

# 10th Century Danish Clothing

Reconstructions Based on Interpretation of Available Data

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This class was originally presented in a slide-show format, but has been modified for the web for easier reading. As the class is updated, so will be this web version.

## Introduction

Archeological evidence: the clothing evidence for 10th Century Denmark is sparse and mostly open to interpretation

The evidence presented here varies from the 9th - 11th Centuries, in order to give a wider range of options

This class does not address clothing accessories; that class is under development for Pennsic XXXII

The reconstructions and conclusions are based on research, experimentation, and deductive reasoning

There are no "right" answers for Norse clothing; if you have different ideas please share them and their documentation

If a garment is not comfortable or practical, it is probably not right, because the evidence suggests that in the Norse culture everyone performed their share of work on the farm, ship, and battlefield

## Archeological Evidence for Men's Tunic



Photo to the left is reconstruction of 10th century tunic from Jutland

Decorated with embroidery and tablet weaving

Square neck opening

Tight arms and flared below the waist

Decoration with tablet weaving at the neck and wrists

Decoration with embroidery on the front of the tunic.



Twill weave.



Padded cuffs were often worn over the tunic

Two wool padded cuffs with silver and gold tablet weaving were found in a 10th century male grave



Reconstruction of the gold and silver tablet weaving.



This drawing shows King Knut from 1030 AD

The tunic is very similar to the 10th century reconstruction

The tunic has a square neck opening and is decorated at the neck and sleeves

The cuffs appear to be padded and decorated.

### The Viborg Shirt



11th century from Viborg, Denmark

Made of undyed linen

Square neck opening with ties

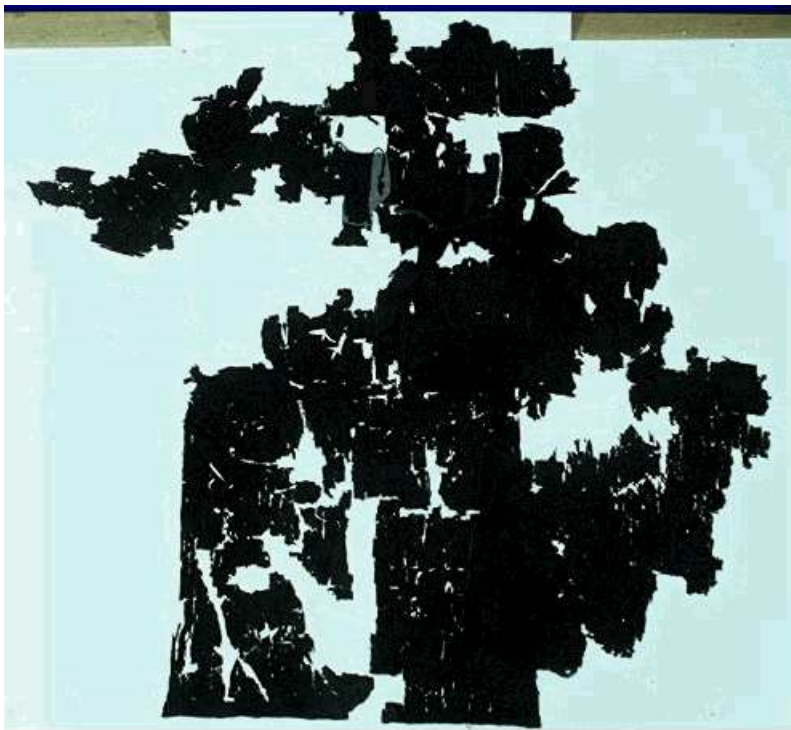
Lining in the torso creates an overlap on the neck opening

Cloth woven in plain (tabby) weave

Wear marks in center of the shirt not at the waist or neck opening

Finely hemmed: eight different seam types in the shirt, many of which are very complex

Believed to be a wedding undershirt, due to its complexity and material



A photo of the original shirt, from which the drawing above is derived.

