

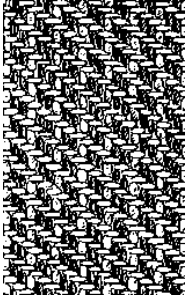
Viking Costume – women

Mistress Barbara Atte Dragon

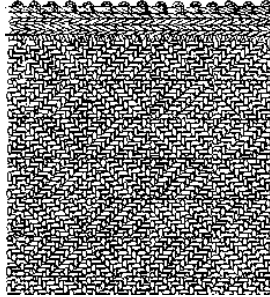
Cloth and Fabric

The types of textiles found from Vikings age are wool and linen.
These textiles were woven as either a simple tabby weave or a twill weave.

2x2 twill, Hald



broken diamond twill, Hald



Solid colors, natural fleece color, and natural dye colors are acceptable colors.
Colors are limited to 'natural dye' stuffs that were available during the Viking age for dyeing cloth and yarn.

Woven cloth (wool) be woven fabric (dark warp, light weft) in 2x2 twills, herringbone or diamond twills.
Solid colors are fine too.

Lightweight wools for gowns and tunics; heavier 'coat' weight wool for caftan style coats and shawls.

Silk can also be added to the list of cloth but was used in strips that were sewn onto clothing for decoration. Silk was also used for women's caps (Jorvick) and as an undergarment (Birka). Silk should have a fine hand woven appearance rather than the slinky, modern, shiny kerchief type silk.

Belts, ties, reinforcements for cuffs, necklines, and decoration were done with tablet/card weaving.

These bands were woven in wool, linen, silk and/or a combination.

When planning your clothing it is advisable to use wool and/or linen. We know that these fabrics can be expensive. If you can find an acceptable blend, such as; linen/cotton, linen/ramie, and if the color choice and weave are acceptable; then these will be accepted as a first year attempt to be replaced by 100% wools and linens at a later date. Cotton may also be used if it has the appropriate appearance, i.e. if it looks like linen.

Polyester, Acrylic and other synthetics will not be approved.

Machine sewn seams will be acceptable as long they are hidden.
Inside seams and hems need to be finished in some fashion. All visible seams must be hand sewn.

Garment Construction Notes

Hand sewing

Please refer to *Textiles and Clothing c. 1150-1450, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London, Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe*, Essays in Memory of Professor E. C. Carus-Wilson, *Ancient Danish Textiles from Bogs and Burials, A comparative study of Costume and Iron Age textiles* by Margrethe Hald for an overview of hand sewing techniques.

Undergarments

There is no evidence that undergarments were worn. One burial site showed a woman that was buried in an undergarment of a simple tube dress made of silk, ankle length, sleeveless, with a front opening, neck slit, gathered and tied at the neck.

There has been some indication that women may have worn breeches and/leg wraps. We will leave this up to your discretion, especially if there is inclement weather during the event. Breeches should be made of linen or wool. Leg wraps are also linen or wool.

Gown

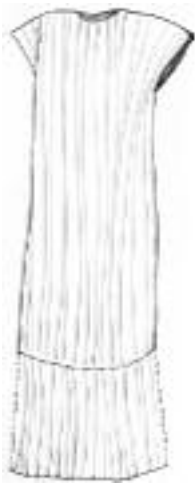
Dress can be made of either wool or linen (or silk for tubular underdress).

Choices are:

Linen or Silk Pleated 10th C
Tube dress, sleeved or sleeveless
(shorter version worn as underwear)

Eura 10C Finland or e
14C Greenland Gore Style
over gown - Linen or wool

Hangerok with
broaches and necklace(s)
Linen or wool



Or



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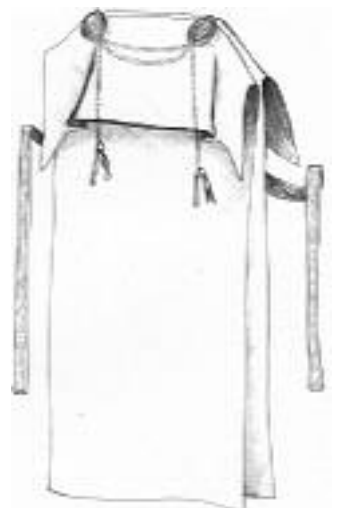
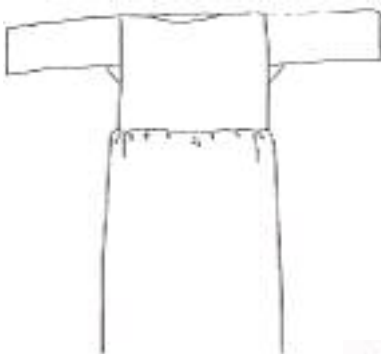


