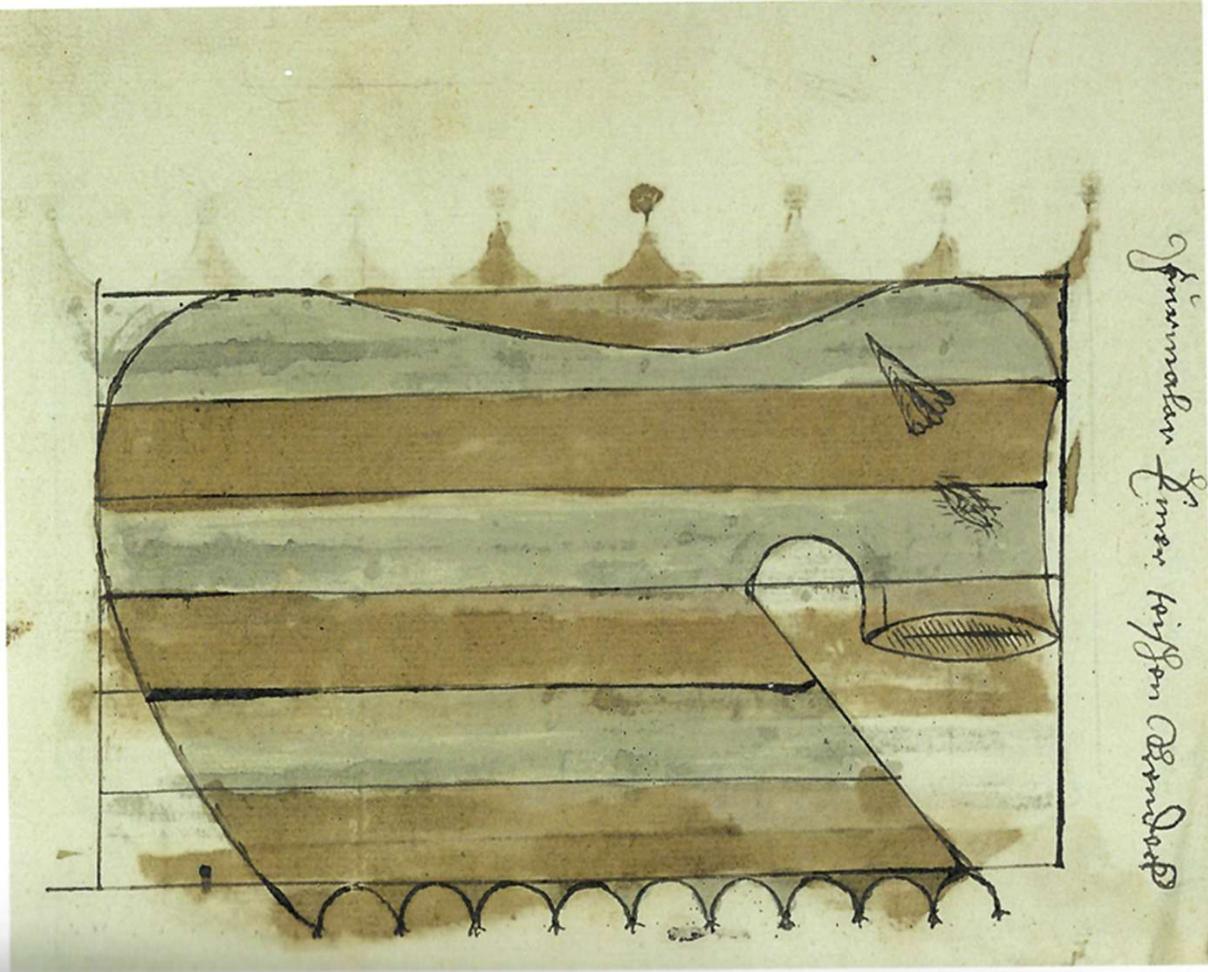
Cut strips of silk 12", and sewed four strips together. Cut out two and sewed together along the top.



Final Product:

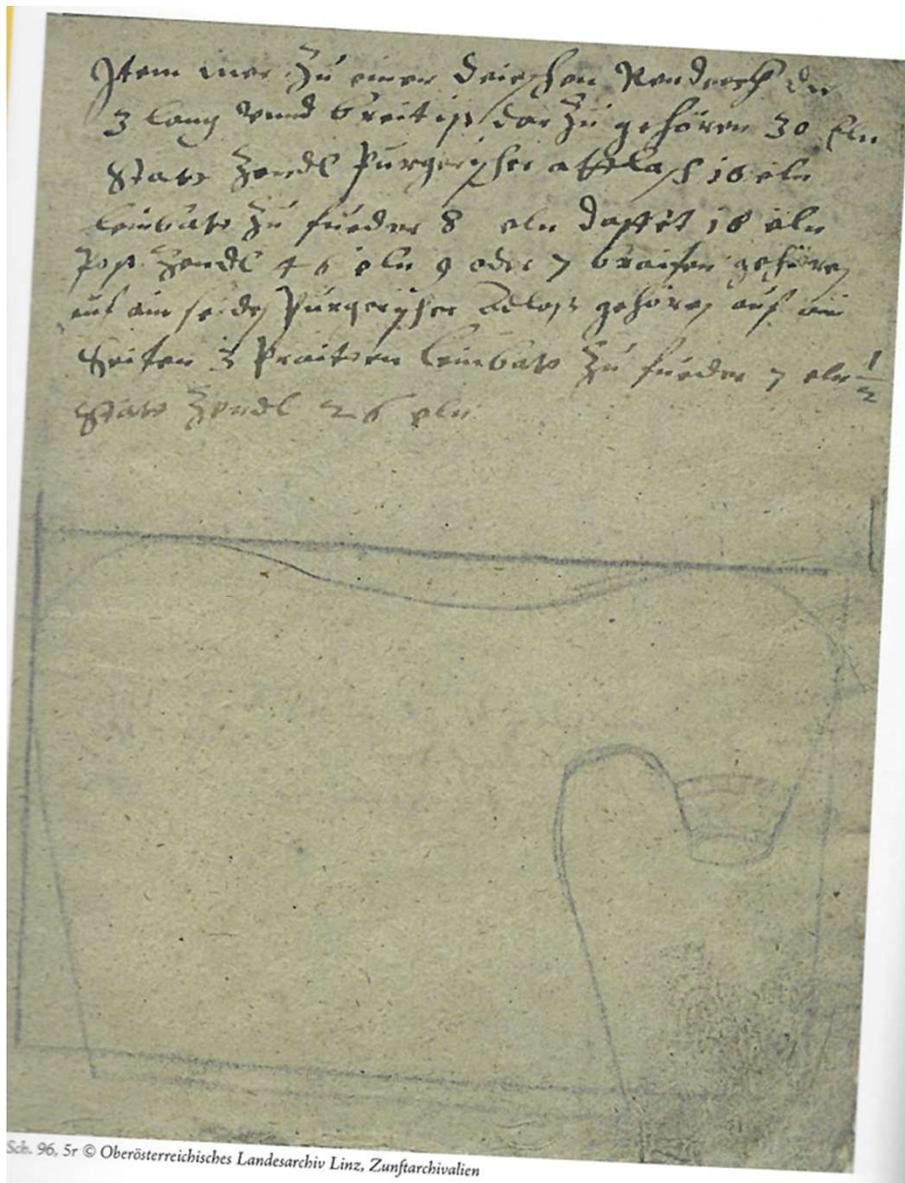
- Sewed lining to fashion fabric (Along the top seam – “stitch in the ditch”)
- Quilted along seams (where green/ purple meet)
- Bound with bias tape around rear and neck.
- Added Scallops / Tassels to the bottom hem.
- Added slits for Girth.
- Added D Rings for closure at front (with cording to tie shut).
- **ISSUE: neckline is stretching out! Needs more structure here.**
 - Next Steps: Add strip of canvas around neck to help retain shape and prevent stretching?





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 Zedel
- 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



Drafting the German Style Pattern (First Take):

- Made photocopy of pattern from book.
- Traced and cut two from scrap fabric.
- Sewed together along top edge.
- This attempt ended up too small for the model.



Drafting the German Style Pattern (Second Take):

- Cut and lengthened original photocopy.
- Traced and cut two from scrap fabric.
- Sewed together along top edge.
- This attempt fits better, but still leaves questions:
 - Why the triangle at the front?
 - Why does it sweep in at the back?

Drafting the German Style Pattern (Fitting Comments):

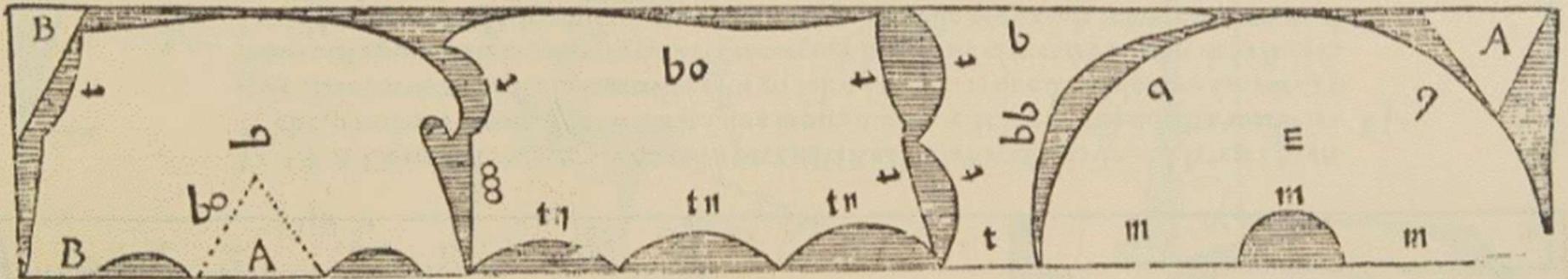
- **Head:** Can easily be fitted for the individual horse.
- **Front:** If left open, can just sweep back as in picture.
- **Rear:** Does not comport with illustrations of the period. Add gores here to make fuller?