### Archeological Evidence for the Women's Garments

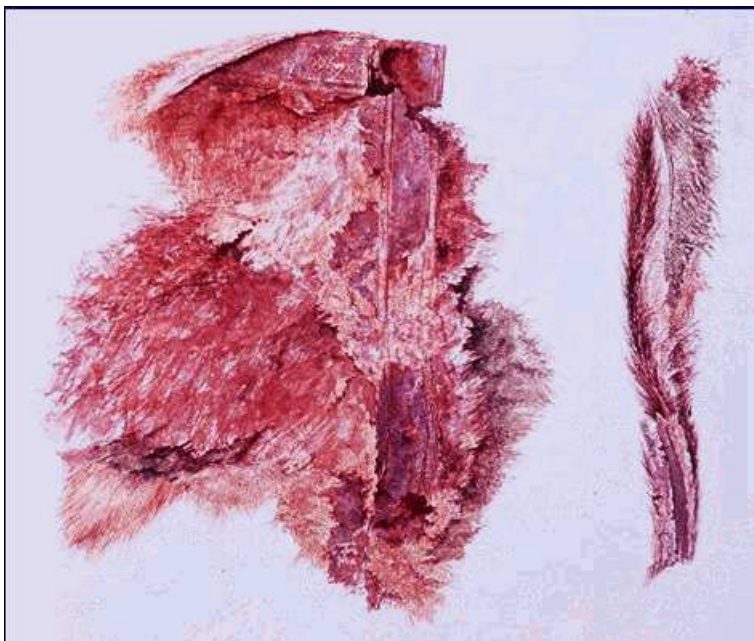


There is very little evidence for women's clothing

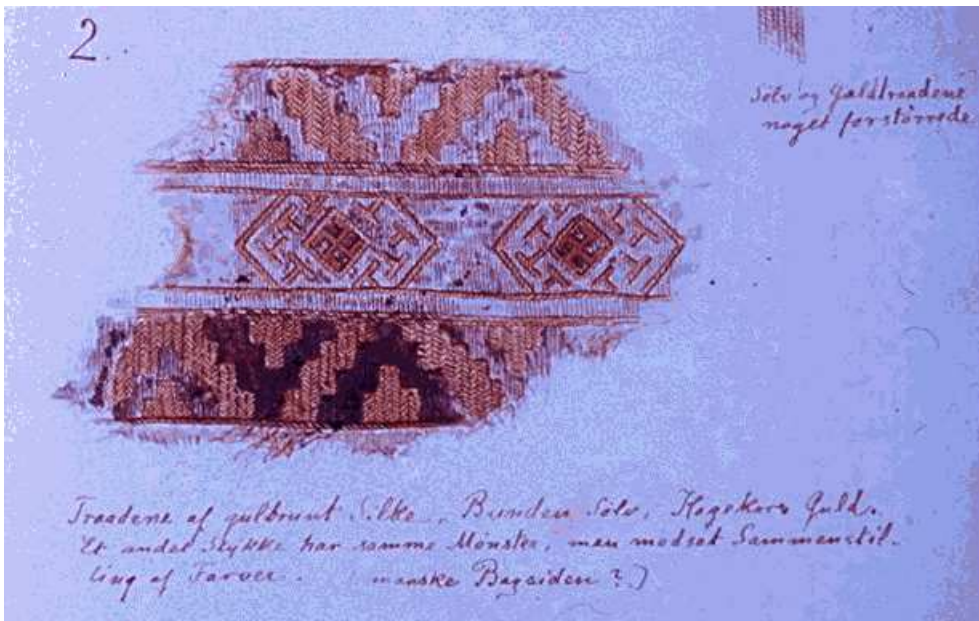
Jewelry and a few fragments are the only evidence left

Women wore oval and round brooches in 10th century Jutland

Fragments of loops and the under dress found in the brooches



Fur edging on outer garments



Silk, silver and gold embroidery and tablet weaving common for the upper class



Valkyrie figures recovered from various locations in Scandinavia give some insight to women's clothing