OR:

9th-10C Finnish Viking gown in either
wool or linen

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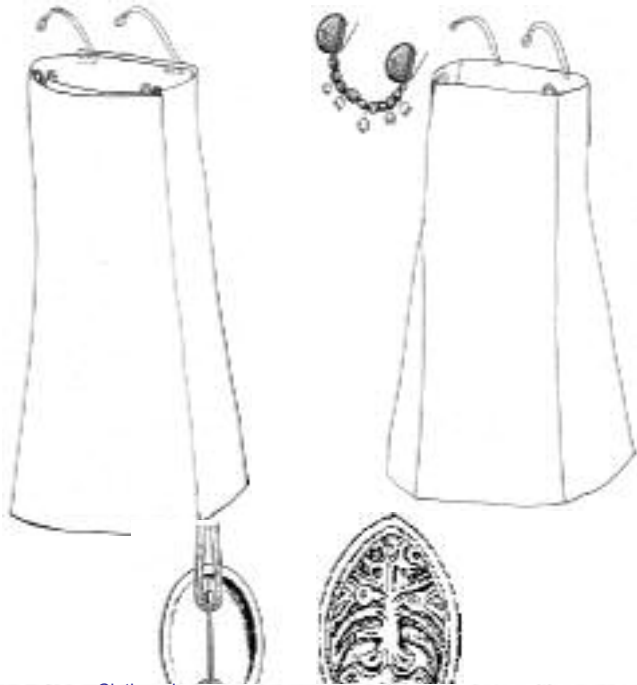
9th-10thC Peplos with shoulder broaches, chain
chains and personals (comb, needle cases, knife, etc.).



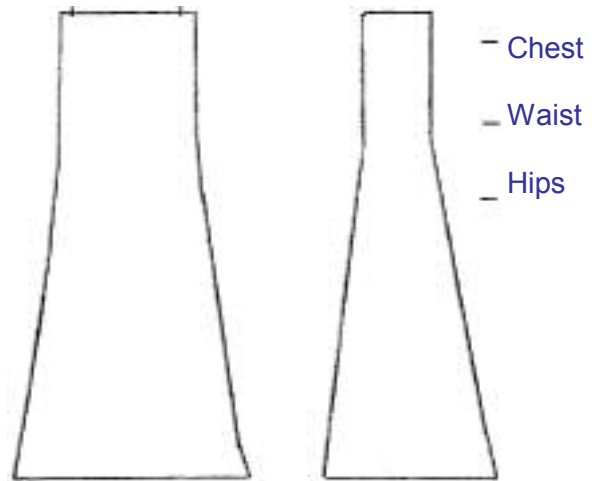
Hangerok (Apron) is a tube of fabric with shoulder straps. This could be worn over any of these dresses. There are two ways that the apron can be 'fitted'. With the tube cut and sewn, you can take tucks/pleats under the arm and in the back or pleats can also be made in the back between the shoulder straps. Shoulder straps are attached in the back and pinned in place with broaches in the front. The hangerok can be worn with a tablet woven, rigid heddle woven or thin leather belt (no buckle).

The Hangerok can also be cut with side panels (gores) added in the side to make the fit better and allow for easier movement while walking. You can wear this style with or without a belt.

