

The Medieval Tailor's Assistant

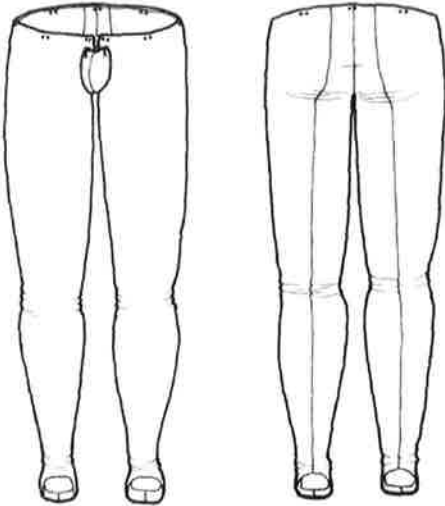


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making common garments 1200 -1500

Joined hose

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Joined hose, Fig 8

A wrinkle-free fit is possible but will restrict movement, so most hose are baggy at the seat and knees. Freedom of movement is gained by lengthening rather than widening the legs: note the horizontal wrinkles in Fig 8. Aim for a good fit round the calf, and looser round the ankle to slip over the heel. Start with an easy-fitting pair: a closer-fitting version can follow with practice. *Measurements* - Width: round the thigh at the widest point, or half the Seat measurement if this is greater.

Length: from waist to floor at the side, when standing, plus the requirements of the chosen foot style.

Preparing and modelling the toile, Fig 9 - You will need help to model joined hose. Cut two pieces of calico on the bias, as for separate hose. Make them wider than the Thigh measurement at one end, and a little narrower at the other. Mark a Centre line down each piece on the bias.

Read the caption to Fig 5 for separate hose, then study the pattern for joined hose (Fig 10). See also the *Note on fitted garments*, p. 23, which applies here. Although hose don't

8. Joined hose, 15th century

These meet the doublet 10-15 cm below the waist, though the level moved up gradually towards the waist in the late 15th century.

The CF edges are finished by the breech lining and left open (Fig 12), to be covered by the codpiece. The opening can be fastened with a lace close to the waist, using two pairs of eyelets, one on each edge. The codpiece is made up separately: its lower end is sewn to a gusset at the breech seam and its top is tied to the hose through eyelets on either side of the front opening.

The stirrup feet shown were the commonest form, and the easiest to make.

necessarily fit skin-tight, they follow the body more closely than modern trousers. Start by fitting the leg, as for separate hose, then fit the breech section as described below. The codpiece and its supporting gusset are drafted separately (Fig 11), not modelled as part of the toile.

Position the centre line of the toile down the model's leg and pin it to his clothing at waist level. It is best to fit the toile to waist height, then reduce the length of the final pattern to match the length of the doublet. When each leg is fitted (Fig 5) move up to the crotch or breech section. The wearer may prefer to handle the scissors himself, with the assistant to pin the Back extension.

Two points are important for the fit of the breech.

- The toile must fit well up to the groin at the inside thigh, with extra length for freedom of movement.
 - The edge of the breech cut-out must be long enough to allow sitting down or stooping in comfort: note its shape in Fig 10.
- For adjusting the toile and drawing the working pattern see Fig 10.

9. Modelling joined hose

Prepare the toile and fit each leg as described for separate hose and in Fig 5. In this case it will be modelled to waist height and the finished pattern shortened to match the length of the doublet. This diagram and the pattern (Fig 10) show a stirrup foot. It is formed by hollowing out the toile round the heel and instep to leave a strip of fabric which is joined under the foot.