The figures are stylized representations

Only the very basic design elements can be taken from the figures

All four show an apron or dress over a flowing under dress



The far left and right figures seem to be wearing a shawl

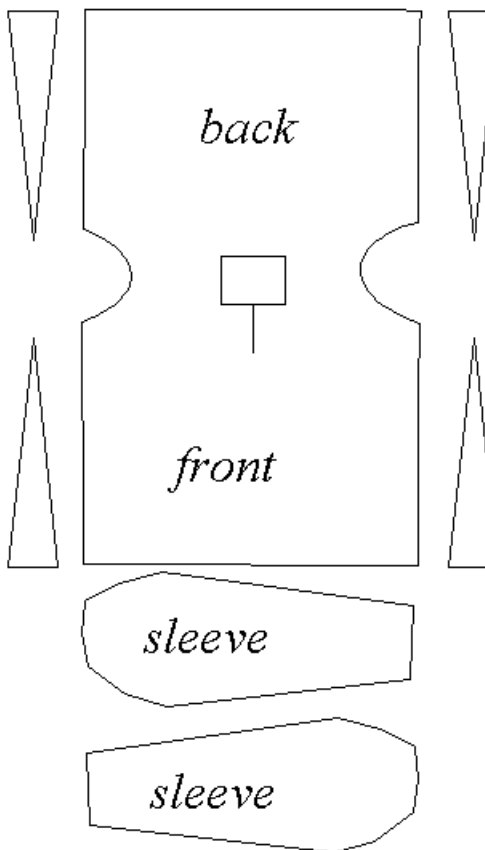
The two center figures seem to be wearing a coat

Three of the four figures show decoration at the base of the apron-dress

Oseberg tapestry dates to the 9th century

The women are clearly wearing two or more layers

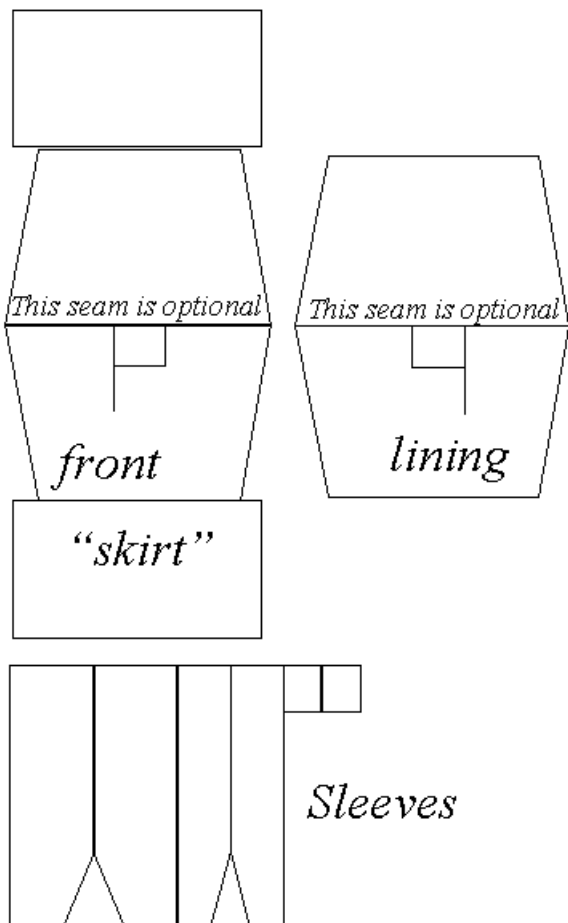
Possible Reconstructions: Hedeby Tunic



- Based from a Tunic found in Hedeby
- Basic tunic pattern with inset sleeves
- Gores added to the length of the tunic
- Tight fitting arms
- Square key hole neck opening
- Choose a fine linen or wool for the fabric
- Gussets can be added under the sleeves for extra comfort
- This pattern makes a good undershirt, tunic, or underdress

*NOTE ON ALL CONSTRUCTIONS: Drawings are not to scale, but are merely intended to convey the general pattern. You must calculate your own measurements, or write the instructor for help.*

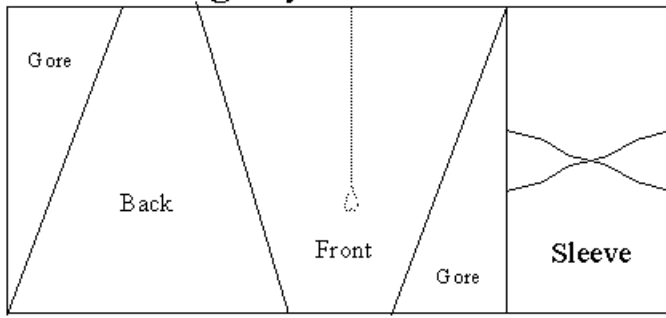
**Possible Reconstructions: Viborg Shirt**



