

Skjaldborg

Basic Kit Guide

First Edition

2017

Skjaldborg focuses on the historical representation of the Viking Age in Northern Europe, circa 793CE – 1066CE. However, the “Vikings” existed before and after those specific dates. They also existed in a larger area of the world. As such, we cover a time period from late Migration to early Medieval, and an area from Byzantium to North America. Take this into account when choosing a kit to work at building.

This guide is meant to be a document to assist newer members in obtaining proper kit, as well as to help the more experienced members to “fine tune” their kits. Keep in mind that the most important and immersive guide is the knowledge of the actual members within Skjaldborg! This guide is by no means 100% complete, as those delving into more detailed portrayals can find more specific information regarding a specific time period, region, and culture through various academic means. Use this guide as a stepping stone to build up a kit for your specific area of interest.

The organization and information in this document was gathered from other Viking Age living history organizations (notably Regia Anglorum and Vikings Vinland), as well as from noted historical primary and secondary sources (archaeological finds, tapestries, paintings, etc.). All credit goes to where it is deserved.

A few mentionable notations

- Cloth is restricted to linen, wool, and some silk
- A wide array of colors were available, linen takes dye poorly and is typically much duller in comparison to dyed wool
- Silk would be used very sparingly, and only by those of higher social and wealth classes
- Leather is restricted to commercial vegetable tanned, or hand tanned.... avoid chromium tanned (shiny) leather
- Leather should also be naturally colored (medium to darker shades of brown, or reddish brown). Avoid bold, dark colors such as black, dark blue, bright red, etc.
- Fur is often extremely overused, due to historical representation. Please seek guidance before incorporating its use.
- Avoid riveting leather pieces together, use stitching or lacing instead (unless it's a historical reproduction). It is allowed, however, to rivet leather to metal, or metal to metal.
- If an item is not listed here, then by all means research it and/or ask about it! Many things are very specific to certain times or regions, so it would be impossible to list them all

Social class / wealth portrayal

Note that portrayed social class does not, in any way, affect a person's standing or influence within this group. It is for purely educational purposes. When choosing to depict a certain social class, please try to adhere to all restrictions relative to that class. This makes for a more convincing and accurate portrayal, as well as offers you a bigger challenge to strive to meet. It is highly recommended that newer members start at a lower class, and work their way up, improving their kit as they go. This gives ample time to fine tune details, as well as possibly saves money otherwise spent on unusable materials and equipment.

	Kingly	High	Average	Low / poor
Colors	Any historical shade achievable by historical methods (regional or exotic)	Most historical shades, including deep blues, greens, and reds	Yellows, dull or pale greens, pale reds, oranges, pale blues	Pale yellows and greens, undyed cloth
Fibers	Highest quality wool and linen, silks (entire garments)	Highest quality wool and linen, silks (small garments such as caps, small decoration)	Average quality wool and linen, no silk	Average to poor quality wool and linen, no silk
Decoration	Large amounts of embroidery, tablet weave are expected, possibly spun gold/silver	Embroidery, tablet weave strongly encouraged, small amount of spun gold/silver in decorations	Simple embroidery or tablet weave, not essential	Little to no decoration, possible decorative stitch
War Gear	Any historical items, highly decorated	Steel helm (spangen, one-piece after 1000CE... nasal, goggle...dependent on specific culture), maille, shield, spear, sword (in scabbard, baldric...possible belt post 1000CE), large axe, possibly handaxe or seax, possible bow	Steel helm (spangen, one-piece after 1000CE... nasal, goggle...dependent on specific culture), shield, spear, handaxe or seax, possible bow	Possible handaxe or seax, hunting bow

Clothing Construction

	Preferred	Acceptable	Possible after discussion	Unacceptable
Cloth/ Fiber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pure wool - Pure linen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wool blends (80%+) - Linen/cotton blends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wool blends (50-80%) - Heavily fulled/felted wools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linen/rayon - Linen/poly - Poly/cotton - Pure cotton - Other synthetics
Weaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tabby - Twill (1/2, 2/2 broken, 2/2 broken diamond) - Herringbone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other period proven weaves, or those of close similarity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prints - Patterns
Colors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural fiber shades (esp. linen) - Bleached wool/linen (very pale grey, brown, cream) - Colors matched to historical examples using proper dyes (i.e woad, madder, weld) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Muted colors - Pale earth tones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very deep dark colors - Near black - Deep bright blues - Deeply colored linen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep black
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entirely hand sewn - Thin facings (< 3") prior to 1000CE - Thicker facings post 1000CE (> 3") - Facings on cuffs and neck hole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machine sewn but with visible stitching hand sewn over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machine sewn for new members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machine sewn for not new members - Facings on hem prior to 1000CE
Decoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decorative stitching in same fiber as garment fabric - Biased colored stitching - Embroidery on removable panels - Narrow tablet weave (< 1/2") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decorative stitching in a different fiber than the garment - Embroidery directly on garment - Facings (yoke, cuffs, hem) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side panels or gores in a different color than the garment - Wide tablet weave (> 1/2") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machine woven braid or trim - Very wide tablet weave (>1")

