

Garb and You:

A. What is garb, and why do I have to wear it?

A short definition is that garb is period or fantasy clothing that one is required to wear during Dagorhir events. Garb needs to be something that could believably pass as medieval period or earlier, a culture pre gun powder , or some variation of Medieval fantasy clothing.

It is just as much part of this game as your form weapons. If it helps, think of it as the uniform of the game, and instead of a two toned jersey, you get a uniform that is a customizable piece of expression. If you were playing basketball or lacrosse, would you hit the field with jeans and a t-shirt? No. So why would you do it here.

B. Cost

"Garb is expensive, I can't afford it..."

This is something I hear quite often. And I would like to say that it is not entirely true. It can be, yes, but it depends on what you are looking for as far as garb.

Something I learn from a fellow seamstress in Dag is that when buying or making anything, what you decide on will normally fall into two out of the three of the following categories:

Is it Cheap / Am I Saving Time/ Is it Good Quality

You can really only have two out of those three. If you want something cheap but good quality, you may end up making it yourself. And even if you are experienced in sewing, you will still be losing out in time. If perhaps you did not have the time to sew it yourself but wanted quality garb, depending on your definition of expensive, in all likely hood it's not going to be cheap. It will be the same with the last combination as well. If you want it cheap, and to save yourself time, your source or resulting garb piece may not turn out all that great.

It's all proportional. The more or less effort you show in one category, the more it will reflect in the remainder. It is uncommon that you will find a garb option that fits all three, unless you get really lucky or someone gifts it to you.

Keep this concept in mind when approaching an garb kit.

C. Acquiring Garb

I. *"I want my garb cheap and good quality" Or Making it yourself*

Now I would like to clarify. When I use the word cheap in this write up, I will generally mean complete garb kits (pants, top, and other) that can be done for fifty dollars or less. It's entirely possible to accomplish this. But as I explained above, in order to have it cheap and of good quality, time, effort, and most importantly patience, has to be put into it. It is very likely that you will have to sew some pieces yourself. If you don't know how, do not despair. That's what this is here for.

a. Finding Material

There are several options for finding appropriate material for garb making. Finding them for a good price, however, takes time and patience.

When looking for raw materials, try your best to stick with natural fibers; cotton, linen, wool, silk, etc. They will normally look better as garb and natural fibers will breathe better than most synthetics, which is something you most certainly want when fighting in Florida weather.

Fabric Stores

Fabric stores, both online and physical, will be the easiest places to buy your fabric obviously, but often not the cheapest. But I haven't seen a fabric store yet that did not have a good sale every so often and with a few stellar coupons.

Jo-anns is the only fabric store we currently have locally, but this information will apply to just about any chain fabric store or online store.

Be sure to sign up online or in store for promotionals. Many fabric stores have stopped putting coupons in newspapers, or will likely have better coupons for you if you sign up for promotional ads. If there is a sale of any kind, they will let you know. When shopping, shoot for the bigger sales. Those will generally happen before a major holiday or a few weeks before a season officially changes. Most major chains will further discount their clearance section to half price or more. If timed right, you could get the fabric you need surprisingly cheap. As a backup, always google search for coupons for both online stores and physical stores.

Suggested online stores to start with:

Fabric.com (free shipping for orders over 30\$)
Fashionfabricclub.com

**(Don't forget to buy needle and thread.)

Alternative Locals

There are alternative places to find materials. Second hand stores and yard sale offer some possibilities. Sometimes thrift stores will have a section where donated fabric is sold. Finding anything good when looking for strait up fabric is often purely luck based coupled with a healthy amount of searching.

Another option is using bed sheets and curtains. When going this route, try to locate solid color natural fiber unfitted bed sheets or curtains (cotton, linen etc). If you are uncertain of the fiber content there is a simple test you can perform. By burning a piece of the material you can determine if it's a natural fiber or not(Do not do this in the store []:<). If the fibers look as if they curl and melt when heat is applied, they are likely made of synthetic material. If they burn to ash, there is a pretty good chance it is a natural fiber.

[Burn Chart](#)

It is not the end of the world if you do not find a fabric option that is 100% natural fibers. It is simply something that I highly recommend.

b. Constructing pieces

This is the part where most of your time and patience will be spent, especially if you are new to sewing. Don't feel intimidated. This is a skill, like any other, takes practice to master. Just as when you first started fighting you weren't the best on the field, but over time you likely improved.

Things to remember:

1. Don't rush it and don't give up- You may not get it right the first time around. It's fine. If you have to, start again. You and your project will be better for it.
2. Don't be afraid to ask questions- If there is something you don't understand, or you need help with a project, feel free to ask people in the group. Myself and a few others are experienced with garb and sewing, and we would be more than willing to sit down and help you out.
3. Make plans- Know what you are doing and what you are buying before you venture. Have the tutorial or pattern you are using on hand to double check the requirements or material you need. It will save you some time and trips to the store.
4. Sewing it yourself- If you don't have access to a sewing machine, be prepared to sew it by hand. It's a

challenge, but you can be proud of what you've done. When at an event, it's much more impressive to say you hand stitched something than not.

Here are some basic tutorials to start off with:

[Basic Hand stitches](#)

[Basic Tunic, Pants, and Dress](#)

[T-Tunic Patterns](#)

[T-tunic How to](#)

Examples of Beginner garb made for 25 dollars or less:



Garb Intermediate garb for less than 40:



c. Finding premade pieces and accessories

It is possible to find premade pieces in a store that will work with your garb if you know what to look for.

1. Pants- Pants might be one of the easier pieces to find. Try looking in thrift stores for women's Linen pants in earth tone colors. If you already have a tunic, you have a basic set good to go.
2. Accessories- If you have a good eye and are fairly lucky, the thrift store might also be a nice place to find good accents for your garb. Well chosen accessories can add personality and life to a kit as well as an insight into your field persona. Before looking, make sure you have a good idea of what look you are going for. Example: If you're a peasant, then you won't likely have too much gold jewelry, but you might have something simpler made from iron or wood. Make sure pieces you pick don't look too modern or they will work against you.

Example of potential finds: Certain types of straw hats, distinctive jewelry of wood or metal, long belts, scarves, etc.

II. *"I want good quality and I want to save time" Or buying premade and commissions*

For those of you not so keen on the sewing it yourself, this is an easier, if at times a bit more expensive option. The alternative option is highering someone to make you custom garb or buying garb off the rack from costume or shops that cater to these types of games.

There are many talented seamstresses in the Dag community that are very skilled at a variety of things. If you are interested in this option, here are a few options I highly recommend. They've been making Garb for the Dag community for years and do wonderful work.

<http://tailoredtunics.com/>

<http://www.badassgarb.com/>

I also take commissions and I've become a fairly decent costume designer. I would be willing to work with you on coming up with concept art and the actual construction of the piece. So just shoot me a line.