

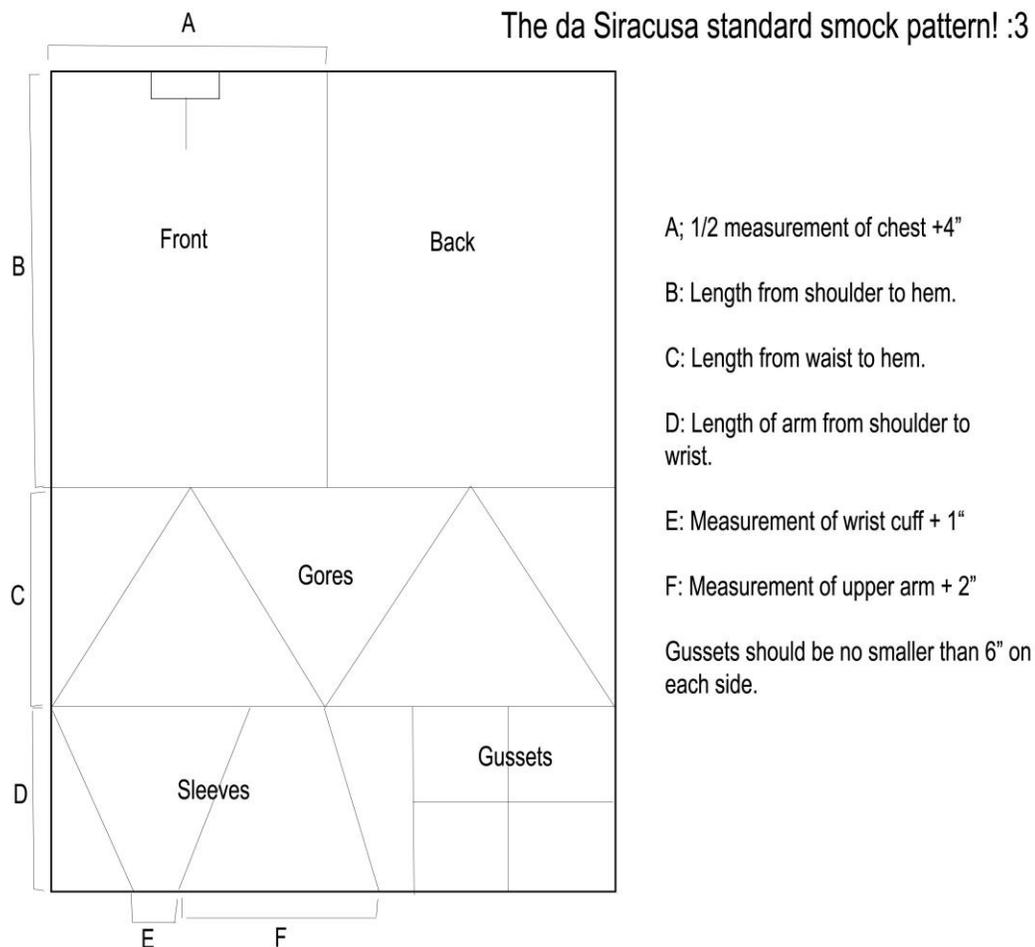
## Quick, dirty, and period garb for rapier fighters...

...with Kyria Anna Dokeianina Syrakousina (formerly Anna Dauzzano da Siracusa)

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### A collection of easy, low cost patterns and ideas to help you ditch the modern looking fencing and Triplette™ jackets!

Let's build this from the bottom up, starting with a smock. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the all-purpose under garment was the smock, this can be incredibly plain or heavily ornamented with blackwork embroidery and beadwork. Below is a basic pattern for a unisex garment that can be tailored for a multitude of purposes. Note the reinforced underarm gusset to meet East Kingdom rapier requirements. I recommend using good sturdy linen for this garment; it's durable, washable, and breathable for those hot days on the Pennsic battlefield. My smock has been through hell and back and still looks good. At the bottom of this handout is a great link to an online pattern generator.



Step 1: Determine neckline. My formula is typically at the halfway mark to cut down a curve 2 inches from the top of the fabric, and then create a curved neckline that's about 6-8" wide depending on the person wearing it. Then I create a slit down from the bottom of the neckline about 4" long. This can be longer for those who want a more of a partlet look for non-fencing garb.

Step 2: Sew front and back together at the shoulders.

Step 3: Fold body of the smock open, attach sleeves at top, matching seam to center of sleeve top.