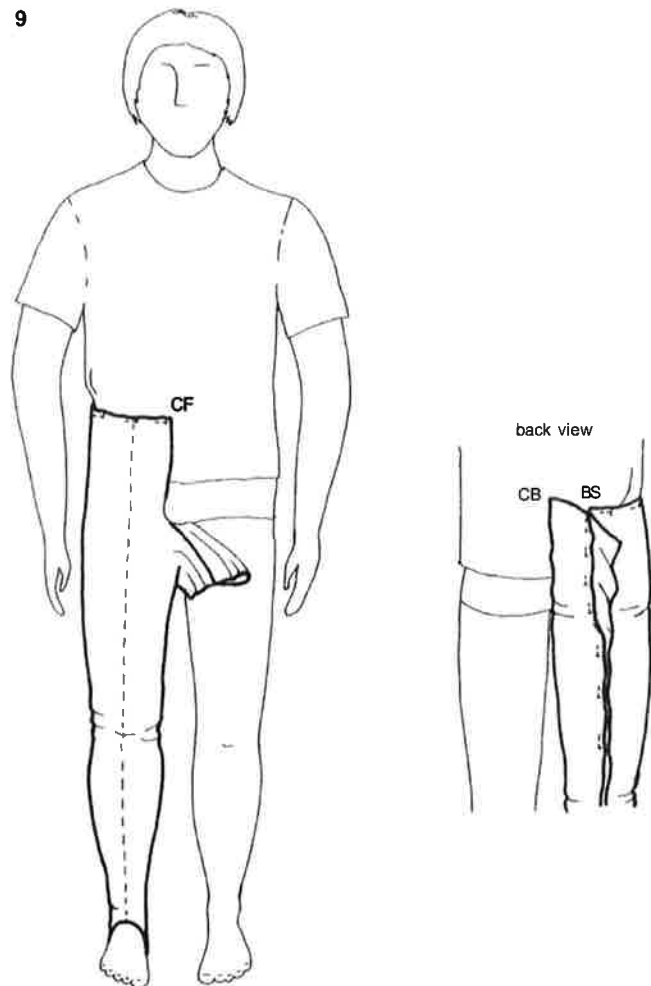
Breech - Fit and pin the seam up the back of the thigh until the material begins to drag between the legs.

At waist level, fit the toile across to the CF of the model's body and pin it to the undergarment. Fit the toile round the side of the waist, smoothing upwards and round and pinning at waist level, until the outer edge of the back seam runs from the thigh up to the waist.

Return to the CF. Slash straight down to genital level, then curve the slash line to fit under the body, round the top of the leg and through to the back, smoothing the material up to the top of the thigh. This will form the Back extension (Fig 10). If you run out of toile at this point, cut a strip on the straight grain and pin or staple it on to complete the extension.

At the back, trim away the surplus material above the slash line, leaving a narrow strip from the CB to the Back seam. Leave the CB edge slightly baggy. After fitting the second leg, pin the two together at the CB and ensure there is enough ease. Ask the model to snip into the edge of the toile, on both legs, at the base of the genitals: this will define the position of the codpiece (A in Fig 10).

