



## University of Atlantia: Winter 2025 Equestrian Track



Sat, Feb 1  
10 AM - 11 AM

Riding from the Books: Riding Before a Prince & Rossfechten - Martial A&S by Epy Pengelly, Armiger

Sat, Feb 1  
11 AM - 12 PM

Ride like a Musician by Epy Pengelly, Armiger

Sat, Feb 1  
1 PM - 2 PM

Introduction to Mounted Archery by Lady Elena Alexander and m'lord Norbert Dolittle of Stierbach

Sat, Feb 1  
2 PM - 3 PM

SCA Equestrian Activities for the Non-Riding Person by m'lord Norbert Dolittle

Sat, Feb 1  
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Patterns for a Pony: A Review of Period Tourney Cover Patterns by THL Arielle de Pontoise

Sun, Feb 2  
1 PM - 2 PM

Tackle Events like an Athlete by Lady Helene Maenad O'Mealey

Sun, Feb 2  
2 PM - 3 PM

Equestrian Martial Arts Appreciation for All by Lady Katharine Ravenshill





# PATTERNS FOR A PONY: A REVIEW OF TOURNEY COVER PATTERNS

Presented by THL Arielle de Pontoise  
Atlantia Winter University (01 February 2025)



Join us to learn about equestrian, agriculture, forestry, and coursing! Volunteer to teach!

Find details at the Barony of Highland Foorde's website under "Events"

Event Site:  
Patuxent River Park  
Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact Epy Pengelly, Armiger at:  
[leafs@highlandfoorde.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:leafs@highlandfoorde.atlantia.sca.org)

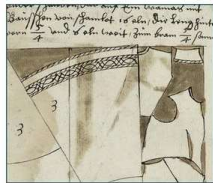


# INTRODUCTION

THL Arielle de Pontoise, [scrummycat@gmail.com](mailto:scrummycat@gmail.com), Natalie Henderson Baird on Facebook

# Drei Schnittbücher

Three Austrian Master Tailor Books of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century



Katherine Barich · Marion McNealy

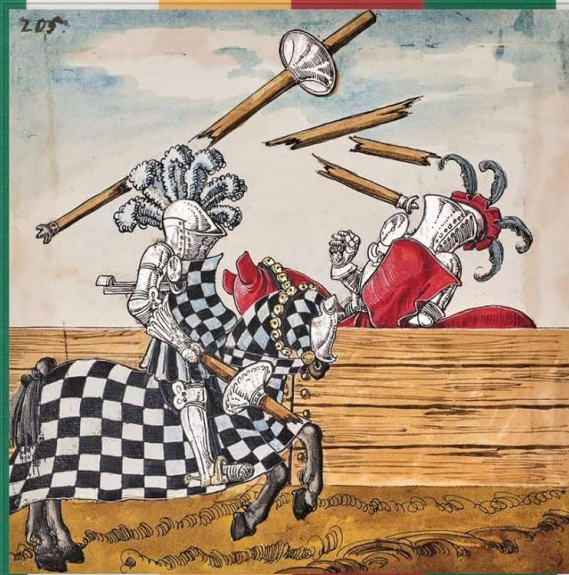
## Source Book #1:

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<sup>er</sup>

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 13-17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 tailor books (16<sup>th</sup> 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?



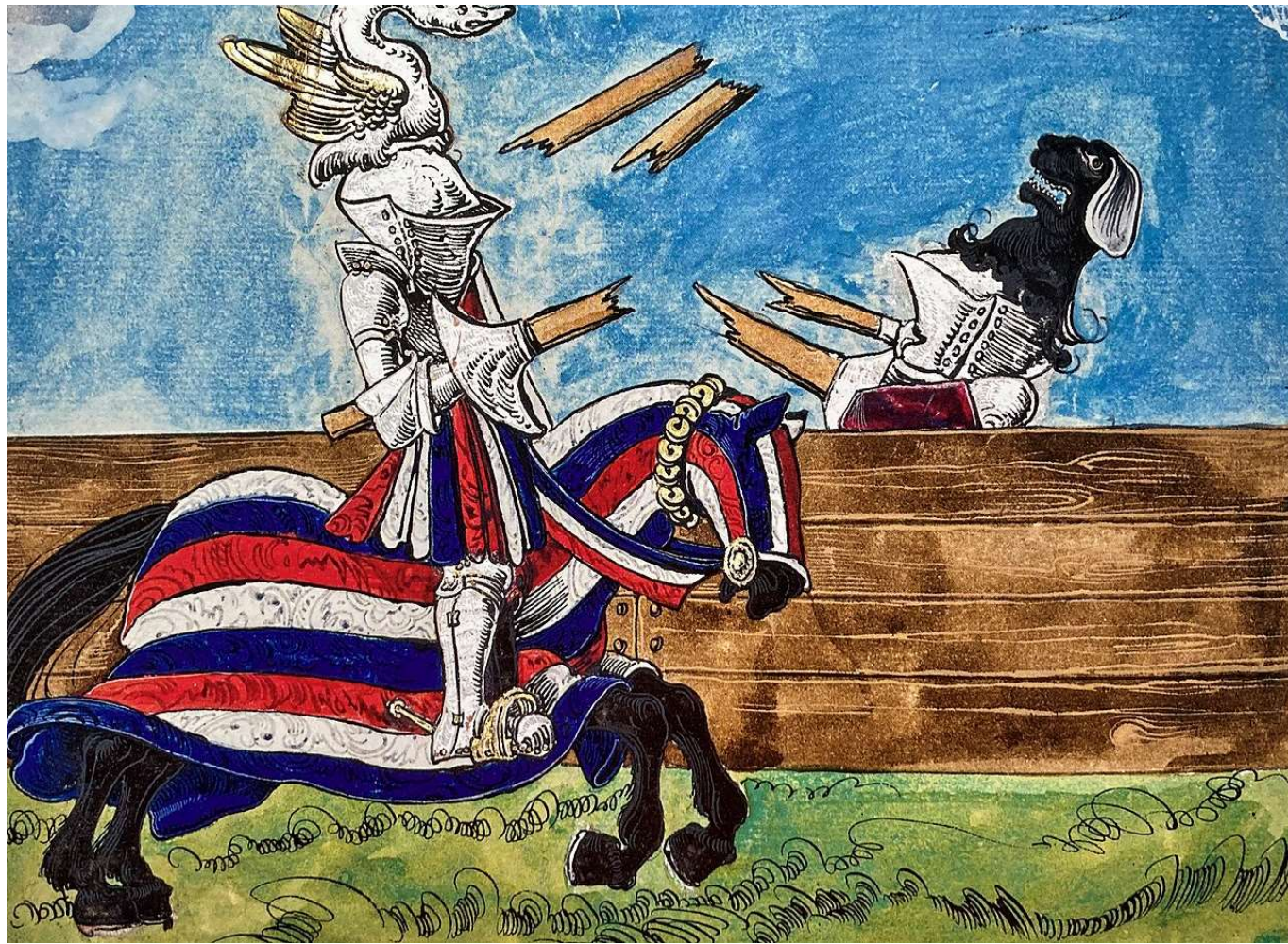
Folio 157  
from the  
Freydal  
tournament  
book.  
Freydal (left)  
jousts with  
the Elector  
of Saxony



