



## Resources for Kit (for everyone) and other Hearth (non-martial) Interests

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VIKING KIT:**

As you start putting together your Viking Age kit (known elsewhere as “costume”) you will want to do a LOT of research. Archaeological evidence is scarce from most parts of the Viking world, since plant and animal fibers decompose in most conditions. Much of what we “know” is conjecture, but the following books do a great job of presenting the evidence. You are also welcome to ask if you have any questions!

### **Some excellent books on Viking clothing based on archaeological finds:**

- *Viking Clothing*, by Thor Ewing
- *Viking: Dress, Clothing, Klaer, Garment*, by Nille Glaesel
- *Viking Warrior Clothing*, by Nille Glaesel
- *Woven into the Earth: Textile finds in Norse Greenland*, by Else Østergård
- *Medieval Garments Reconstructed: Norse Clothing Patterns*, by Lilli Fransen, Anna Norgard, Else Ostergard and Shelly Nordtorp-Madson
- *Viking Age Costume Guide*, by Pieter J. Pierot
- *Viking Age Clothing* booklet series, by Susanna Broome, <http://vikingageclothing.susannabroome.se/>

### **Good links with a variety of information:**

Viking Answer Lady: <http://www.vikinganswerlady.com> – see especially her info on naming traditions.

Hurstwic: <http://www.hurstwic.org/history/text/history.htm>

<http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/vikresource.html>

### **Keep in mind:**

Most of the vendors recommended here offer a variety of items, some of which are appropriate for Viking-Age living history and some of which are not. Some vendors produce excellent reenactment-quality items, but **almost no vendor's inventory is categorically acceptable**. Before you make significant purchases for your kit, make sure it matches the period and location of the other items in your kit. Feel free to ask!

\*\*If you are a fighter looking for information/advice about weapons, armor, shields, and other combatant gear, please ask a senior fighter the next time you attend training.

## **IF YOU WANT TO BUY PREMADE KIT ITEMS:**

**AUTHENTICITY NOTES** ~ As you do your own searching, you will find lots of references to **T-tunics**. These are easy beginners' medieval tunics, but NOT a good choice if you are shooting for Viking-era authenticity. You might make one in a pinch, but just know that you will need to replace it later with something accurate.

~ Avoid buying a **short sleeved** tunic. There are many sites that sell them (although, a sleeveless tunic worn as an under-layer is fine.)

~ Avoid requesting **colors** that could not realistically be achieved by a natural dye (See color charts later in this document.) Colors on linen should be somewhat muted compared to colors on wool. Avoid bright/true red and solid black on linen.

~ Look for items that offer **hand-finishing** (all visible stitches done by hand), **or** cover machine stitching with trims and/embroidery. See information about TOPSTITCHING later in this document. Look at designs from the archaeology as you consider embroidery, such as wood/stone carvings and jewelry finds.

~ Regarding footwear, some allowances are made for safety of fighters (non-slip soles, etc.) but please avoid any soles that look like modern workboots.

### **Premade Tunics:**

Jelling Dragon: [http://www.jelldragon.com/viking\\_tunics.htm](http://www.jelldragon.com/viking_tunics.htm)

Othala Craft: [http://othalacraft.com/tuniki\\_en-30.html](http://othalacraft.com/tuniki_en-30.html)

Revival Clothing: <http://www.revivalclothing.com/10th-11thcearlymedievalvikingtunic.aspx>

Historic Enterprises: [http://historicenterprises.com/mens-c-99/dark-ages-clothing-c-99\\_190/gown-early-medieval-10th13th-century-linen-p-946.html](http://historicenterprises.com/mens-c-99/dark-ages-clothing-c-99_190/gown-early-medieval-10th13th-century-linen-p-946.html) - in linen or wool