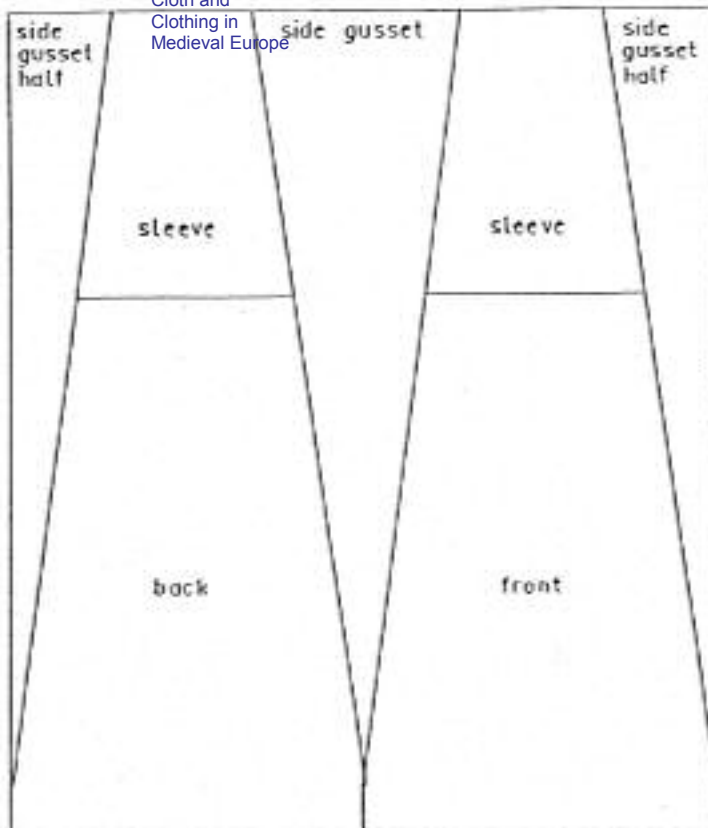
Two styles of hangerok



Pattern layout for hangerok



Cloth and
Clothing in
Medieval Europe



Eura dress pattern

Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

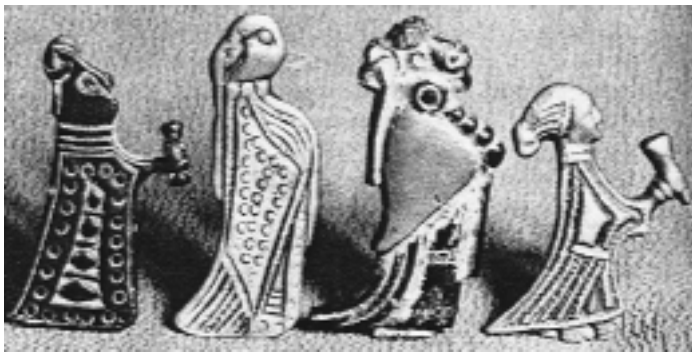


Greenland gown and similar patterns are in the Appendix.

The Greenland gown can be a more fitted dress. It is cut with more side panels/gores sewn with middle front and back gores for fullness. It can be made to fit loose or fitted. The Under dress is of linen or fine wool, the over dress is linen or wool.

The Finnish Viking dress is just one rectangle folded over (the length/width of arms + shoulders). Head opening is made, under arm gores. The skirt is a gathered tube that is ankle length and sewn to the top. Refer to drawing

Cloak, Shawl, Kaftans Coat



Book of Viking York

Cloaks are rectangular and pinned at the throat.

Shawls are squares; or folded to a triangle; or a triangle with/or without rounded corners.

Shawls are pinned at the throat with a trefoil broach.

The kaftan coat is similar to a man's coat only the front points of both front panels are rounded. There can be a train added in back and the coat is also fastened at the throat with a broach. The coat can be made of wool or silk. It can be lined with silk or fur.



Turn shoes w/ rand, leather sole & toggle fasteners, Pratt, D.



Book of Viking York

Shoes

Leather was used for shoes. Women's shoes are ankle high or slippers. Women's boots do not come up as high as men's boots.