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)



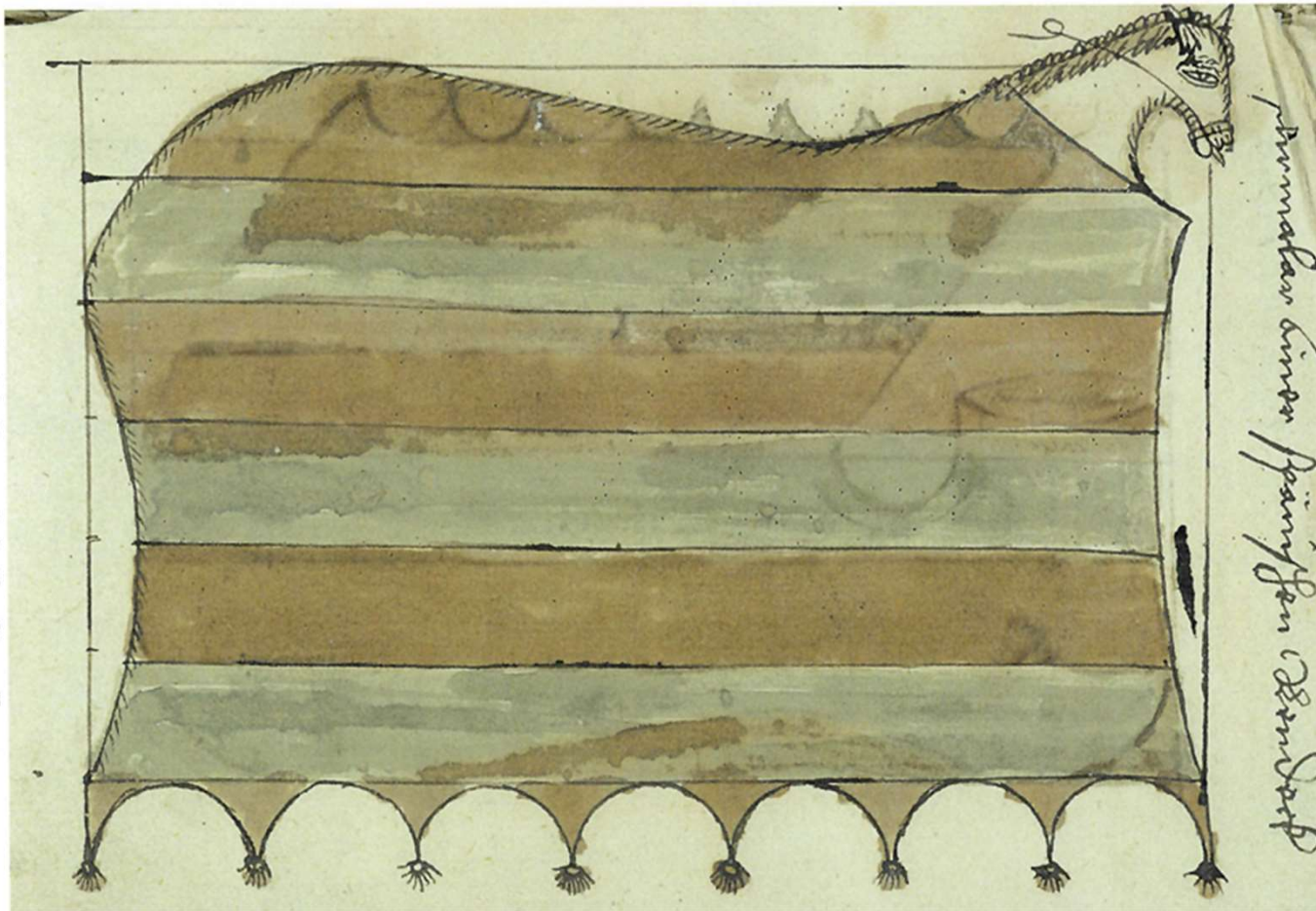
Miniature  
(folio 237)  
from the  
Freydal  
Tournament  
Book held by  
the  
Kunsthistorisc  
hes Museum,  
Vienna, Austria  
(ms. KK5073)

# 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
Leinwat (Linen)	Basic linen with plain tabby or twill weave.	1 to 1.13 ell
Statt zendel (Silk)	Light silk fabric similar to veiling. Tabby weave.	1/2 ell
Post zendel (Silk)	Very sheer silk fabric (like a spider's web).	1/3 ell
Atlas of Bruges	Fabric with Silk warp and linen weft.	2/3 to 7/8 ell