Slav Medieval Shop (etsy): <https://www.etsy.com/shop/SlavMedievalShop>

### **Leg wraps, or winningas:**

Intriguing Designs: [http://www.intriguingdesigns.net/My\\_Homepage\\_Files/Page2.html](http://www.intriguingdesigns.net/My_Homepage_Files/Page2.html) - hand spun/woven option. (She also has an etsy shop: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/94206972/winingas-new-colours-added-june-2015-leg>)

Revival Clothing: <http://www.revivalclothing.com/10th-11thcearlymedievalvikinglegwraps.aspx>

Historic Enterprises: [http://historicenterprises.com/mens-c-99/leg-wear-c-99\\_117/package-winingas-with-hooks-p-932.html](http://historicenterprises.com/mens-c-99/leg-wear-c-99_117/package-winingas-with-hooks-p-932.html) - package including hooks

Historic Enterprises: [http://historicenterprises.com/mens-c-99/leg-wear-c-99\\_117/winingas-hand-woven-p-1319.html](http://historicenterprises.com/mens-c-99/leg-wear-c-99_117/winingas-hand-woven-p-1319.html) - handwoven

Dan Miga, offers special price for Jomsborg: [panzersmash@gmail.com](mailto:panzersmash@gmail.com)

### **Hoods and headwear:**

[http://historicenterprises.com/hood-skjoldehamn-c-10501090-p-1295.html?cPath=99\\_118](http://historicenterprises.com/hood-skjoldehamn-c-10501090-p-1295.html?cPath=99_118)- the Skjoldehamn Hood (11<sup>th</sup> c.)

[http://historicenterprises.com/womens-c-100/headwear-hoods-c-100\\_129/hood-jorvik-coppergate-p-902.html](http://historicenterprises.com/womens-c-100/headwear-hoods-c-100_129/hood-jorvik-coppergate-p-902.html)  
- the Jorvik Cap (10<sup>th</sup> c.)

### **Footwear (ask before purchasing shoes – some are better for combat than others):**

Merchant of Menace: <http://www.merchantofmenace.co.uk/index.php?cPath=91&osCsid=ade3afe07fd137ae1067815ef617acbe>

Snorri Varnarsson: <http://www.snorri-varnarsson.de>

Viking Leather Crafts: <http://www.vikingleathercrafts.com/>

Reenactment Market: <http://reenactmentmarket.eu/en/kategorie/1463> - naalbinded socks!

Info on footwear of the Middle Ages: <http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOM3.HTM>  
(focus on “Northern European dark Ages.”)

### **CUSTOM TUNICS, AND OTHER ITEMS, MADE JUST FOR YOU (HAND FINISHING AVAILABLE):**

In the Arlington, TX area – Judi Christensen: [racenmama@gmail.com](mailto:racenmama@gmail.com)

In the Austin, TX area – Lieutske Visser: <https://www.facebook.com/lieutske.visser/info>

In the Boston, MA area – Laura Sweet: [aurelia\\_coritana@yahoo.com](mailto:aurelia_coritana@yahoo.com);

Shaz DeSade: <https://www.facebook.com/shaz.desade>

In the Council Bluffs, IA area – Thora's Threads: <http://www.thorasthreads.com/>

Online – <http://www.tailoredtunics.com/>

### **Custom Leather Work:**

Clinton Dale: [usaerah@hotmail.com](mailto:usaerah@hotmail.com), <https://www.facebook.com/clinton.dale.92/info>

Matt Poitras: [mattmp40@gmail.com](mailto:mattmp40@gmail.com), [www.mpfilmcraft.com](http://www.mpfilmcraft.com)

## **IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN KIT ITEMS:**

*AUTHENTICITY NOTES* ~ As you do your own research, you will find lots of references to **T-tunics**. These are easy beginners' medieval tunics, but NOT a good choice if you are shooting for Viking-era authenticity. You might make one in a pinch, but just know that you will probably want to replace it later with something accurate.

~ Avoid making or buying a **short sleeved** tunic (although, a sleeveless tunic worn as an under-layer is fine.)

~ Avoid using **colors** that could not realistically be achieved by a natural dye (See color charts later in this document.) Colors on linen should be somewhat muted compared to colors on wool. Avoid bright/true red and solid black on linen.