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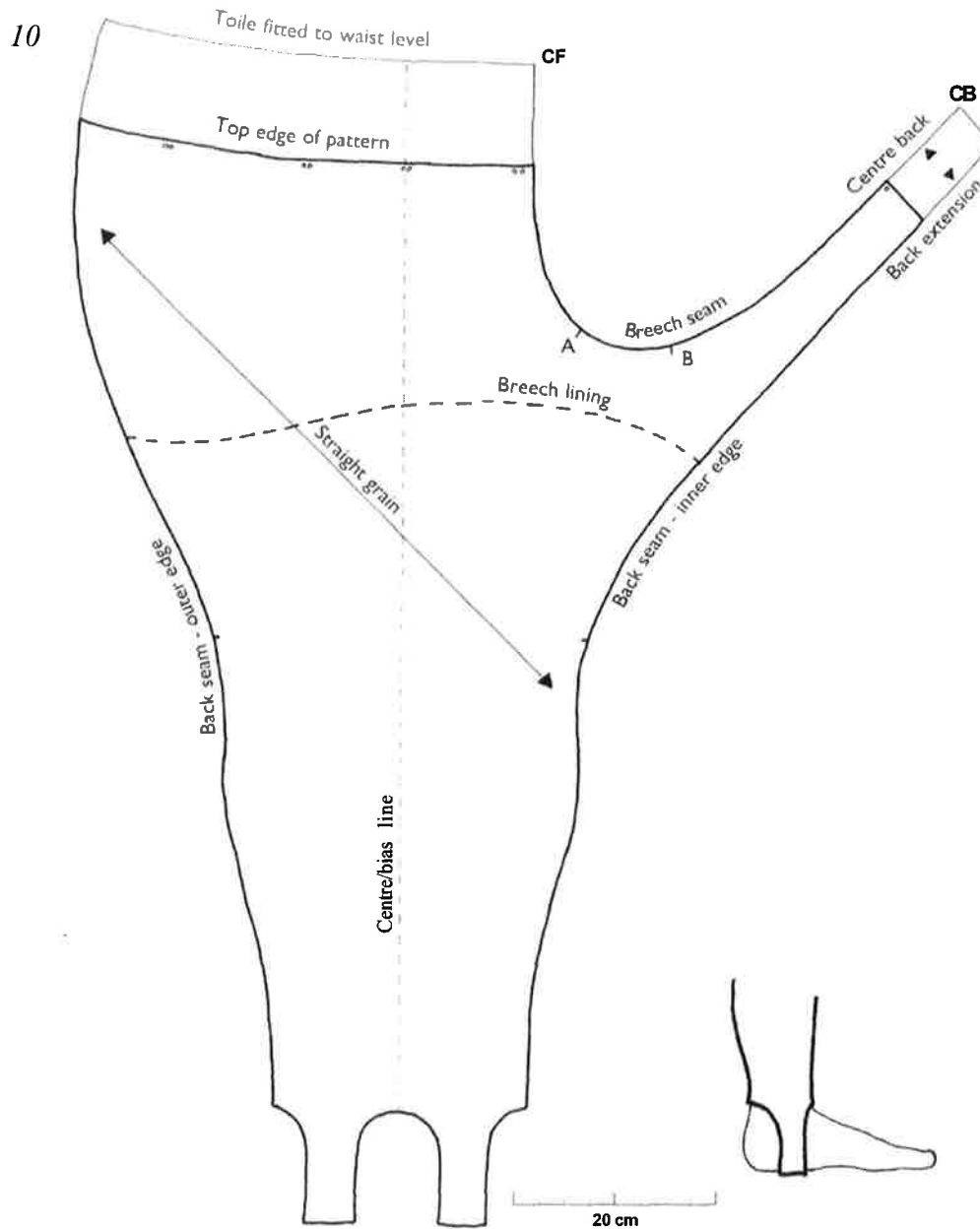
Making up separate and joined hose

The long seam up the back of the leg must 'give' with the stretch of the cloth, so use a narrow zigzag stitch if you are machine sewing it, or a slightly slack backstitch if hand sewing. Silk thread has more stretch than cotton. Catch down the raw edges with running stitch to make a triple-run seam (*Methods*, Fig 5) or make a run-and-fell (*Methods*, Fig 6). The different feet are described in the captions.

Separate hose - The top edges may be finished in different ways. For women's gartered hose, turn over the tops and hem them. On the early form of men's separate hose (Fig 4a), sew a large shanked wooden or cloth button at the top of each point to support them. For the longer separate hose (Fig 4c) face the top edge with a narrow strip of linen or canvas to reinforce it, and work eyelets through both layers to match the points or eyelets on the doublet (*Methods*, Figs 16, 18).

Joined hose - Make up the legs, and feet if present, then sew the legs together round the breech seam, inserting the codpiece gusset. Cut a strip of canvas on the straight grain, 2-3 cm wide, and tack it inside the waist edge of the hose to reinforce the eyelets.

Joined hose are best made with a lined 'breech' or seat area. Use light cloth or linen for this, and the outline in Fig 10 as a guide for cutting. Allow a little extra fabric if it is not as stretchy as the hose cloth. Make up the lining as for the hose, with a gusset, hemming the leg ends. Insert the lining into the hose, and turn in the edges round the waist and Centre front opening. Oversew or topstitch together all round before working the eyelets and making and attaching the codpiece (Figs 11, 12).