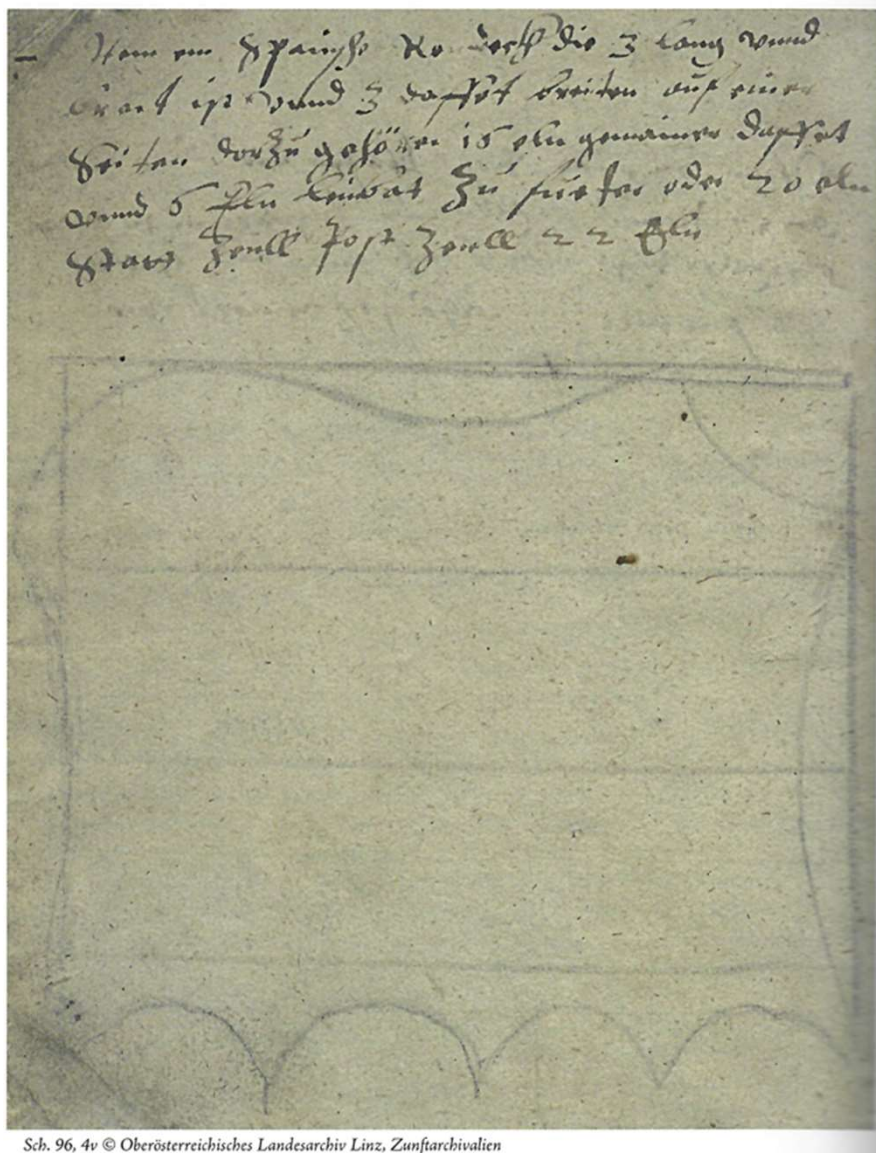
Note - Tailors measured fabric with an "ell stick". The ell was not standardized and varied from town to town. The standard for Enns is 31". Leonfeldner's ell is identical to Enns.





## Spanish Style - Pattern #1:

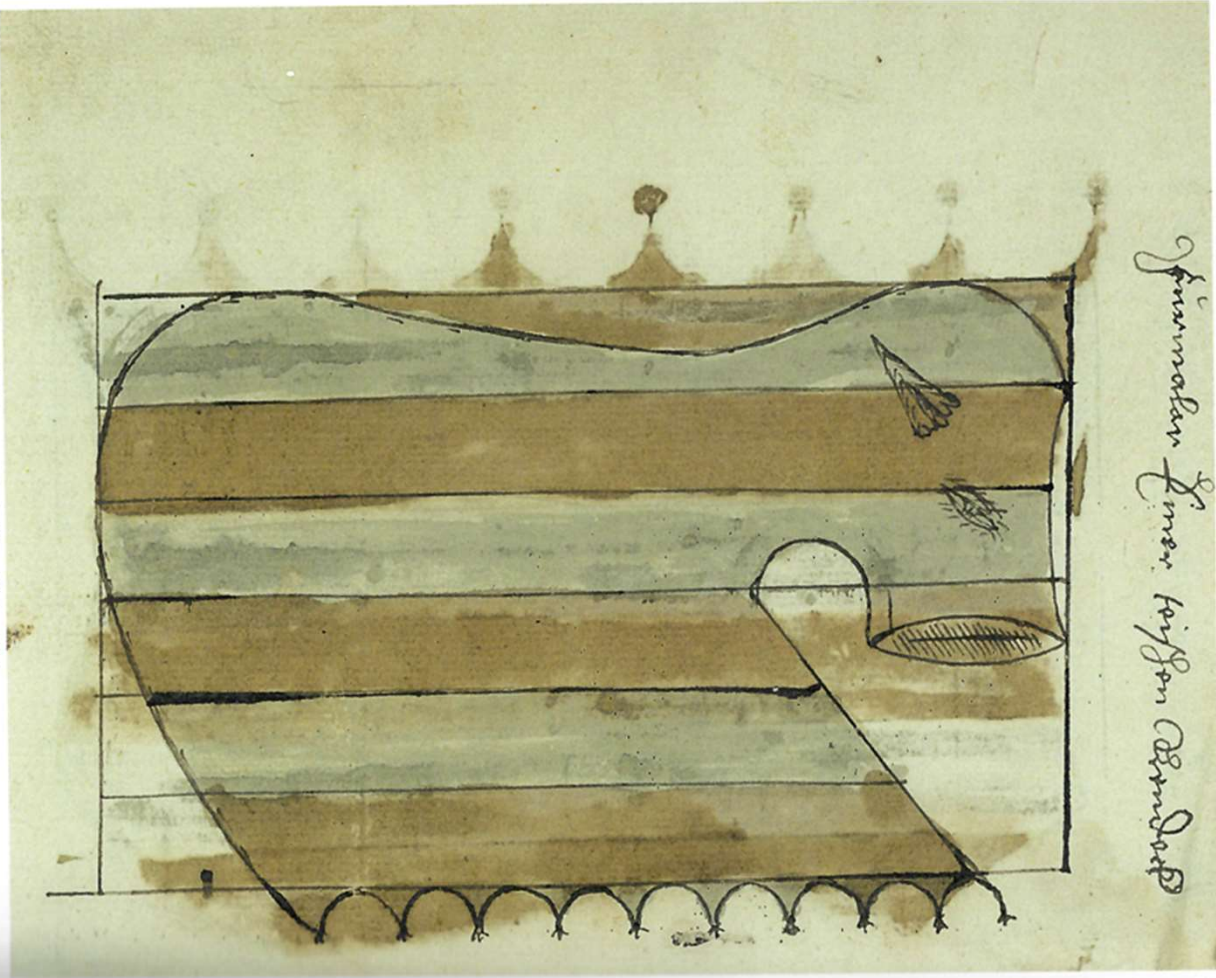
- Pattern from Enns Tailor Book
- No Hood
- Fitted around hind quarters
- 3 ells long across horse (2 yd / 21in)
- 18 ells (15yd / 16in) of ordinary daffett
- 6 ells (5yd / 6in) leinwat for lining