~ Look for items that offer **hand-finishing** (all visible stitches done by hand), **or** cover machine stitching with trims and/embroidery. See information about TOPSTITCHING later in this document. Look at designs from the archaeology as you consider embroidery, such as wood/stone carvings and jewelry finds.

~ **Do not use any of the following** fittings or notions: grommets, buttons, or zippers. There is no evidence for the use of these in the Viking Age. (Some Eastern style kit MAY include Viking style buttons, but please consult a local member about the most appropriate choice for your kit.)

The following sites give detailed **instructions** on making your own Western or Central style tunic based off your own specific measurements.

[http://www.virtue.to/articles/tunic\\_worksheet.html](http://www.virtue.to/articles/tunic_worksheet.html) – how to

<http://www.larp.com/midgard/tunic.htm>

[http://thorsonandsvava.sccspirit.com/pdf\\_files/Viking\\_handout\\_men.pdf](http://thorsonandsvava.sccspirit.com/pdf_files/Viking_handout_men.pdf)

[http://thorsonandsvava.sccspirit.com/pdf\\_files/Viking\\_handout\\_women.pdf](http://thorsonandsvava.sccspirit.com/pdf_files/Viking_handout_women.pdf)

<http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/viktunic.html> – about the basic tunic

<http://urd.priv.no/viking/serk.html> – about the underdress

### **You may also order a preprinted pattern:**

The Kragelund Tunic (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> c.) - <http://store.reconstructinghistory.com/rh010-kragelund-tunic.html>

The Moselund Tunic (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> c.) - <http://store.reconstructinghistory.com/rh011-moselund-tunic.html>

Variety of patterns: [http://www.handelsgillet.se/?product\\_cat=viking-age](http://www.handelsgillet.se/?product_cat=viking-age)

### **The Hangerok, or apron dress:**

<http://urd.priv.no/viking/smokkr.html>

<http://genvieve.net/sca/vikingapron.html>

<http://www.tjurslakter.nl/viking%20apron-dress.pdf>

<http://urd.priv.no/viking/kostrup.html> - The Køstrup aprondress.

**The Skjoldhamn Hood (11<sup>th</sup> c.):**

<http://www.medieval-baltic.us/skjold.html>

**The Jorvik Cap (10<sup>th</sup> c.):**

<http://genvieve.net/sca/vikingcap.html>

<http://vikinghands.blogspot.com/2014/01/jorvik-hood-or-cap.html>

*AUTHENTICITY NOTES* ~ Keep ALL machine stitching hidden from view. Doing TOPSTITCHING or simple embroidery by hand (instead of or on top of machine stitching) improves the overall look of your kit. Suggestions for simple topstitches and seam treatments can be found here:

<http://nvg.org.au/documents/other/stitches.pdf>

[http://www.sca.org.au/collegium/notes/jane\\_stockton\\_basic\\_stitches\\_indepth.pdf](http://www.sca.org.au/collegium/notes/jane_stockton_basic_stitches_indepth.pdf)

## FABRIC AND TRIM SOURCES:

Your basic garments should be made of **100% LINEN** or **100% WOOL**. Other BAST fibers such as **hemp** are acceptable, but **NO** synthetics and no blends (Read all the fiber contents carefully, many fabric stores sell linen/cotton, linen/rayon, and linen/poly blends.) You may use small quantities of **silks**, such as for trims, cuffs, and embroidery (this item was available to Vikings by trade, but would have been very expensive.) When in doubt, choose a plain weave.

AUTHENTICITY NOTES ~ For all fiber products, be wary of colors that could not reasonably or believably be achieved by a natural dye plant. If you are unsure of a color, consult the color wheel below, and ask questions.

~Keep in mind that the colors shown below are on **WOOL** fibers. Colors on linen should be **lighter** and less saturated on linen/flax fibers (especially reds.) Any **naturally occurring** color on wool or linen is a good choice.



