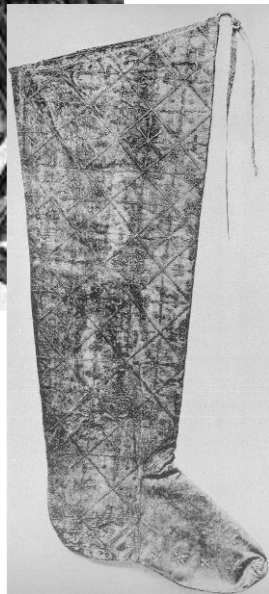


BASIC MEDIEVAL BRAIES AND HOSE



MISTRESS MARGRET
BRUCE, ED.

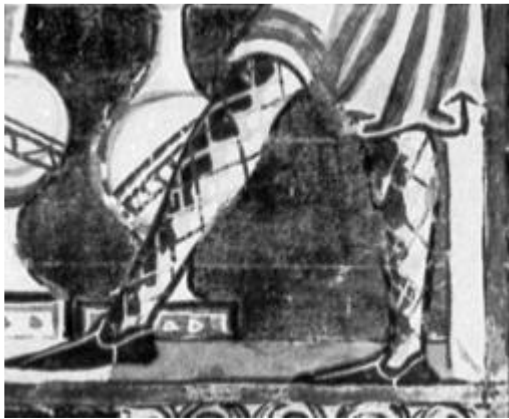


Fig. 124. Paire de chausse teintes de la dépouille funéraire de Rodrigo Ximénez de Rada, archevêque de Tolède, mort en 1247. État avant restauration. Fototeca de Obras Restauradas. IPIH, MEC, Madrid.

- Far Left: 12th Century German, source unknown
- Left: 12th C buskin of Archbishop Walter Hubert
- Above: Spanish hose of 1247

Hosen: History and Construction

Mistress Corisander Seathwaite
MKA Nancy Johnson



Perikopenbuch aus St. Erentrud in Salzburg,
12th C.

DEFINITION: Leg coverings which provide warmth and protection from harsh weather.

Styles found in the medieval period (11th through 16th centuries) varied in style from separate legs to a single garment and can be documented in versions with and without feet.

Upon examining artwork and other documentation, hosen can be seen in states of high fashion, practical usage, and disrepair.

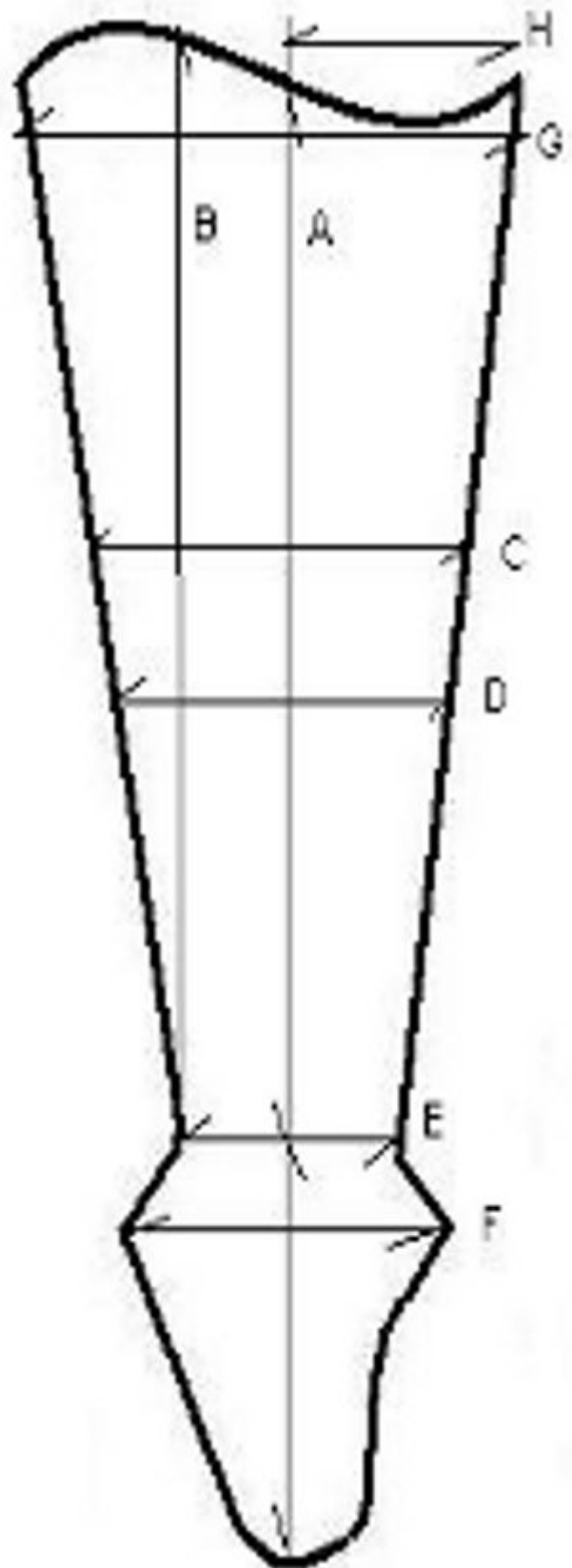
Archeological dig information verifies that hosen was indeed a bias-cut garment, allowing the natural stretching ability of the cloth to provide a close fit. Special garments eventually arose from the need to keep one's hose from falling down: the gipon (doublet) and the garter, and bodily functions brought about the need for the codpiece. At the end of the 16th century, hosen split into a knee-length garment called upperstocks and knee-to-foot garment called netherstocks.