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

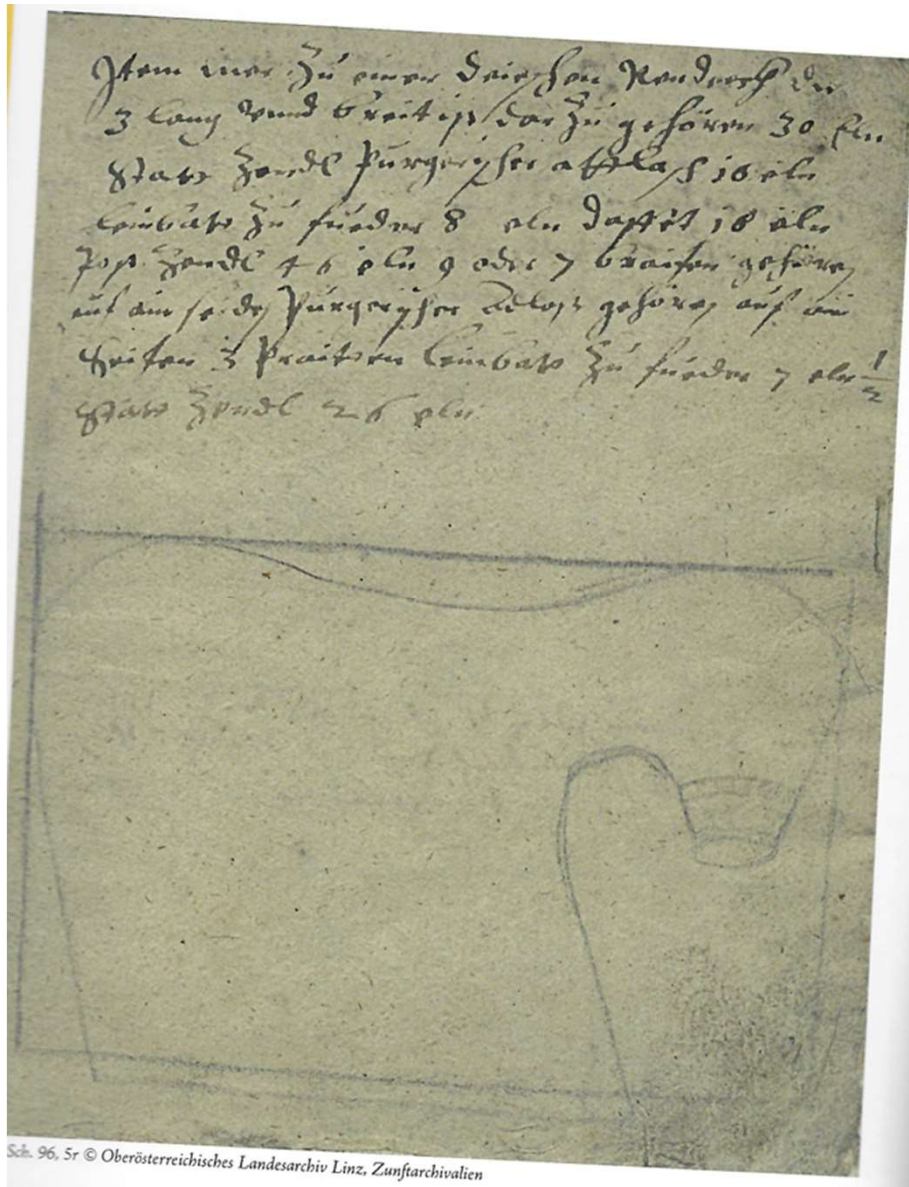
## Spanish Style Pattern #2:

- 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 daffett
- 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 Zendel
- 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

## Next Steps for me:

- Make a Spanish style cover for Bingo.
- Experiment with fastenings on front/ rear.
  - Button closures? Ties?
  - How far down to fasten without impeding motion?
- Eventually Try German Style?
  - Concerns about how to manage eye/ear openings.