### Good online sources for basic wool and linen fabric:

Fabrics-Store: <http://fabrics-store.com/> - 100% linen

Fashion Fabrics Club: <http://www.fashionfabricsclub.com/> - 100% wool

Cali Fabrics: <http://www.califabrics.com/> - 100% wool

**More specialized and unique fabrics** (Caution, not all products are accurate to the Viking Age, but they are interesting):

William Booth, Draper: <http://www.wmboothdraper.com/>

Period Fabrics: <http://periodfabric.com/>

Wood-N-Woven: <http://wood-n-woven.com/woven.html>

Myrsale: <http://www.myrsale.dk/> HANDWOVEN amazingness.

Birgit Ludicke: <http://www.birgit-luedicke.de>

Savelyeva Ekaterina (Facebook): [https://www.facebook.com/savelyeva.ekaterina.7/media\\_set?set=a.722824287733191.1073741826.100000168788749&type=3&hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/savelyeva.ekaterina.7/media_set?set=a.722824287733191.1073741826.100000168788749&type=3&hc_location=ufi)

### **Trim for garments** (tablet weaving, embroidery, whipcord/braiding, etc.)

*AUTHENTICITY NOTES* ~ Be wary of “Viking-style” trim that is machine made. There is a lot of it around, especially in fabric stores like Joann's, and they are usually made of synthetic fibers. Card-woven or tablet-woven trim in wool or linen is best, available from these sources:

#### Online:

Nancy Devlin, County Leitrim, Ireland: [nancydevlin65@hotmail.com](mailto:nancydevlin65@hotmail.com)

Saxon Yarns (eBay shop): [http://www.ebay.com/sch/saxonyarns/m.html?\\_nkw=&\\_armrs=1&\\_ipg=&\\_from=](http://www.ebay.com/sch/saxonyarns/m.html?_nkw=&_armrs=1&_ipg=&_from=)

Earth Tribes Design (etsy shop): <https://www.etsy.com/shop/EarthTribes>

Nornona (etsy shop): <https://www.etsy.com/ch-en/shop/Nornorna>

#### Commissions and custom trim:

In Austin, TX – Jennifer Walters, [mudbug1215@aol.com](mailto:mudbug1215@aol.com)

Matthew Glover, [glover.matthew.a@gmail.com](mailto:glover.matthew.a@gmail.com)

In Boston, MA – Laura Sweet, [aurelia\\_coritana@yahoo.com](mailto:aurelia_coritana@yahoo.com)

Tiff Petherbridge, [tpetherbridge@gmail.com](mailto:tpetherbridge@gmail.com)

In Minnesota – Kelsey Patton, [http://www.etsy.com/shop/HeddlesandTreadles?ref=seller\\_info](http://www.etsy.com/shop/HeddlesandTreadles?ref=seller_info)

In Canada – Karyn Bellamy-Dagneau, <https://www.facebook.com/karyn.bellamydagneau/info>,  
[http://www.etsy.com/people/Sivrunr?ref=si\\_pr](http://www.etsy.com/people/Sivrunr?ref=si_pr)

#### Make your own:

4-strand whipcord (in the Skjoldhamn style) - <http://www.medieval-baltic.us/whipcords.html>

Basic tablet weaving: <http://www.stringpage.com/tw/basic-tw.html>

Basic tablet weaving: <http://www.malarkycrafts.com/twbasics/twbasics.asp>

## JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES:

### **Jewelry and Fittings:**

Northan: <http://www.northan.net/>

Urweg: <http://www.urweg.com/>

Danegeld: <http://www.danegeld.co.uk/page2.htm>

Armour and Castings (allow ample shipping time from the Ukraine): <http://armourandcastings.com/>

Wareham Forge: <http://www.warehamforge.ca/NORSE-REPRO/norsejewel.html>

Ragweed Forge: [www.ragweedforge.com](http://www.ragweedforge.com)