Step 4: Sew 2 underarm gussets together, or cut them so that you can fold them in half or whatever, or even insert fabric that could be more protective if you wish, and attach one side to the sleeve and the connecting side to the body.

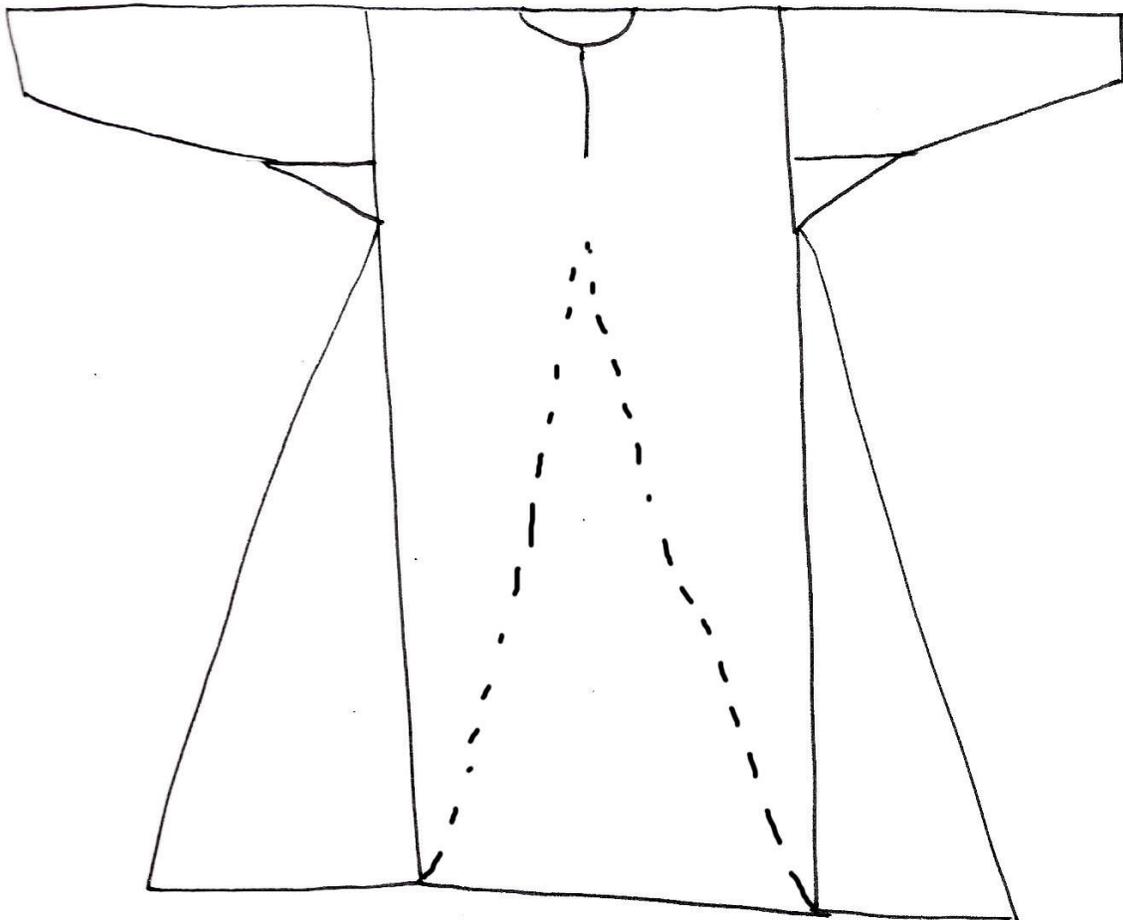
Step 5: Sew the gores to the side of the smock from the bottom of the gusset to the hem.

Step 6: Fold garment in half, sew side seams from sleeve cuff to the bottom hem, paying special attention to the areas where the gusset and gores attach.

Step 7: I don't typically insert gores in the front and back, but now would be the time to do it. The pattern contains pieces to do so.