# Additional Resources:

- [Caparisons | Medieval and Renaissance \(larsdatter.com\)](http://larsdatter.com)
- [Horse Caparisons in the Manesse Codex \(coblait.net\)](http://coblait.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)

BACK UP SLIDES...

# "French Style" Patterns available online that I have tried...

Half circle caparison pattern with breast band from Madrone Equestrian Guild Web site

- [Half circle caparison pattern wi \(equestrianguild.org\)](http://equestrianguild.org)

Saito and Ise's website (Calontir equestrians)

- [Patterns \(saitosdojo.com\)](http://saitosdojo.com)

DravonWorks Free pattern download

- [Basic Horse Caparison Tutorial - Free PDF Download - DravonWorks](#)

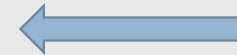
A pattern for full fabric Horse Caparison by Mistress Isabeau Pferdebandiger:

- [Middle Kingdom Equestrian College - Resources \(midrealm.org\)](http://midrealm.org)

Master Terafan's pattern:

- <http://www.greydragon.org/Equestrian/Caparison>

Best Pattern to use in my opinion.





**Why is this the best pattern?**

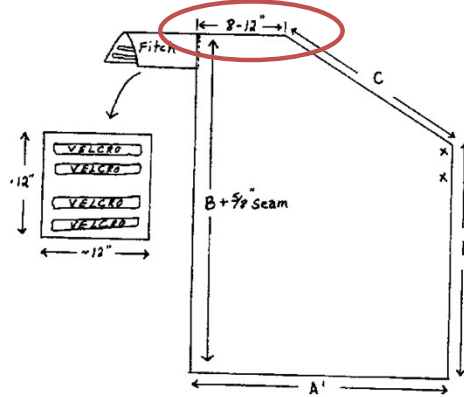
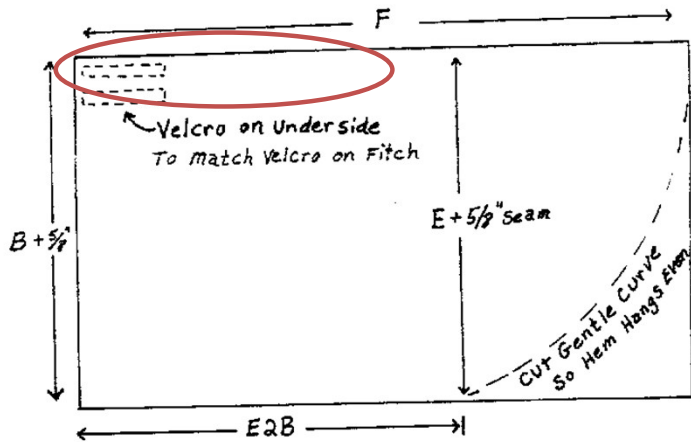
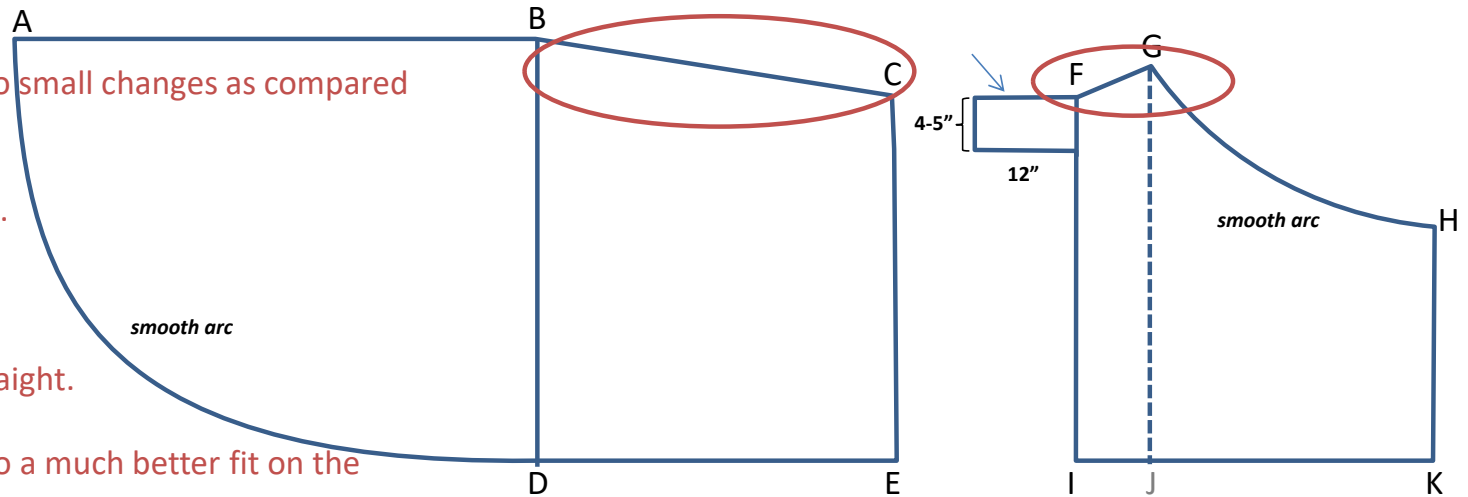
The fit is much improved by two small changes as compared to the other patterns.

Note tapering between B and C.

Note rise between F and G.

On other patterns these are straight.

These slight adjustments lead to a much better fit on the horse.



