

Strapping A Helm In A Historical Manner

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I had purchased this archers sallet with the intent of padding it to use when martialing. One consideration was that the liner must be removable for washing with ease but still maintain a period look when worn.

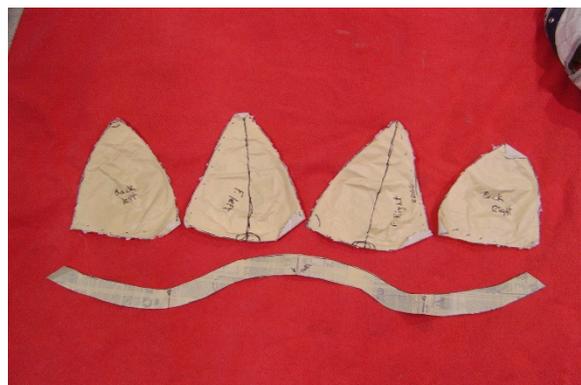
The picture to the right is basically what my helm looked like when I purchased it but without the chinstrap. It was too thin to use when fighting and there were several domed rivets placed around the top as decoration. The rivets had to be removed because the posts were long enough to scrape my head when using it.



I first started by removing the rivets and smoothing the holes left. For decorative effect, I used some thin brass grommets to fill in the holes left by the rivets.

The edge is a complex curve and it would be hard to lay out with geometry so I then took some masking tape and put in several layers around the inside edge of the helm and used a divider to mark a one inch strip around the inner circumference of the helm. I carefully took this out and used this as the pattern to cut the leather that holds the liner.

This process was repeated to make a pattern of the entire inner surface of the helm. It was cut into four pieces before removal.





The helm was punched about every inch around the lower edge and the leather strap was then punched to match these holes. The leather strap was then sewn into place with a (mostly) cotton cord.

The liner was then cut from two layers of fabric, sewn in a one inch checker pattern, and assembled with bias tape.

I addressed the idea of removal by simply copying the method used in my modern fencing mask. The bib in that mask is attached with several large metal snaps.

I marked the leather strap for nine snaps and installed the lower section of the snaps. I then matched the liner snap locations with the ones on the leather strap, installed the upper portions of the snaps.



I installed a leather chin strap a small brass buckle to finish it.

When worn the helm looks to any casual observer that the lining is historically correct for a common Tudor soldier who might be wearing the armor left over from the last century. It is only on closer inspection of the inside of the helm that it becomes apparent that the lining can be removed.



If you have any questions, please ask. If I am not available to answer questions, I can be reached at the following email.
loosehelm@yahoo.com.

Sources:

There were many very good suggestions and images on the “myArmoury.com Discussion Forums” (<http://www.myarmoury.com/talk/viewtopic.php?t=19588>)

Strapping Helms in a Historical Manner By D. A. Biggs.
(<http://kelly.dwarfworks.com/sca/helms/StrappingHelmsWeb.pdf>)

Padding & Strapping a Helm in the Period Way & Elsewise.
(<http://hemaalliance.com/discussion/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=1295>)

How to Make Horse Hair Helm Padding.
(http://kelly.dwarfworks.com/sca/helms/Horse_Hair_Helmet_Pad_handout.doc)

Note: I was going to use a lining stuffed with horse hair but I was not able to obtain any until the project was already completed.