Next Steps:
Determine solution for back end fit (gores?) and then make a full-size toile for real pony.



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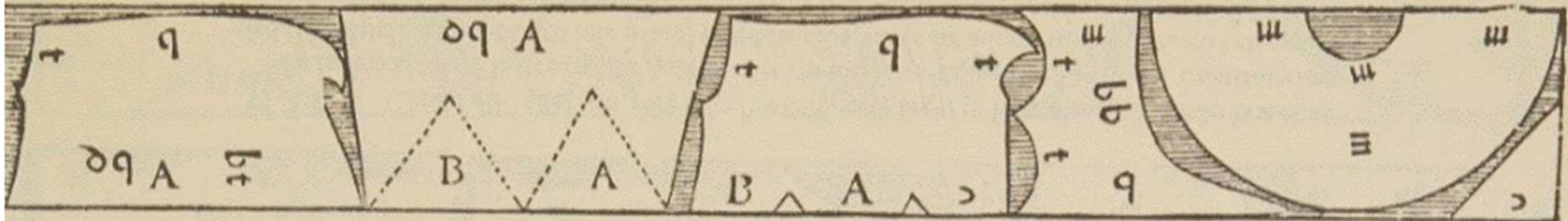
Adereço de cauallo de seda para justa. ✠ Vbbb |tt| H²

PARA Cortar este adereço, sera necessario doblar la tela a lo ancho, poniendo la mitad de las baras sobre la otra mitad, y de nuestra mano izquierda sale el anca del cauallo, y luego sale el pescueço, y luego sale pretal y faldametos. Ha se de advertir, que para que este adereço salga bien, se cortara vn molde de angeo, y se le prouara al cauallo, y cortar se ha por el mismo molde. Y en todas las puntas deste adereço se ha de echar vna borla; y en medio del anca deste adereço suele llevar vn floron grande, el qual suelen hazer los bordadores que bordan el adereço; y este adereço se llama a la lijera, por razon que no lleva tanto largo como el siguiente.

Bonus Pattern #1: From Tailor's Pattern Book 1589, by Juan de Alcega, translated by Jean Pain and Cecilia Bainton. ISBN 0896762343

Adereço de cauallo de seda para justa Real. ✠ xb | tt |

Mar



PARA Cortar este adereço de cauallo para justa Real, sera necessario doblar la tela a lo ancho, poniendo la mitad de las baras sobre la otra mitad, y de la parte de nuestra mano izquierda se cortara el anca del cauallo, y luego salen las puntas que se añaden en esta anca, y junto a esta punta sale la cubierta para el pescueço, y luego sale el pretal, y al cabo de la seda salen faldamentos. Ha se de advertir que para acertar bien este adereço, se tomara la medida al cauallo, y luego se cortara vn molde de angeo y se le prouaran al cauallo para quien huviere de ser, y por este molde se cortara el adereço, por razon que vnos cauallos son mayores que otros, y de ordinario estos adereços suelen yr bordados, y en todas las puntas de anca, pretal, y pescueço se echaran vnas borlas de seda grandes.

Bonus Pattern #2: From Tailor's Pattern Book 1589, by Juan de Alcega, translated by Jean Pain and Cecilia Bainton. ISBN 0896762343

Additional Resources:

- [Making an adjustable caparison \(https://www.greydragon.org/Equestrian/Caparison/\)](https://www.greydragon.org/Equestrian/Caparison/)
- [Caparisons | Medieval and Renaissance \(larsdatter.com\)](http://larsdatter.com)
- [Horse Caparisons in the Manesse Codex \(coblaith.net\)](http://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 \(medievalhorseandclothing.com\)](http://medievalhorseandclothing.com)
- [Microsoft Word - Horse Barding.doc \(bayrose.org\)](http://bayrose.org)
- [The Wardrobe of a 13th-Century Warhorse | THE WRITER-LY WORLD OF ANDREA CEFALO](#)
- [History of Horse Bards and Tack \(tripod.com\)](http://tripod.com)