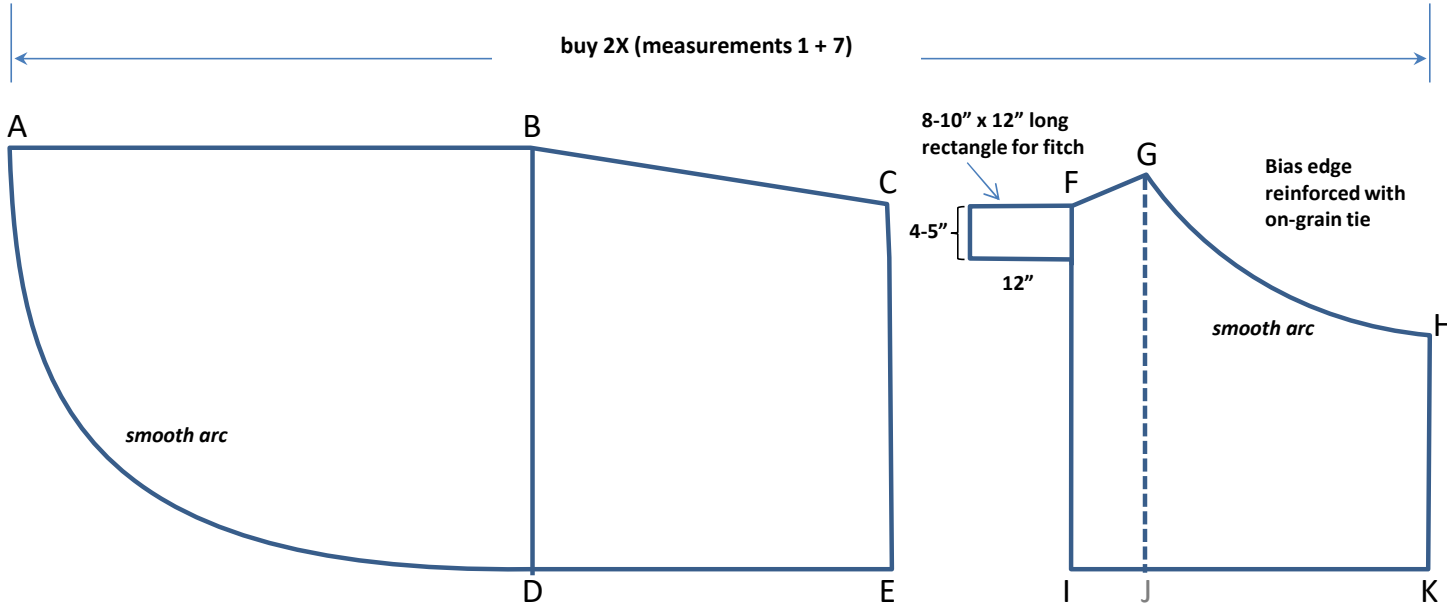
**Other patterns:**

The rump piece is completely straight across the whole top.

The front piece is also straight across with no rise for withers.

The fit could be better.

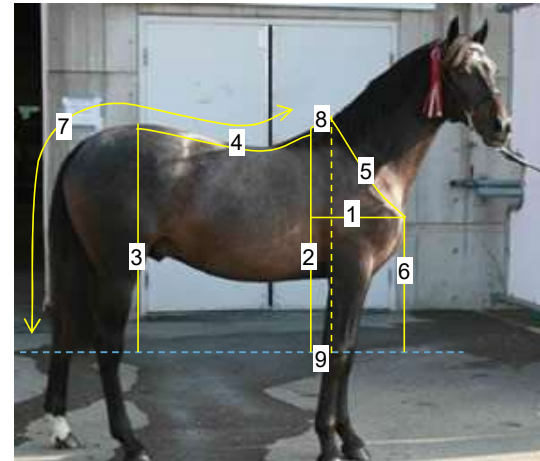
## Measurements for the Caparison:



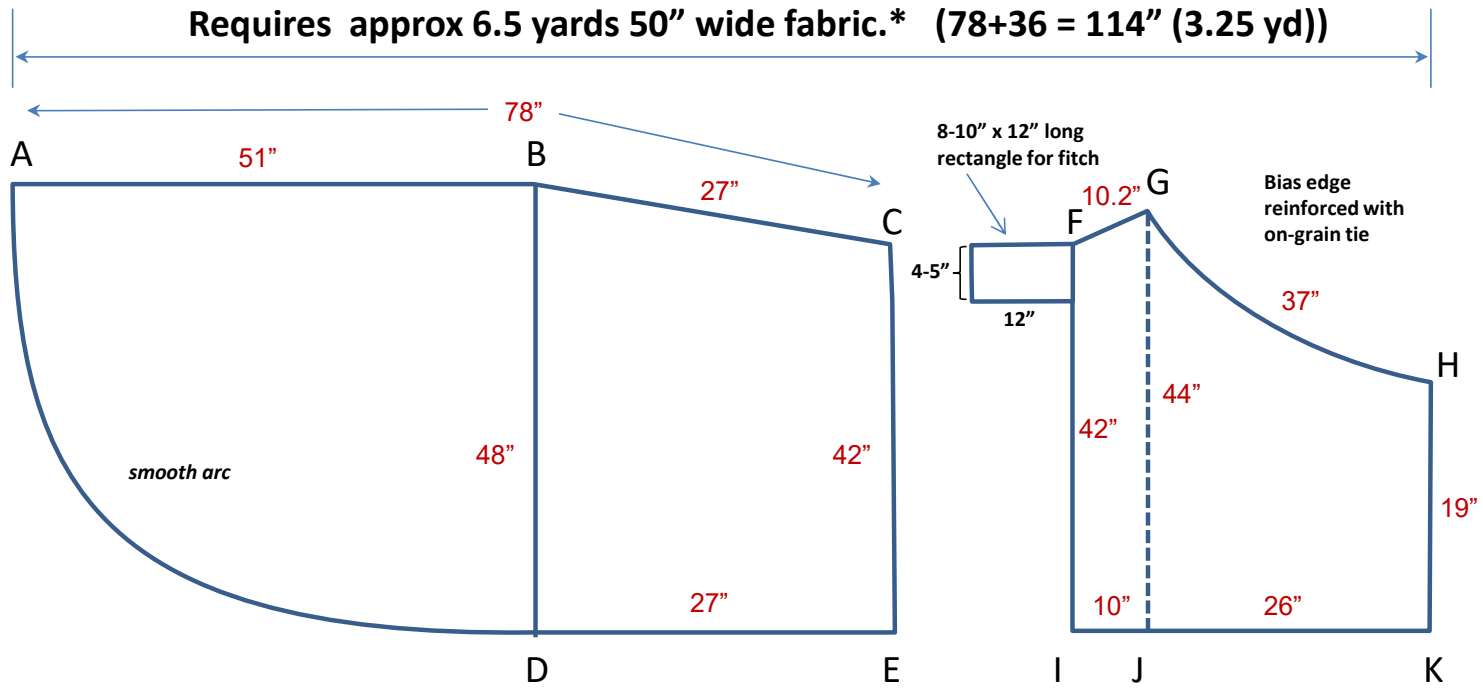
**TIPS:**  
 1) Make sure horse is on flat surface and standing still.  
 2) Get help from a friend.

