

## Men in Pre-Raphaelite Paintings

The appearance of men within paintings belonging to the Pre-Raphaelite period are few and far between. The main subject of the paintings being maidens, in distress or not, with only occasionally the presence of knights, servants and children. There are three very well known paintings in which knights and/or servants stand out, and I will use these to help you on your way in creating a companion for your Pre-Raphaelite maiden.

The Accolade shows both a knight and servants. The lady in the painting is knighting a young Sire while in the background members of her household and the knight's entourage observe the proceedings. See the young page watching his master while holding the Sire's shield, and the standard bearer to his right? A monk rests his hands on the page's shoulder and looks at the honour bestowed on the young, soon to be, knight.

Youngsters who aimed to become knights often started their career as a page to a knight. Thus learning the skills while looking after the needs of their master. Their dress might have varied but in the paintings I found this mostly consisted of a pair of trousers, often tied to the legs with leather or fabric straps (you do not want to wear baggy loose trousers while riding or running for your life) and a tunic which reached mid thigh. Often made of coarse fabrics such as wool, they aimed at giving freedom of movement, warmth and durability, and cinched by a belt with or without a pouch.

Under the tunic a cotton or linen shirt was worn.

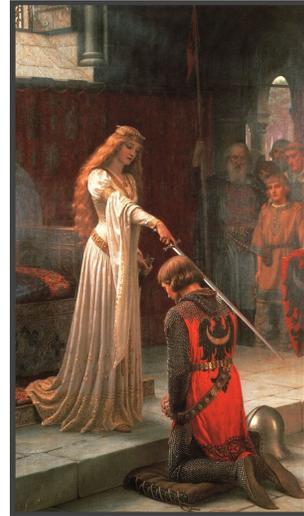
The shoes would have been leather boot like ankle shoes, again made for comfort and work.

Pages wouldn't have been wearers of weapons, often joining the entourage around the age of 6, if not a dagger, which was more than anything used to cut their bread.

The standard bearer, a standard being the flag with the crest of the nobleman or knight, wears similar clothes. In this example his shoulders are covered by a cape which would have been the same length as his tunic.

It is not clear in the painting if his belt carries a pouch, but he does wear a leather belt in which he would have carried his sword or dagger.

For the older men, facial hair seems to have been part of the going fashion of the time, with hair being worn long and loose, or tied with a band in a tail. Both the standard bearer and the man behind him sport long hair and beards.



The young knight, humbly looking at the hem of M' lady's dress, his hands clasped in prayer, stripped of any fighting gear awaits the moment in which he can call himself a true knight of the House of Guinevere (or was she Isolde)?

He wears his chainmail and the colours of his standard, chinned in by a leather and gold belt, indicating his standing and wealth. His helmet lies beside him; his sword is probably kept at the entrance to the castle, as it would not do to approach such a fine lady in full combat regalia.

In the second painting the lady farewells her knight on his way to battle, or maybe to partake in a crusade to the Holy Land, a most dangerous journey in those times. He wears again a suit of chainmail, a cape and a tunic embroidered with his standard.

The third painting portrays Lancelot, while contemplating the Lady of Shalott.

He is in his full combat regalia, no chain but armour made for him, so as to give a perfect fit. On his steed you see his helmet while his weapons are hanging on his side.

### **Dressing a Pre-Raphaelite man**

Go for woollens and linen, grimy cottons, bright coloured capes and Celtic tunic borders. Ultrathin leather in black or brown to make belts, scabbards, shoes and purses (see end of this article for a simple pattern).

Use tea and coffee to give the appropriate stains and colour to your fabrics.

Use fabric sheets to print your own standard on banners and tunics. Google 'heraldry' to find appropriate designs.

For chainmail use tulle, painted silver or gold, as used by Annemarie Kwinkel (see scene on right)

### **A few simple patterns**

#### **Draw string purse**

Find some thin leather, such as from an old pair of leather gloves

Resize this pattern to fit your doll; it's big to show you how



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to put this together.