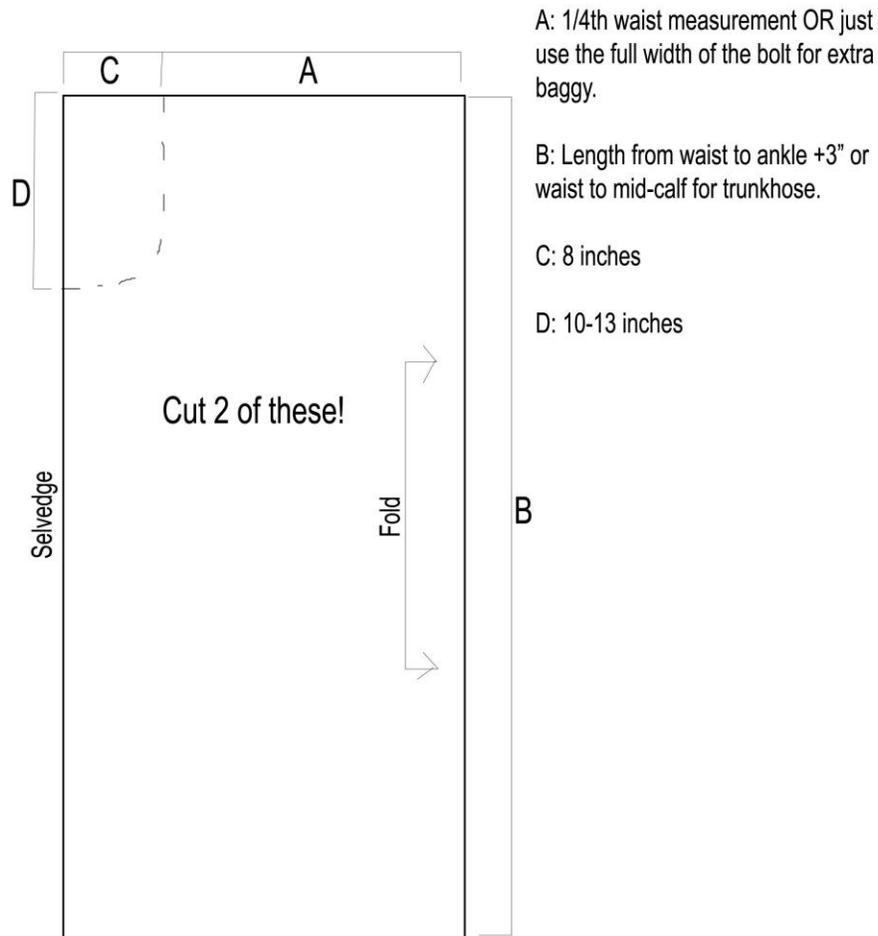
Step 8: Even out bottom hem, and finish raw edges.

It should look like this when you're done:



What about pants? Pants are EASY. You can knock out a pair of puffy truckhose-like trousers in minutes. Just make sure you make them out of abrasion-resistant material. I'd recommend heavy cotton, good quality linen or twill JUST IN CASE. If you have a lighter fabric that you want to use but you're not sure if they will survive, you can easily line the pants. Also: DRAWSTRING. NOT ELASTIC. If you have to use elastic, do it on the cuffs, not the waist. You'll be glad you did, because it makes you shank-proof.

## The da Siracusa standard one-size fits all baggy pants pattern! :3



This pattern has really little waste, as you can see.

Step 1: Cut out the crotch (dotted line).

Step 2: Sew a straight seam up the selvedge to the beginning of the crotch opening.

Step 3: Turn one leg right-side out, put that inside of the other pants leg which is still wrong-side out. Line up crotch seams, sew together.

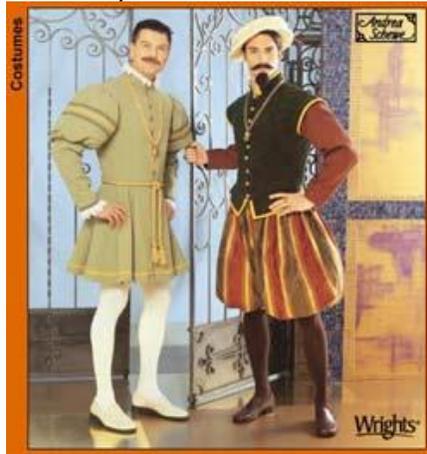
Step 4: Pull the pants entirely wrong-side out, then roll a casing and insert drawstring/elastic in the cuffs and waistline. You can also pleat the openings and attach proper bands that button.

Step 5: Turn them right-side out and slide them on. You're done!

As for a doublet, there are a million decent commercial patterns out there to work with, or, even better, Mistress Mercedes de Calafia has a 3 hour doublet pattern that she has on the East Kingdom rapier page that I highly recommend after using it before to get my friends looking spiffy. The link for that is:

[http://rapier.eastkingdom.org/Articles/ekArticle\\_Mercedes\\_ThreeHour\\_Doublet.html](http://rapier.eastkingdom.org/Articles/ekArticle_Mercedes_ThreeHour_Doublet.html)

The most recent commercial pattern I've used was Simplicity 5574, which I believe is now discontinued, but you can still find it if you try. It's not bad, it requires a little tweaking to make it more accurate, but otherwise it was easy to sew.