### Measurements:

1. From the center front of the horse's chest to the saddle girth (K-I) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Center of back to knee/hock line at girth area (F-I & C-E) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Center of back to knee/hock line at highest point of rump (B-D) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Distance between highest point of rump and base of withers (B-C) \_\_\_\_\_
5. From front of withers down to center front of chest (G-H)\*\* \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\* It is best to put a spot with magic marker on the withers and on the chest to measure to / from the same points, around both sides.
6. Center front of chest to knee/hock line (H-K) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Spine-line measurement from girth to hock (C-A) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Length of withers (F-G) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Width of withers (J-I) \_\_\_\_\_



## EXAMPLE:



\*Note: If using narrower fabric, reduce the following measurements by the same amount, so that B-D fits across fabric.

A-B : 51	B-C : 27
B-D : 48	C-E / F-I : 42
G-J : 44	H-K : 19
K-I : 36	J-I : 10
F-G : 10.2	G-H : 37

Listed measurements are finished dimensions.

Add seam allowances for hemming before cutting fabric.

Cut 2 and sew together.

## Fabric considerations

- Will take 6-10 yards modern fabric depending on size of horse and if doing a hood. More if lining.
- 55-60" width is best.
- Make sure it is sturdy and machine washable.
  - It WILL get pooped on, dragged in the mud, etc.!
- To line, or not to line?
  - Consider climate
  - Will drape better, but will be hotter to wear.
- Avoid synthetic fabrics for better breathability.
- Don't use knits.

Types	Pros	Cons
Linen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breathable</li> <li>• Period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> <li>• Can stretch out, especially when damp with horse sweat</li> </ul>
Silk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breathable</li> <li>• Period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive! See notes below.</li> </ul>
Wool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breathable</li> <li>• Period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive</li> <li>• Very hot!</li> </ul>
Cotton (Broad cloth, or heavier trigger or canvas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breathable</li> <li>• Comes in wide widths</li> <li>• Inexpensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not period</li> <li>• Can be too thin/flimsy</li> </ul>
Poly Cotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• Light weight</li> <li>• Washes well</li> <li>• Does not fade</li> <li>• Fairly sturdy</li> <li>• Comes in wide widths</li> <li>• Does not wrinkle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not as breathable</li> <li>• Not period</li> </ul>
Velvet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looks nice!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot!</li> </ul>



## Construction Tips

- Cut two of each: Front and Back.
  - (Cut 4 if lining)
- Consider making a toile/muslin for the front half.
  - Does not take much fabric.
  - Mock up will allow you to adjust fit on equine, especially the neck curve.
- Sew along the top of each, front and back.
- If lining, I would sew the pieces together at the middle seam. Or alternatively, you could sew each separately and then sew/connect them together along the top seam so the raw edges are hidden.
- I pressed the seams open and sewed a strip of bias tape over the raw edges to cover them and add strength.



## Construction Tips (Cont.)

- Before you hem / finish the bottom...
  - Put the caparison on the equine.
  - Make sure it is centered.
  - Safety pin / secure the front so it is closed.
  - Have the horse stand on flat, level ground. (Ex: cement barn aisle)
  - Using a yard stick and some tailor's chalk, mark on the caparison where you want the hem to be.
    - Generally, the hock or knee is a good place to measure from.
    - On Bingo, this was 16" above the ground.
    - Mark all the way around.
    - Trim bottom where marked.



## Construction Tips (Cont.)

- Fastest and easiest way to finish edges: use bias tape!
- Bias tape comes in large spools!
- No stopping and joining needed!
- Cheaper than pre-packaged tape.
  - 50-55 yard spools available online. \$15-\$20
  - [Bias Double Fold Tape 50 yards / 150 feet | Etsy](#)
  - [Bias Tape Doubled fold 1/2 Wide X 50 Yards per Roll 100% | Etsy](#)
  - [Amazon.com: Mandala Crafts Double Fold Bias Tape for Sewing, Seaming, Binding, Hemming, Piping, Quilting, 1/2 Inch 55 Yards](#)



## Construction Tips (Cont.)

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- Finish all edges with bias tape.
- Add ties to front chest piece.
  - Shoelaces
  - Twill tape
  - Grosgrain ribbon
- Add fitch w/ Velcro to front piece
- Sew Velcro on back piece

