

Wren ★ Feathers

Summer Sew Along: Medieval Europe

Week 4: Pouch, Belt,

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If you downloaded this elsewhere it was stolen from: <http://jenwrenne.wordpress.com>

I assume you have basic sewing knowledge and the explanation should suffice, but if you need help please email me!

Quarter inch seams are allowed except where otherwise specified



Model is a Sasha Gregor 312

This week, we're finishing off our medieval outfit with the belt, pouch, and hat.

Belts were a vital part of the costume, allowing you to show off status with a fancy belt buckle, but more importantly, to hang things on! For men, this would be weapons, or minimally a knife, and when clothes had no pockets, pouches hung on belts served that role. Where else would the Vikings have stashed their phones, keys, credit cards, etc.? 😊

I'm not entirely sure where my belt pix disappeared to, but the easiest thing to do is cut a leather strip with a pointed end and sew one end around a little metal loop, such as a keychain piece. There were all sorts of elaborate belt buckles being produced at the time, and if you're handy with fimo, you could probably research and replicate one of those. Another option that's not quite correct but would be kind of the right shape is to use one of the clasps sold for traditional Scandinavian sweaters – see one pictured here:

https://i.etsystatic.com/7173657/r/il/4aab26/1950528989/il_794xN.1950528989_jx3e.jpg .



This pouch is based on a find from Gokstad, another ship burial: <https://www.khm.uio.no/english/visit-us/viking-ship-museum/exhibitions/gokstad/>

The original seems to have been around 11cm, but scaling that down even to 1:3 size makes it only about 1.5" and technically Sashas are 1:4 scale. The original was multi-layered with leather over (maybe?) wool and cutout decorations that were outlined with a running stitch. Very challenging at tiny size, but maybe do-able if you're making a larger one.

Links to drawings of original:

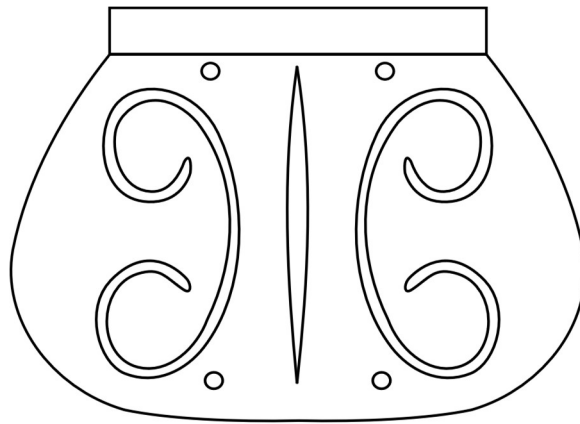
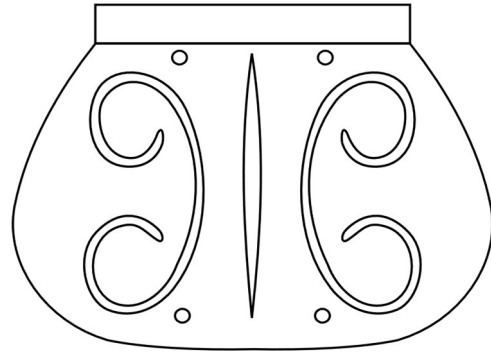
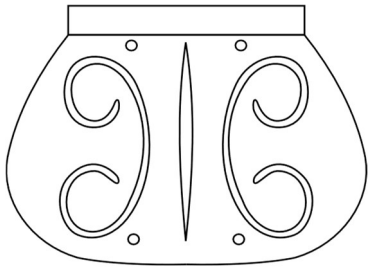
<http://www.unimus.no/foto/imageviewer.html/?id=8559932&type=jpeg>

<http://www.unimus.no/foto/imageviewer.html/?id=8557692&type=jpeg>

I'm including it below in several sizes so you can choose which one you'd like. Although the original was meant to be a small belt pouch, certainly bags with shoulder straps existed too, and were larger. Many of the larger bags with shoulder straps had carved wooden tops that you could replicate with some balsa wood/fimo/shrink plastic. There's a great website with some simple patterns for those carved tops here:

<https://nattmal.wordpress.com/2015/05/14/haithabu-bag/>

Add your desired seam allowance to these bags.





My normal way of transferring embroidery designs to fabric is with an iron-on pencil that actually belonged to my grandmother, who loved embroidery. My other methods are taping the design to a bright window and tracing with the fabric over it, or using that transfer paper that's sold with those rolling wheels to mark darts and things with a little embossing tool. Unfortunately none of those methods worked to get the design onto the felt, so I just pinned my tissue paper with the design on and ripped it away after embroidering.





Hats were a vital part of a medieval costume and many were quite simple to make. This is a basic Viking-style hat that can be ornamented in lots of ways.

I had a long-winded thing about them but got too lazy to write it up because I'm not entirely sure anyone is actually reading these 😊



This one was made of wool and ornamented with a threaded-in tablet woven band with a motif that was originally brocaded in the Oseberg find, which you can see charted here:

https://www.shelaghlewins.com/tablet_weaving/Oseberg_brocade/Oseberg_brocade.htm

You could use these motifs to do smøyg embroidery (AKA pattern darning) to make a brocaded-looking band if you don't weave, or check the links on braiding and embroidery from last week's post for more decorating ideas. Binding the bottom edge with a thin strip of fake fur or some really fluffy fleece is another good option.

I turned my hem to the outside to cover with trim, but you could turn it under instead. My seams were finished by pinking but lining might have been appropriate too, just add a little extra to make sure all the layers will fit your doll's head.

The pattern for the hat is sized for about a 10" head (Sashas with a little room to spare so as not to smash the hair down too much!) There is one you can use as is, and one with NO SEAM ALLOWANCES so that you can easily resize for other dolls. Divide your doll's head measurement by 10 to find the new ratio. For example, a 7" head, $7/10=70$ so you'd copy this pattern at 70% and then add a seam allowance.