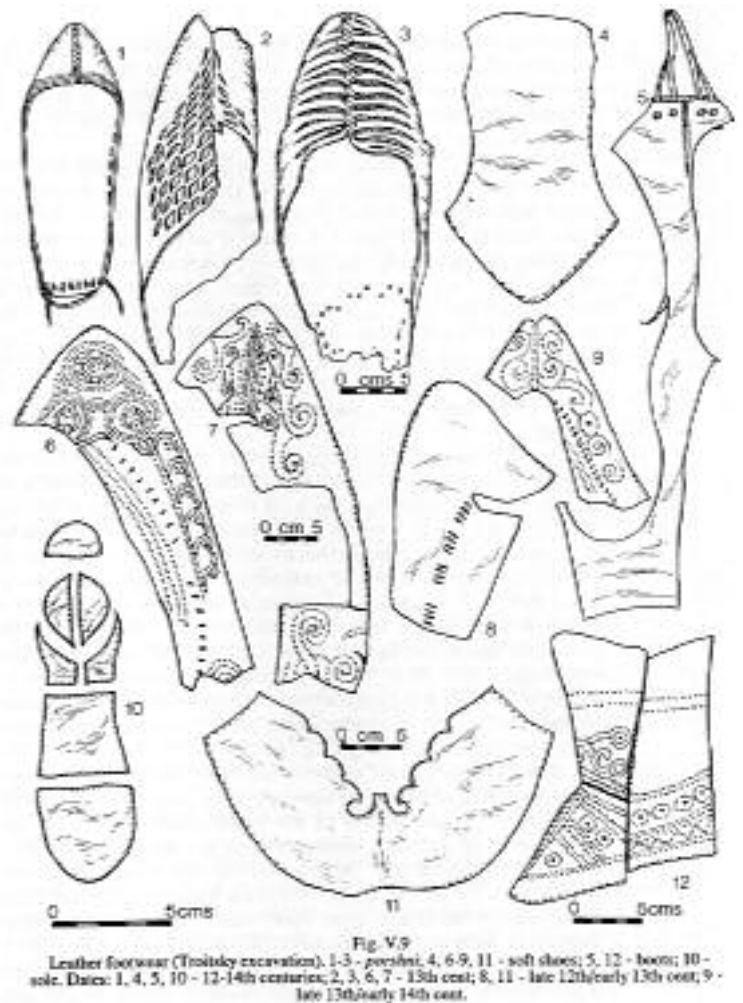
Refer to Ragnar accoutrement section for shoe patterns & how to make a pattern to fit your foot.

Socks were nailbanded or felted.

Nalbanded socks



Nalbanded socks. Coppergate stitch, Mack,D.



Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Head coverings and Hair Nets

Hair nets can be made of sprang or netting technique. You could probably make a loosely stitched hair net out of nalbinding as well.

Head coverings were simple:

1. Triangle or square of linen tied at the back of the neck.
2. A small Birka/Jorvick style cap (rectangle folded and stitched up the back) to make a cap.
3. A long rectangle of linen draped over head and ends placed back over shoulders.

Early Viking women did not cover their hair, it was worn in long braids or knotted at the back of the head. Sometimes a scarf was worn over the head. Later Viking women (Christian influence) always wore a head covering over their hair, young and old, the hair did not show.

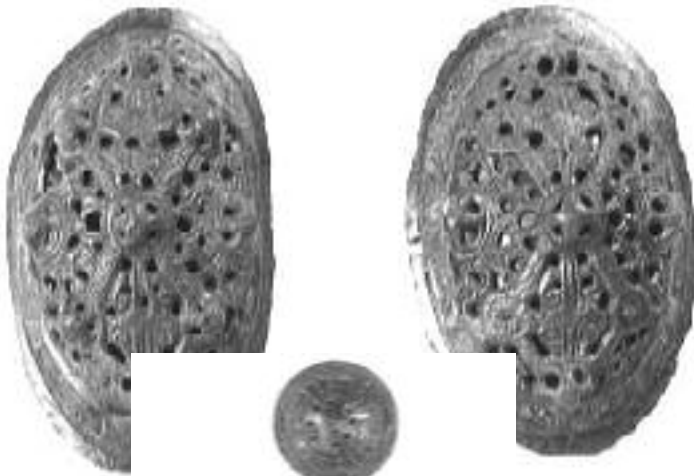


Accessories

Jewelry were cast metals, glass beads, metal beads, amber, semi-precious stones, or bone. Bead necklaces with combinations of; glass beads; coins (from trades); amber; semiprecious stones and quartz crystal beads.