Jelling Dragon: [http://www.jelldragon.com/viking\\_jewelry.htm](http://www.jelldragon.com/viking_jewelry.htm)

Saxon Yarns (eBay): [http://www.ebay.com/sch/saxonyarns/m.html?\\_nkw=&\\_armrs=1&\\_ipg=&\\_from=](http://www.ebay.com/sch/saxonyarns/m.html?_nkw=&_armrs=1&_ipg=&_from=)

### **Beads:**

Hot House Bead Co., Austin, TX: [mudbug1215@aol.com](mailto:mudbug1215@aol.com) (reproductions and custom beads)

Boston Baked Beads, Boston, MA: [aurelia\\_coritana@yahoo.com](mailto:aurelia_coritana@yahoo.com) (reproductions and custom beads)

Tillerman Beads: [http://www.tillermanbeads.co.uk/onlineshop/cat\\_428644-D-Vikingera-Beads.html](http://www.tillermanbeads.co.uk/onlineshop/cat_428644-D-Vikingera-Beads.html)

Heart of Oak Crafts (etsy shop): <https://www.etsy.com/shop/heartofoakcrafts>

### **Sources for Feastware, camp gear, and miscellaneous:**

Glacier Wear (drinking horns in a variety of sizes): <http://www.glacierwear.com/polished-genuine-buffalo-horn-caps.html> – horns need to be finished on the inside before using

Jas. Townsend and Son, Inc. (most items for the 1750 to 1840 time period, but look for wooden bowls and spoons, and horn spoons): <http://jas-townsend.com/index.php?cPath=23>

Panther Primitives (tents, boxes, stools, etc): <http://www.pantherprimitives.com/index.html>

Little Black Bird Sculpture and Ceramics: [lindseycbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lindseycbrown@gmail.com)

### **Other Craftspeople who make a variety of products:**

Medieval Craft: <http://medievalcraft.eu/>

Matthias and Iris Barkmann: <http://www.vikigr-kontor.de/>

<http://www.reenactment-bedarf.de/index.html>

## SOURCES FOR CRAFTERS, ARTISANS, AND MEMBERS OF THE HEARTH:

### **Basket Making:**

Royalwood, Ltd.: <http://www.royalwoodltd.com/>

The Basketmakers Catalog: <http://www.basketmakerscatalog.com/>

### **Beadmaking/Lampwork:**

Frantz Art Glass: <http://www.frantzartglass.com/>

Blue Moon Glassworks: <http://www.austinbluemoon.com/catalog.php>

Katie Gee Designs (etsy; creative stringers): <https://www.etsy.com/people/KatieGeeDesigns>

### **Fiber Arts:**

Hill Country Weavers: <http://www.hillcountryweavers.com/main/>

The Needle Works: <http://www.theneedleworks.com/>

Paradise Fibers: <http://www.paradisefibers.com/>

The Woolery: <http://www.woolery.com/store/pc/home.asp>

The Spanish Peacock: <http://spanishpeacock.com/>

### **Leather Working:**

Tandy Leather: <http://www.tandy Leatherfactory.com/en-usd/home/home.aspx>

### **Natural Dyeing:**

Aurora Silks: <http://www.aurorasilk.com/>

The Woolery: <http://www.woolery.com/Store/pc/Natural-Dyes-c223.htm>

Dharma Trading Company: <http://www.dharmatrading.com/home/natural-dyeing-supplies.html>

Griffin Dye Works: <http://www.griffindyeworks.com/>

Wild Colours: [http://www.wildcolours.co.uk/html/natural\\_dyes\\_comparison.html](http://www.wildcolours.co.uk/html/natural_dyes_comparison.html)

### **Wood working and wood products:**

The Spanish Peacock (spindles, naalbinding needles, etc.): <http://spanishpeacock.com/catalog/>

Hokett Would Work (for naalbinding needles, weaving shuttles, etc): [would.work@yahoo.com](mailto:would.work@yahoo.com),  
<http://wouldworkifhewantedto.wordpress.com/>