TEXTILES: During the time period noted above, wool was the textile most commonly acquired by all class levels of society. Thus, wool earns its place as one of the prime textiles for making hosen. Tabby weaves and four-shed twills are existing examples of wool hosen found at a London dig site. Its unique qualities allow for perfect fit when cut on the bias. Silk was also a popular choice for those who could afford it, woven in the earlier centuries, and as knitting fibers in Elizabethan days. Linen was also used in the 16th century.

There are several good textiles available for use as modern reproductions. Along with those mentioned above, there are twill woven cottons, rayons, and mixed natural fiber blends. These natural textiles may cost a bit

more, but they will make a more durable garment in the long run. They have a more traditional appearance and can come in a wide variety of patterned weaves. Textiles that should be avoided are those that are too tightly woven. Perform a stretch test on the bias of the fabric before buying it. If there is little to no stretch, put it back on the shelf. If the fabric has any feel of polyester to it or is a knit (stretches on the warp or weft, or both), put it back also.

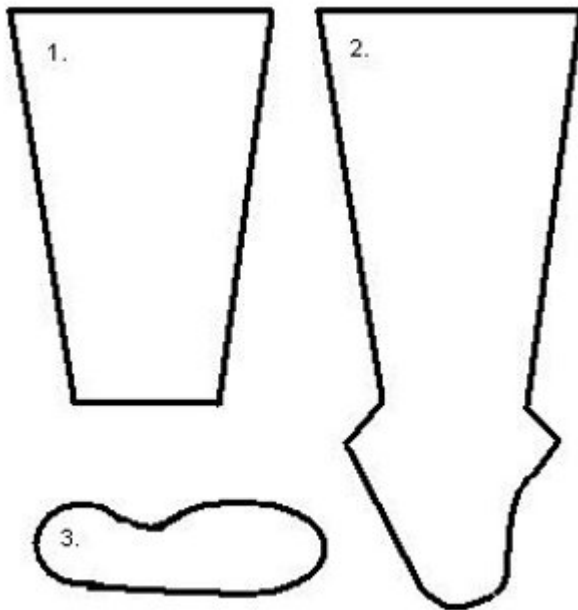
Other things to look for in fabrics are wide widths (unless you are making netherstocks or short hosen), natural looking colors (remember that silks took on bright, vibrant colors... so use that blue rayon you found), and buy a lot of inexpensive mulin or other fabrics (misdyed drapery cotton is great) to make all of the patterns and fitting pieces with.