Male clothing guide

	Preferred	Acceptable	Possible after discussion	Unacceptable
Headwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bare head - Brimless skullcap / panel cap (Nalebound or woolen panels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hood - Pillbox style hat - Fur trim (< 2") around brimless skullcap - Birka styled conical hats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straw hats of C11th or earlier design (low status only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hats with excessively wide fur trim (> 2")
Under tunic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No under tunic - Linen under woolen over tunic - Cuffs/ neck/ hem obscured by over tunic - T shape, tapered sleeves - Side splits or gores - Viborg styled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linen under linen over tunic - Same cut as over tunic - Round, Oval, or Keyhole necks dependent on culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slits in front/back after 1000 CE (specific to a particular region) 	
Over tunic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Woolen - Loose upper arm, tighter forearm / wrist - Sleeves slightly longer than required to give a "wrinkled" appearance - Hem extending to the knee when belted (slightly longer dependent on specific culture) - Flared skirt made by inserted gores (triangles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linen - Sleeves with a little looseness in forearm -Hem mid-thigh to above knee when belted - Round, Oval, or Keyhole necks dependent on culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very loose sleeves, esp. at wrist - Flared skirt made by tapered front/back panels - Birka styled kaftan (specific to a particular region) - Slits in front/back after 1000 CE (specific to a particular region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straight sleeves - Hem shorter than mid-thigh - Short sleeves - Over tunic significantly shorter than under tunic
Leg coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woolen or linen trousers - Belted waist - Legs fitted to calf - May have feet - Braies & hosen, fitted to calf, may have feet - Winnegas / Leg wraps (spiral wrap) - Bare legs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawstring waist - Slightly tapered leg, and relaxed in thigh/calf - Braies with belted or drawstring waist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trousers with straight leg/ loose at calf - Baggy to knee and tight calf (Rus style, specific to a particular region) - Cross gartering (specific to a particular region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Trousers with very baggy legs

<p>Footwear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barefoot - Nalebound woolen socks - Authentically made turn shoes (below ankle to slightly above ankle) -Leather sole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machine sewn turnshoes - Secondary leather sole or small heel - Thin vibram / rubber sole (not historical, but acceptable for better traction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bag / Gathered shoes (low status only) - Hobnails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moccasins, Gillies, or other period shoes - Antler toggles - Mid calf and taller boots - Laces or buckles
<p>Cloaks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single layer of wool - Rectangular and pinned at shoulder - Semi-circular and pinned, or secured with ties, at shoulder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woolen lining (similar, or contrasting, color) - Fur lining or trim - Pinned at throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Made from, or lined with, linen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Secured with buttons, or other non-period clasp
<p>Belt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leather - Narrow (< ¾ “) - Undecorated - Authentically colored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide (¾” – 1 ½”) - Belt plates / studs (dependent on specific social class and culture) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very wide (> 1 ½”) - Tooled - Black - Plain rivets solely for decoration - Composite material - Overly long dangling end
<p>Buckles / Tips (consistent to social/wealth class)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bronze, brass, copper alloy - Silver - Bone / Antler - Hand worked engraving / carving - Cast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No tip - No fittings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Modern D-ring buckles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Modern decorated / engraved
<p>Pouches / Bags</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small, single suspension strap - Kidney or Birka shape (optional metal fittings) - Flap enclosure - Thin, Soft, flexible leather - Shoulder bag (soft leather or cloth, flap or wood slat enclosure) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Round drawstring pouch, soft leather or cloth (often under clothing) - Larger size allowed to accommodate modern items - Thicker leather allowed for same reason 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard leather - Box shape - Double suspension strap

Jewelry (consistent to social/wealth class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Silver, bronze, copper alloy - Cloak pin - Small brooch - Arm rings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 finger ring - 1-3 pendants (hammer, cross, etc.) - 2 beads (smooth, worked) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple finger rings - More than 2 beads - Pewter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awards from other organizations - Modern non-historical jewelry - Numerous pendants - Effeminate jewelry (trefoils, 5+ beads) - Rough cut beads/amber
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Female Clothing Guide

	Preferred	Acceptable	Possible after discussion	Unacceptable
Headwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coppergate cap - Veil / scarf pinned to undercap, fillet, or hair - Veil / scarf over hair and tied at nape of neck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No head covering (Pagan) - Wimple (Christian) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straw hats of C11th or earlier design (low status only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solid metal fillet
Under dress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not visible under over dress - Linen or wool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No under dress - Cuffs and neckline barely visible under over dress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pleated (dependent on specific region) 	
Over dress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wool - Sleeves taper to a narrow cuff - Longer than ankle length - No belt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linen - Belt made from woven cloth same as dress, or tablet weave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bell sleeves (specific to post 1050CE Norman fashion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short sleeves - Short enough to show calf - Short enough to expose lower hem
Hangarock (Apron)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wool or linen (high status only) - Narrow shoulder straps looped around brooch pin - Regionally appropriate brooches - Optional tablet weave along top front edge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibly belted - Wider straps that brooch pin pierces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worn without brooches - Worn post 950CE - Worn by girls/children

	Preferred	Acceptable	Possible after discussion	Unacceptable
Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barefoot - Naleboun woolen socks - Authentically made turn shoes (below ankle to slightly above ankle) - Short, footed hose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machine sewn turnshoes - Secondary leather sole or small heel - Thin vibram / rubber sole (not historical, but acceptable for better traction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bag / Gathered shoes (low status only) - Hobnails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moccasins, Gillies, or other period shoes - Antler toggles - Mid calf and taller boots - Laces or buckles
Cloaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woolen, single layer - Shawl (Pagan) - Mantle (Christian) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wool cloak, pinned center closure - Fur lining or trim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wool cloak, shoulder closure 	
Jewelry (consistent to social/wealth class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Silver, bronze, copper alloy - Cloak pin - Small brooch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 finger ring - 1-3 pendants (hammer, cross, etc.) - Multiple strands of beads suspended between brooches, high class (smooth, worked) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jewelry / accessories hanging from brooches or belt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awards from other organizations - Modern non-historical jewelry - Numerous pendants - Rough cut beads/amber