Solid silver and bronze bracelets.

Broaches cast bronze or silver, shape- oval or round or 'round box' and animal head.



Fasteners/chains- bronze wire, silver wire

Knives- bone or metal, with antler, bone or wooden handle

Refer to Accoutrement Section for more detail on knives.

Sharpening stones- where hung from the chains attached to the broaches



The Vikings



Ancient Finnish Costumes

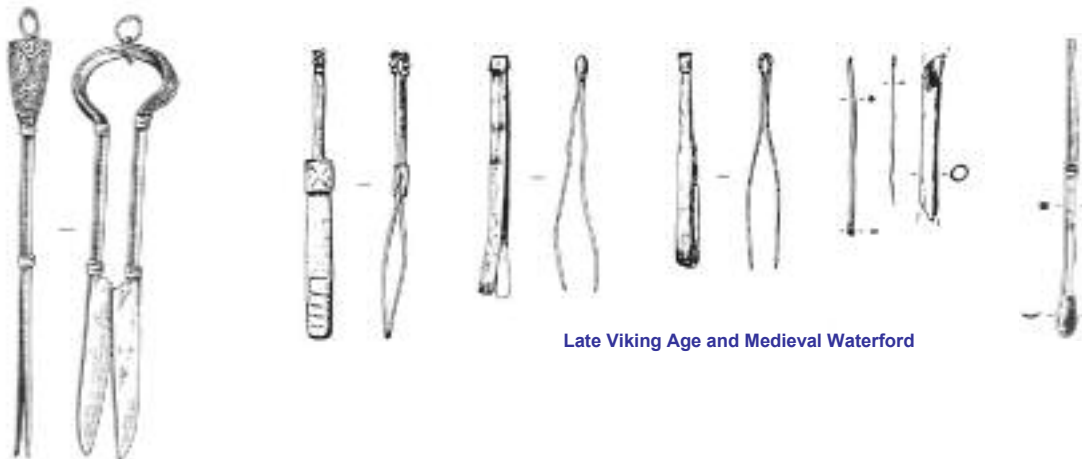
Keys- bronze or iron where hung from from a woven belt.