10. Pattern for Fig 8

Remove the fitted toiles carefully, remove the pins and mark the fitting lines onto both sides of each. Proceed as in Fig 6.

The legs should be symmetrical on either side of the Centre line, from the stirrup foot to above the knee, marked by balance points. Above this the inner edge slants out into the extension. Check the two back seam edges are about the same length, though the outer edge can be 1-2 cm longer. Ease this extra length in when sewing the seam.

The fit of hose always needs adjustment, so be prepared to try out your working pattern in calico more than once before making a final pattern. The commonest problem is too narrow a breech curve, giving insufficient ease between the legs: widen the curve by increasing the angle and length of the Back extension.

When the fit is satisfactory, make your final pattern on paper. Lower the waist edge to match the length of the doublet. Mark the line for the breech lining, and the SG at 45° to the Centre line. Point A on the breech seam is the lower edge position for the codpiece, transferred from the toile: point B is the approximate position of the back end of the codpiece gusset. Plan the codpiece and gusset as described in Fig 11.

The pattern for a complete leg is large, and awkward to lay out for cutting: open the cloth out to a single layer, and if it has a right and wrong side reverse the pattern for the second leg. You may have to 'piece' the pattern as described in *Blocks*, Fig 28.

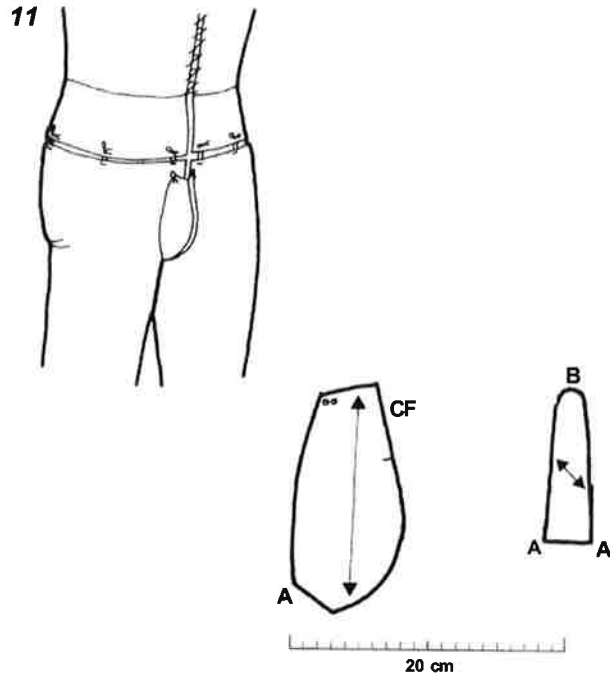
11. Codpiece and gusset

The codpiece is there to enclose and support the genitals, and cover the front opening.

Gusset - This provides a base to attach the codpiece to the hose. Cut a strip on the bias, 3-5 cm wide and 10-15 cm long, plus seam allowances. Ease it into the breech seam when making up the hose, with the back end tapering to B and the front end finishing at A just under the genitals (Fig 10).

Codpiece pattern - The codpiece is made in two halves with a curved CF seam, and lined. Scale up the pattern, adding seam allowances, and try it out first in calico. Check it doesn't reach above the top edge of the hose.

Making up - Cut the pattern twice in the outer fabric, then again in the lining. Sew the CF seams of each, then turn in all the raw edges and stab stitch outer and lining together (Pl 1). Work pairs of eyelets in the top corners.



12. Making up Fig 8

Make up hose, with breech lining and codpiece gusset in place. Work eyelets (*Methods*, Fig 16) as

On the top edge, the usual nine pairs to tie the hose to the doublet

On either side of the front opening a vertical pair (if needed) to fasten the front of the hose.

Attaching the codpiece - Tack and stitch it in place across the base of the opening so that it overlaps AA on the outside. Position the horizontal eyelets on the hose to secure the top corners.