Measurements:

- A. Front of leg
- B. Top of leg to Ankle
- C. Above knee
- D. Below knee
- E. Ankle
- F. Floor to Floor over the top of foot
- G. Thigh
- H. Half of Thigh

Sample Patterns



1. Footless, mid-thigh style - 11th Century. Worn cross gartered or hung to belt by straps.
2. Mid thigh with foot - 11th to early 14th Century. Hung from thin belt by straps.
3. Sole to use with patterns 2 and 4
4. 14th Century style which fastens to gipon at hip
5. 14th to 16th Century style which extends to waist and has seam over foot. Ties to gipon.

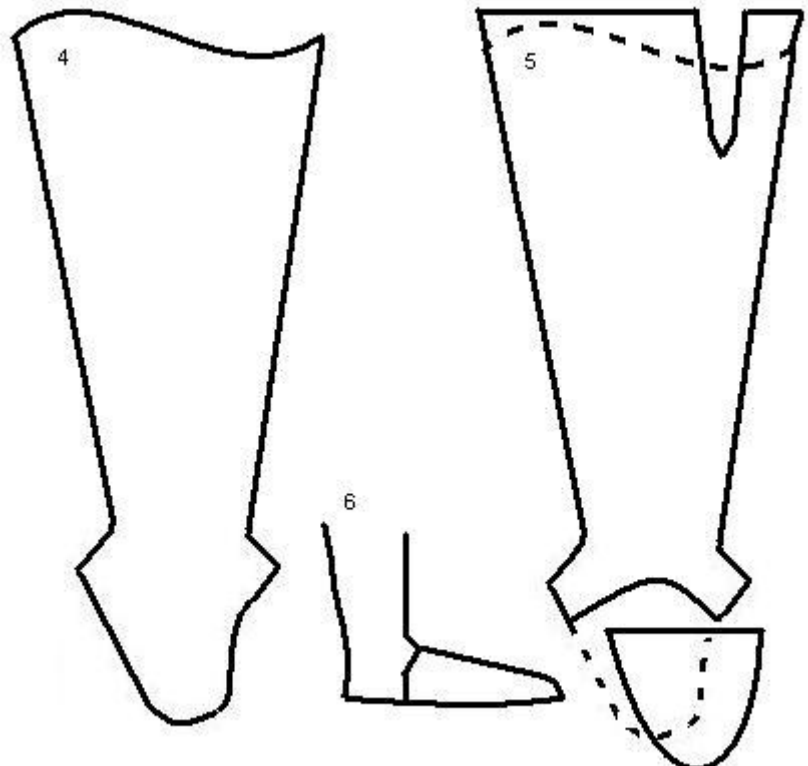
Addendum: (Margret Bruce)

This is a great pattern to practice your draping with. First trace your foot on a piece of fabric to make a sole pattern. Cut it out.

Taking some muslin. Hold and pin the fabric around your leg.

Put the seam up the back of your leg and across the foot in the desired style. Trim the excess away and repin until you find something that looks and fits correctly. Take it off while pinned up to make sure you have left enough room for your foot to get out.

Above right: Perikopenbuch aus St. Erentrud in Salzburg, 12th C.



Getting Your Medieval Panties in a Bunch, Making Braies

Mistress Margret Bruce

Providing for warmth and cleanliness, braies add a nice touch to any medieval outfit. Often times people of Medieval times stripped off their outergarments to work in just their braies.

Some male fashions provide a peek of the braies over hose. Braies in the modern middle ages may be worn but not seen, so why make them? Wearing them provides for comfort and a psychological link with the past. No one may see them, but you know they are there and therefore they can add another level to your experience in recreating the feeling of your persona.