Tweezers, toothpicks and ear scoops –
Needle cases and scissors- iron, bronze

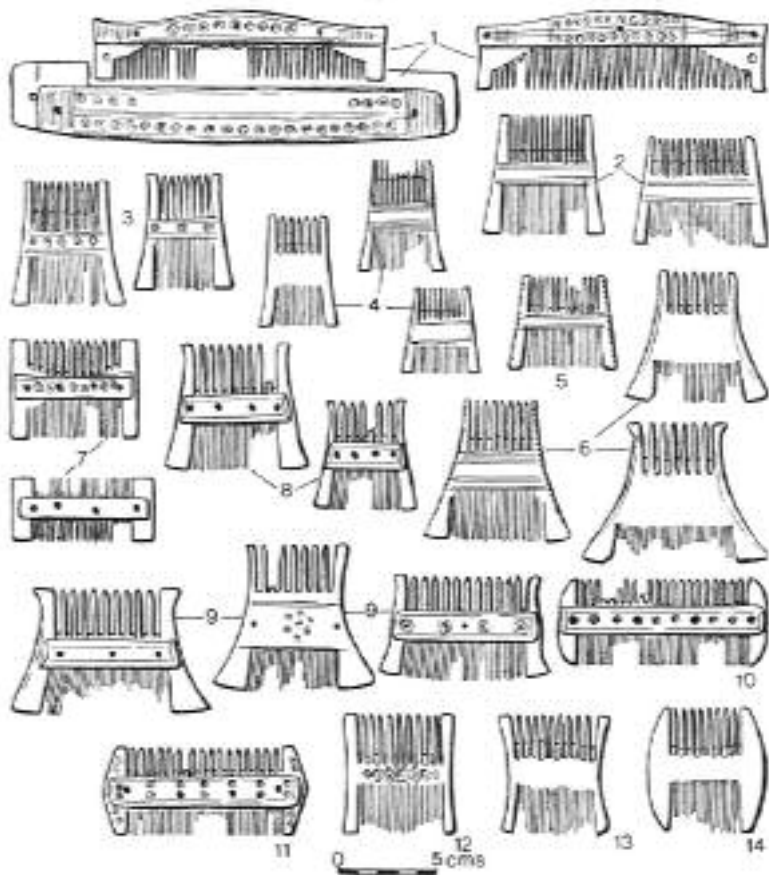


chains attached to broaches or hung

bronze or bone/antler, some silver
or bone/antler



Late Viking Age and Medieval Waterford

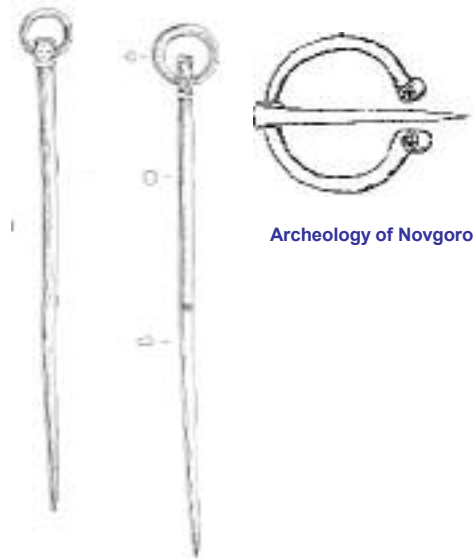


Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Combs/comb cases – antler/bone, some wood

1. antler combs with cases
2. wooden combs
3. – 14 antler and bone combs

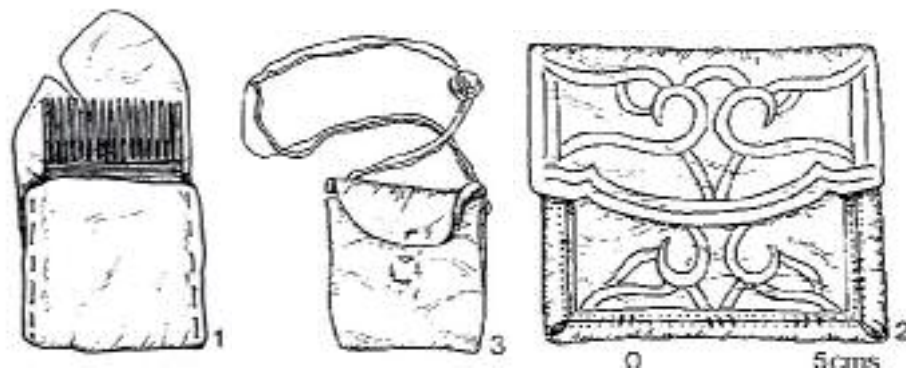
Clothe Fasteners, cloak pins -



Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

Late Viking Age and Medieval Waterford

Pouches and purses -



Archeology of Novgorod, Russia



Miscellaneous items:

1. & 2. carved spoons
3. awl
4. carved spoon
5. carved handle
6. handle?
7. & 12 ear scoops
8. scribe
9. wooden comb
10. handle
11. knife sheath

Archeology of Novgorod, Russia

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NESAT III, May 6-9, 1987, edited by Penelope Walton and John-Peter Wilde. Archetype Publications. Article 3- **Nalbinding: definition and description,** by Egon H. Hanson, example and method of nalbinded stitches, a system in which to 'read ' nalbinded stitches. Article 9- **Spinning implements of the Viking Age from**

Elisenhof in the light of ethnological studies. By Gertrud Genander Nyberg, Stockholm. Information covered: spindles, distaffs and whorls. Article 8- **Textile Production at Coppergate, York; Anglo-Saxon or Viking?** By Penelope Walton, pp.66, the first find of nalbinding anywhere in England. Examples of nalbinding technique date back to 3rd or 4th century, fig. 8.7-8.8 picture of sock and line drawing of nalbinding stitch.

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Ancient Danish Textiles from Bogs and Burials, A comparative study of Costume and Iron Age textiles
by Margrethe Hald

the Vikings