

How to Make a Tunic or Tabard

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April 23, 2014

1 Intro

Tunics and tabards are probably the simplest way to make period garb. Little more than a length of fabric with arm and head holes, they can still look amazing if you spend a little bit of time on them. Using multiple colors of fabric or adding bands of embroidery or trim are both great ways of making your costume look unique and elaborate without having to spend much time or money.

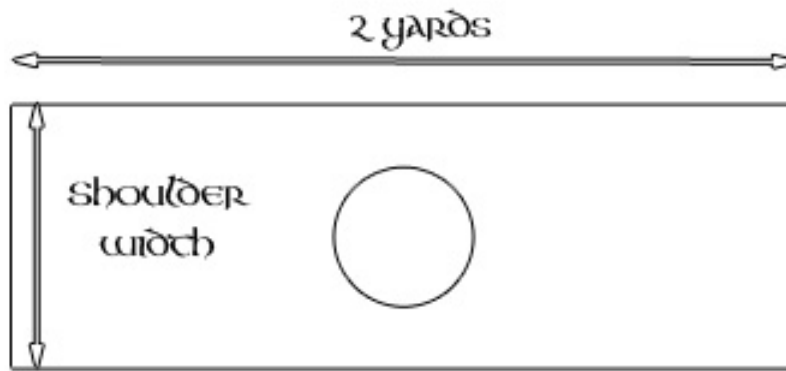
2 Supplies

- 2.5 yards of fabric
- Thread matching the color of the fabric
- Any desired bands of trim

3 Instructions

3.1 Basic tabard

1. Cut half a yard off your fabric, so you have a piece that's two yards long and one that's half a yard long.
2. Measure the width of your shoulders, going from seam to seam on a typical t-shirt, and add 1 inch. Take the two-yard piece, and cut it so that its new dimensions are two yards by the measurement you just made.
3. Hem each edge of the rectangle you just created by folding the fabric over twice on the edges and stitching.



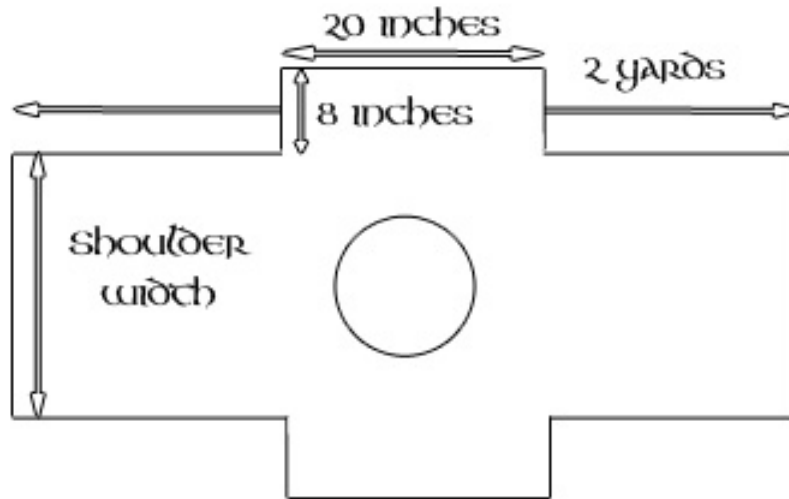
BASIC TABARD PATTERN

Figure 1: Pattern for a simple tabard.

4. Cut a circular hole roughly 7 to 9 inches in diameter out of the center of your rectangle. The exact diameter will depend on the circumference of your head, so play with it until you get a fit you like.
5. Take the discarded piece of fabric and cut a square approximately 18 inches on a side out of it. Cut a circle of fabric identical to the one you just cut out of the rectangle out of your new square. This will become the facing for your neckline.
6. Stitch the square of fabric onto the rectangle, making sure to align the holes as perfectly as possible and sewing around the circle. The square should currently be on the side of the rectangle that does not have visible hems.
7. Turn the square so that it's on the inside of the rectangle. It may look very rough right now; that's alright! Iron the circle down so that it lies flat, and stitch the facing to the tunic approximately half an inch away from the neckline. If it doesn't look as good as you want it to, unpick the stitches and try again.
8. Optional: Add any ornamentation you may desire.

3.2 Tunic

1. Cut half a yard off your fabric, so you have a piece that's two yards long and one that's half a yard long.



BASIC TUNIC PATTERN

Figure 2: Pattern for a tunic.

2. Measure the width of your shoulders, going from seam to seam on a t-shirt, and add 16 inches. Take the two-yard piece, and cut it so that its new dimensions are two yards by the measurement you just made.
3. Fold the rectangle in half. From the folded edge, measure 10 inches down and 8 inches over from the corner, and mark where that it. Do the same from the other folded corner. Cut out rectangles from all four corners of the fabric that go from the corner to that mark. When done, you should have a piece of fabric that looks something like the image above.
4. Hem the outside edges of both sleeves and the bottom of the tunic.
5. Follow steps 4 through 7 of the instructions on how to make a tabard to make the hole for your neck.
6. Turn the tunic inside out again and sew the sides and undersides of the sleeves together.
7. Optional: Add ornamentation!