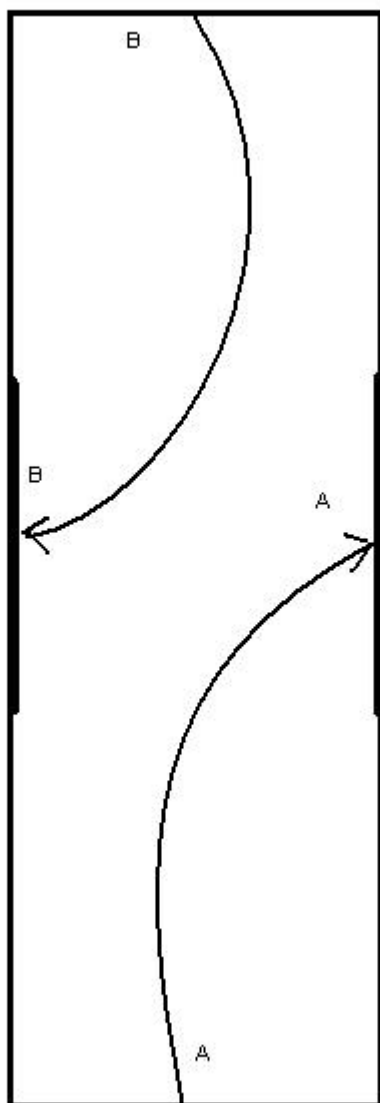
I've experimented with many different kinds of braies over the years. I've tried the rectangular method, the trace your pants method and the diamond gore in the crotch method. By far the most comfortable, best looking, and easiest to make however has come by way of Mistress Ellien Chadway to me. What follows are her instructions for creating these "drawers" as she calls them. I've done this from infant to preschooler as well as adult and had incredible luck with them.



The Hours of Catherine of Cleves, St. Sebastien circa 1430

Measurement Instructions for Drawers

by Mistress Ellien Chadway
MKA Christy Wells



In general 2 yard of fabric will make 2 pair of drawers, but one yard will not make 1 pair!

Your fabric needs to be long and skinny. More RECTANGULAR pieces result in larger drawers. More SQUARE pieces result in smaller drawers. You need to work with BOTH length and width measurements.

We have three measurements to work with:

TOP OPENING

For women or people who want a fastener at the top = waist measurement

For men or people who will use a belt = biggest part of you it needs to go around (hips or butt).

The belt will be worn under your clothes and can hold up your drawers and your hosen.

LENGTH

20" petite/short

21" regular, most people

22" tall

*Another option, especially with 45" wide fabric is just to split it in half along the fold and go with about 22 inches after shrinkage. This measurement is not precise.

LEG OPENING

This is how big the drawers need to be at the bottom of the length (eg - 21" down your leg).

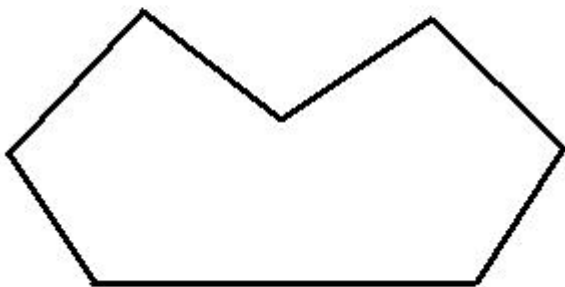
22" works for most adults since this is right above the knee where legs get thinner. This measurement is usually a little bit bigger than the length measurement (eg: For toddlers the length might be 9 inches and the leg opening 11-12")

The short edge of your fabric = the length measurement

The long edge of your fabric = length + leg opening + 1/2 top opening

1. Find the centers of the short and long edges.
2. Match-up the center of one short edge to the center of one long edge.
3. Pin all along the short edge, in both directions.
4. Sew one entire short edge to the long edge - matching centers. This is the back.
5. Pin the other short edge to the other long edge - matching centers and try on.
6. If you are planning using a fastener - you will need to leave enough of an opening at the top to slide them over your hips. Fasten with hook and eye, buttons, or two ties (mine didn't work that well). Heck, use elastic if it's for children or try a drawstring (also not my favorite).
7. If you are planning on belting them under your clothes - you can sew right up to the top. If you are male, you may want to leave fly opening to avoid redoing the belt holding up your drawers and hosen.

The finished shape is shown below.



Cathedral at Teruel

Livre des jeux
d'Alphonse x le
sage 1270



Above left: Tacuinum Sanitatus, 14th C

Below: The Love Breviary 14th C.



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Breeches and Braies

http://www.kostym.cz/Anglicky/VI_01_01.htm

Hose Patterns

<http://web.onetel.net.uk/~booksearch/walpurgis/hose.htm>

Renaissance Countrywoman

<http://www.faucet.net/costume/period/Flemish8.html>

Recreating 14th C Braies

<http://thescholarsgarret.com/artifact/braies/>



Boccaccio's Decamarion 1430, example of Jupon tied to hosen