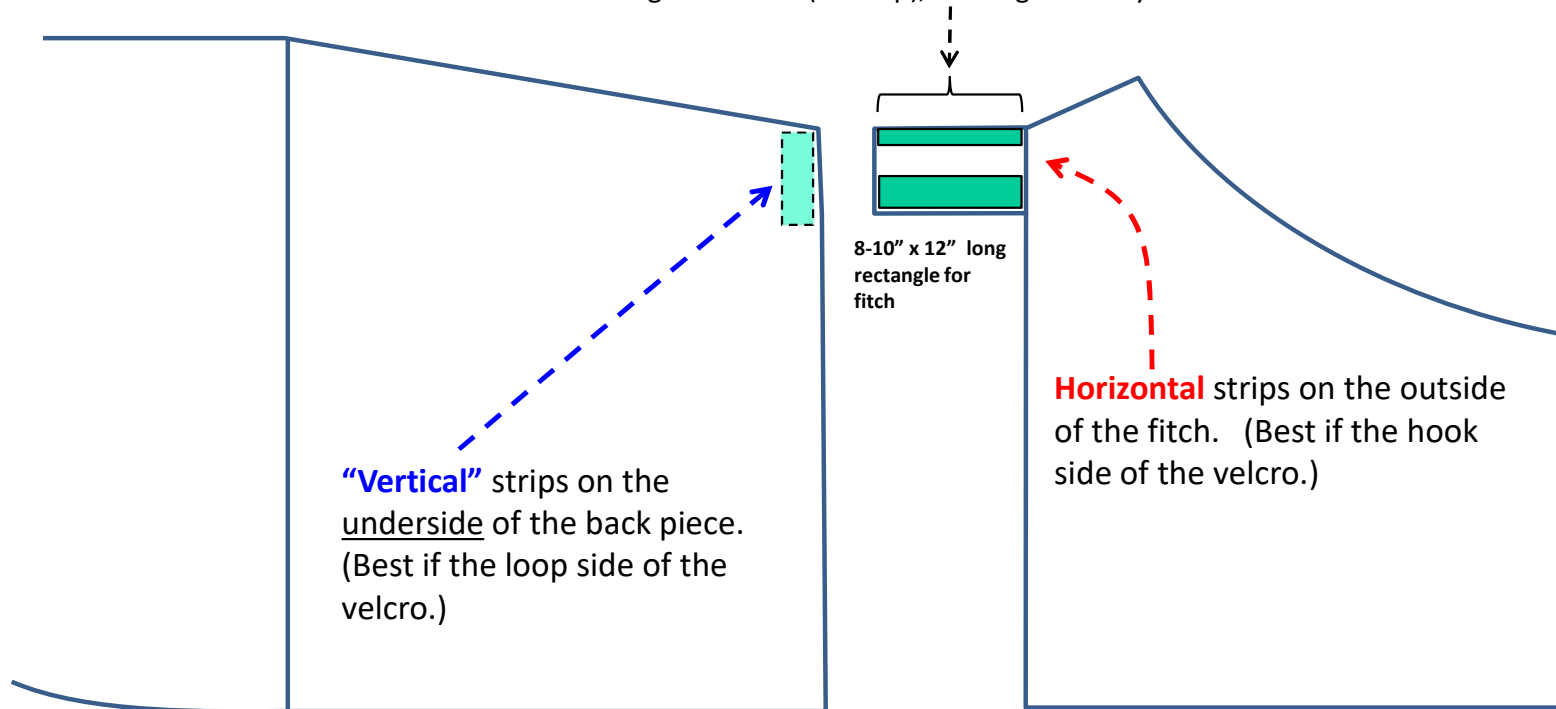




## Useful tip for the fitch overlap connection:

Put velcro strips on the top side of the fitch piece (and underside of the back piece) to enable the caparison to fit a variety of horses.

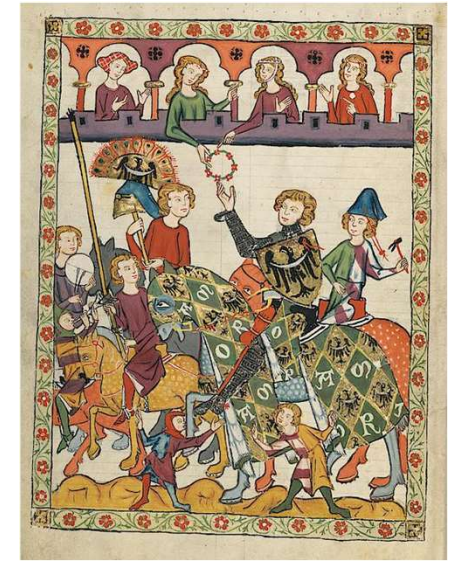
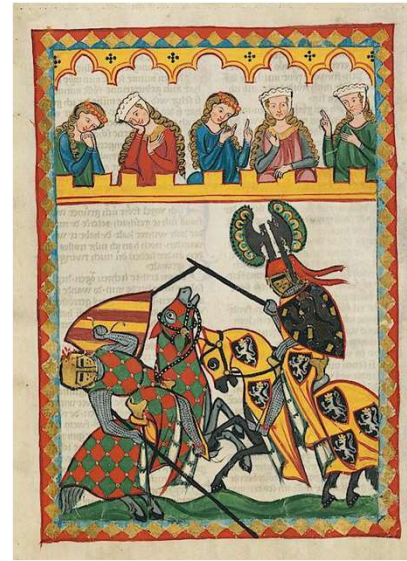
This distance is the difference in size (length) of various horses the caparison will fit. The longer the fitch (overlap), the larger variety of horses it will accommodate.



# Decorations/ Embellishments

- Block printing / Painting
- Dagging
- Embroidery
- Applique
- Stripes
- Use your imagination!





# Inspiration: Manesse Codex

- [Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, Cod. Pal. germ. 848](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:5:1-63862-p0071-9)  
[Große Heidelberger Liederhandschrift \(Codex Manesse\)](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:5:1-63862-p0071-9)  
 [\(Zürich, ca. 1300 bis ca. 1340\) \(uni-heidelberg.de\)](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:5:1-63862-p0071-9)



# Inspiration: Capodilista Codex

- [20 foto e immagini di Capodilista Codex Manuscript - Getty Images](#)



## Inspiration: Album of Tournaments and Parades in Nuremberg

- [Album of Tournaments and Parades in Nuremberg | German, Nuremberg | The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(metmuseum.org\)](#)