Look for while pattern shopping/drafting: A high collar that can provide protection beneath your gorget...because you never know, and sufficient underarm coverage. This can both be easily adjusted in a commercial pattern.

Remember that the doublet is the most important part of your rapier armor (other than your mask!) and needs to be punch tested. So BEFORE you cut into that \$9 a yard upholstery fabric, bring a swatch of that and your lining to a marshal for a punch test. I've had doublets pass with a shell of brocade and a lining of duck cloth from Wal-Mart, so you don't have to spend a lot to look good and be safe.

### **About my kit:**





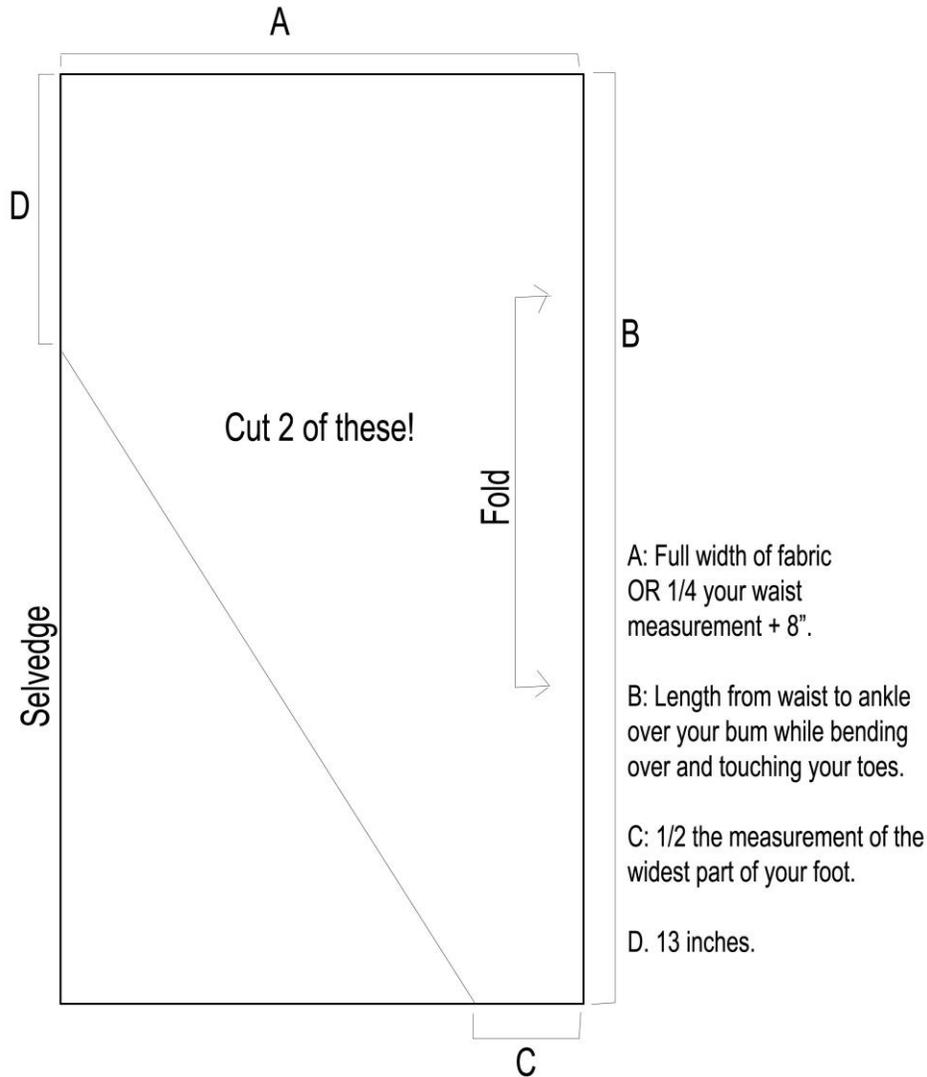
I currently wear the garb of an Ottoman Janissary when I fight rapier, mostly because I wanted to do something different, but it also fits in with my persona story. The Ottoman ensemble served me well this past couple of years, and it's a great example that you DON'T HAVE to wear the typical doublet and breeches look.