Cut:

1x purse (inc the attached belt loop)

1x Purse string on the fold of leather or double the length shown here

1x string stop

When you've cut out the leather, take a axcto knife and carefully make small slits in the leather as shows at the top and bottom of purse pattern ('button holes')

Fold the bottom part up to match the top half and stitch along the vertical dotted line (on pattern).

Fold the purse belt loop towards the back and sew on dotted line.

Take your purse string, and thread through the button hole slits, starting at the front of the purse (opposite the belt loop) in the centre and working your way round.

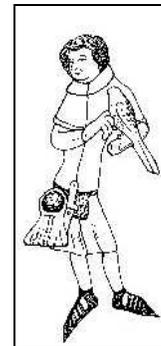
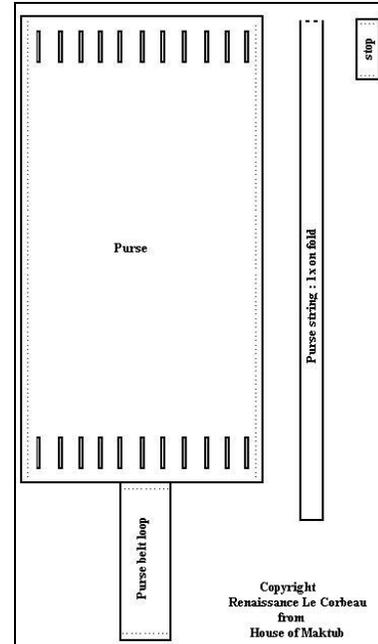
The stop is there so your purse strings cannot pull through the purse and is optional.

Fold your stop and stitch on the dotted line so you get a ring. Flatten ring and stitch from top till bottom so when you look at it sideways it is 8 shaped.

Slide each end of the purse string through one of the stop holes.

Make a knot in the end of the purse strings. This ensures your strings won't pull through the purse button holes.

Attach purse to belt and voila.



## **Tunic**

Cut the tunic once and the sleeve twice from your chosen fabric.

Cut out the neck and fraychek this before continuing.

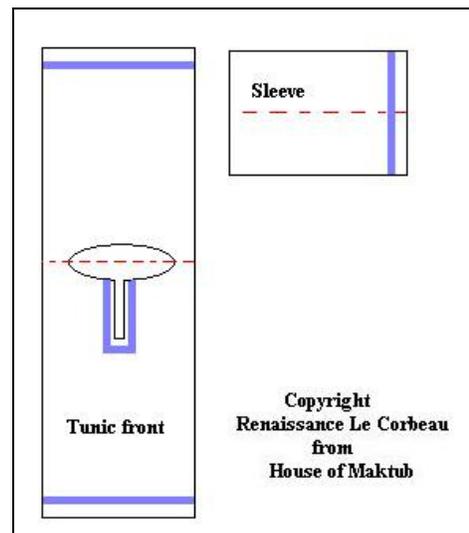
Place the red dotted line on sleeve to match the one on the tunic (this line indicated the shoulders) right sides facing and stitch the sleeve to the side of the tunic.

Repeat with other side and iron seams flat.

Fold tunic in half, right side facing and sew the side seams close.

Iron seams and turn tunic.

Finish by placing braid or ribbon with a Celtic style design along the neckline and hem of tunic and sleeves (blue line)



## **Hose**

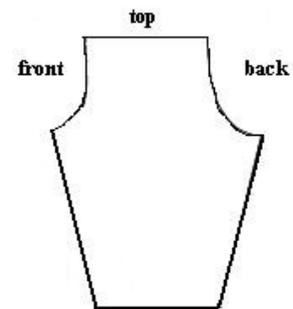
Resize pattern to fit doll, and cut 2 xs from a slightly stretchy fabric or bias cut.

Sew front inner leg to back inner leg on both legs (not the curved bit as you will do that later)

Iron seams flat.

Now sew the two legs together, starting at the front top.

Turn hose and run a gathering stitch along the top, dress doll and pull gather so hose doesn't fall around knees 😊



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