- Measure the outside of the shoulders for the top seam
- Taper from the shoulders to the waist about 20%
- Measure from the shoulder to the waist for the tunic length
- Measure from the waist to mid thigh for the skirt length
- Make a lining of the exact same measurements as the tunic
- Measure around the upper arm for the top sleeve measurement
- 2/3 of the top measurement is for the large sleeve portion and 1/3 of the measurement is for the small sleeve portion
- Start the taper of the sleeve approximately 3/4 down the sleeve length
- Make the gussets approximately 4 - 5 inches square
- The neck opening is approximately 4 inches square with the slit 8 inches long
- Add the ties to the neck opening BEFORE you sew the front and back together
- Choose a fine linen for the fabric

**Possible Reconstructions: Women's Gown/Underdress**

*cutting layout*



Choose a fine linen or wool for the gown

Measure the width of the shoulders for the top of the gown and then flare the bottom of the gown

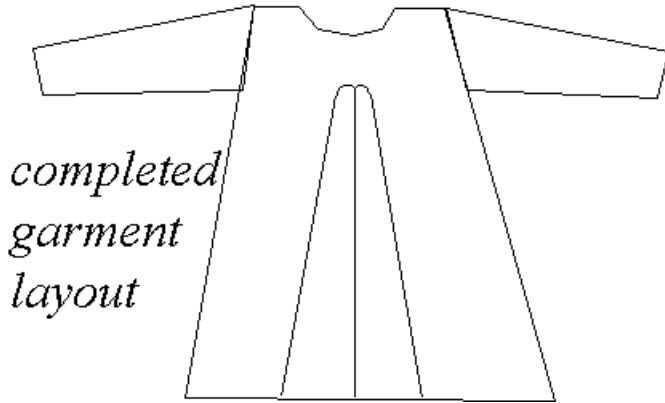
Cut a heart shape out of the front of the gown just below the breast line

Set the gores into the front of the gown

Round neck opening

Tight fitting sleeves

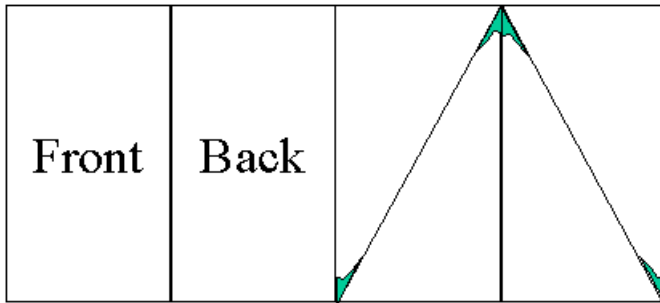
Only long gores have been found in "Viking Age" Jutland, i.e. gores that extend the length of the garment



*completed garment layout*

Possible Reconstructions: Apron Dress

*cutting layout*



There is little evidence to support a hanging front apron for 10th century Jutland

Very simple layout and construction

Gores are set in the side of the garment

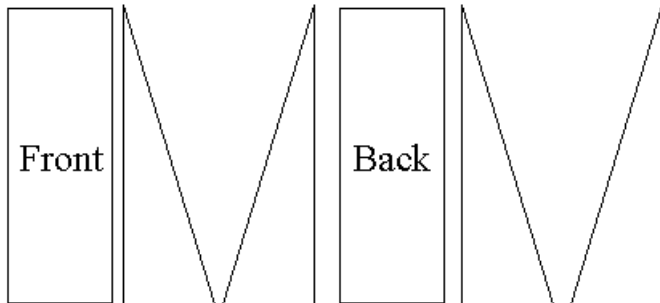
Take the bust measurement, add 2 to 4 inches for seams and divide that in two for the width

Sew the gores into the sides of the dress

Add loops for the brooches

The finished garment will produce a slightly pointed side as seen in the Oseberg tapestry

Choose a fine linen or wool for the fabric



*sewing layout*

Final Thoughts

If you come up with different or additional patterns, please share them

For Pennsic XXXII, this class will expand to include the Thorsbjerg Trousers

The instructor plans to write a new class for clothing accessories, which will also be ready for Pennsic XXXII

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