My garb consists of the following:

Smock: Cut in the same pattern as above, NOT in the correct Ottoman form, which I learned of after I constructed this, but it's nice weight white linen that I did some decorative stitching on, and serves the purpose.

Salwar (pants): Yes, you CAN blame the Turks for Hammer pants! I LOVE wearing Ottoman Turkish style pants. Aside from their ridiculous design, they give me incredible ease of movement, and I've found that the billowing design makes it a bit hard for me to get legged, since my opponents aren't sure what's fabric and what's leg (but now that you know this...oops). Plus, they also give enough room in the hips and crotch to wear additional protective garments, for both men AND women without an uncomfortable and often questionable bulge. My salwar are made of green linen and have survived broken drawstrings, Pennsic mud, and dozens of washings and still look great. I developed my pattern from one I saw on the internet a while ago, but I have yet to find it again. Fortunately I remembered how to do it.

## The da Siracusa standard Turkish Salwar pattern! :3



Step 1: Cut the diagonal line from the end of D to C.

Step 2: Those triangles are your gussets. Turn the triangle so that the shortest leg is on the top and the hypotenuse (longest side) is on the outside. Align the remaining leg of the triangle from the end of the D measurement down the slanted side of the pants leg. Stitch. Do this for both sides of both pants legs.

Step 3: Fold the leg in half again, and sew the length from the cuff up to the top of the gussets together. Leave the top of the triangles open, as that will be the saggy part of the crotch.

Step 4: Just as in the baggy pants pattern, take one leg and turn it right-side out, place that inside of the inside-out leg, line up and sew the crotch seam together.

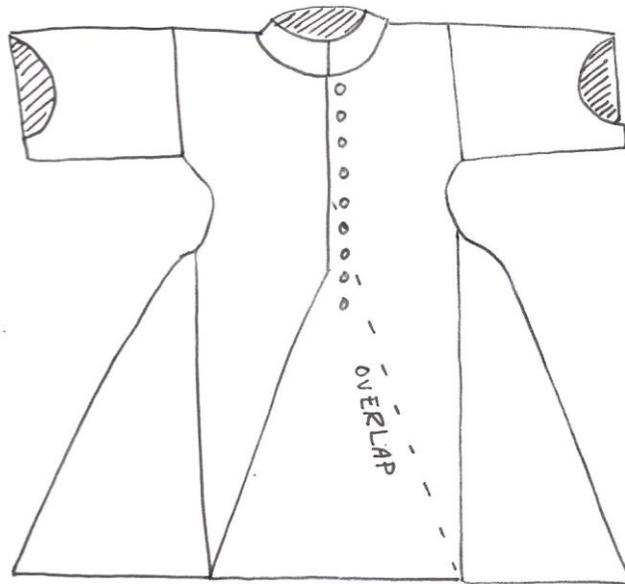
Step 5: Return the garment to totally inside-out, and create casing for the drawstring at the top.

Step 6: Make sure you can just get your foot into the cuffs. If they are too tight, pop the seam where the ankle is to the bottom, and add buttons, these need to fit snugly, but NOT cut off circulation. Finish and hem. You're done!

Entari (jacket): The jacket requires more tailoring than you'd think. My first Ottoman entari wasn't bad, but it lacked the curves that are typical of the design. So I purchased a commercial

pattern by Reconstructing History for court garb a couple of years ago, and later adjusted that for my "men's" entari for fighting. My first jacket was constructed of a horrible paisley denim shell with a serious business brown duck lining (that passed a punch BY ITSELF!) and some orange linen for ornamentation on the gores when I flip the sides up into my belt for some period sassiness. The Ottomans LOVED color, so matching isn't necessary. My latest jacket is full-length and more accurate to artwork that I've seen. I also left off the collar and wear a dickey instead to protect my neck, which gives me more options to wear the jacket off the field more comfortably.

Without infringing on pattern copyrights, here is a basic sketch of how an entari is put together:



If you have any questions on the construction of the garments, drop me a line at and I'll do my best to help you out.

Sources:

<http://www.elizabethancostume.net/smockpat/> A smock pattern generator!!!

[http://rapier.eastkingdom.org/Articles/ekArticle\\_Mercedes\\_ThreeHour\\_Doublet.ht](http://rapier.eastkingdom.org/Articles/ekArticle_Mercedes_ThreeHour_Doublet.html)

[ml](http://rapier.eastkingdom.org/Articles/ekArticle_Mercedes_ThreeHour_Doublet.html) Mistress Mercedes' 3hr doublet pattern

<http://reconstructinghistory.com> for your pattern needs.