

The Skjodehamn Hood Class Handout (Revised 7/2016)

Lady Francesca Carletti, 2016

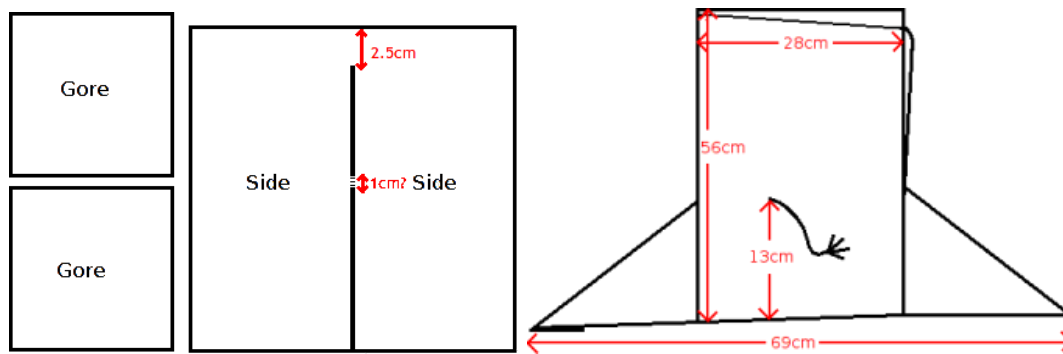


(Løvlid 2009, figure 3)

The Skjodehamn find is a peat bog grave site discovered in 1936, in Skjold Harbor in Norway (Løvlid, 2010). The bones and textiles have been dated to the 11th century (Lucas, 2009). The finding includes: an under tunic, over tunic, pants, hood, hose, leg wrappings, shoes, braided belt and knife handle (Lucas, 2009). Peat Bog finds give a wonderfully preserved capsules of a moment in history reflecting customs and articles of daily life. It is one of the few instances where textiles can be very well preserved given the chemical makeup of the peat bog. There is continued debate on the gender of the individual, even modern DNA testing has been inconclusive (Løvlid, 2010). There is also argument of whether the individual is “Norse/Viking” or “Sea Sami” in ethnicity (Løvlid, 2010). For reenactment purposes however, this hood is used for Norse/Viking for either gender. I have found it to be very comfortable, easy to make, and looks very nice with a Norse outfit.

Construction

We can see many details of the original hood due to its preservation. The fabric is 2/2 woolen twill that originally would have been dark brown. It uses both guard hairs (warp) and under-hair (weft) of the wool fleece (Lucas, 2009). There are three pieces of wool, the main body of the hood being one piece that was split lengthwise, but left 2.5cm at the top, (see below).



(Lucas, 2009)

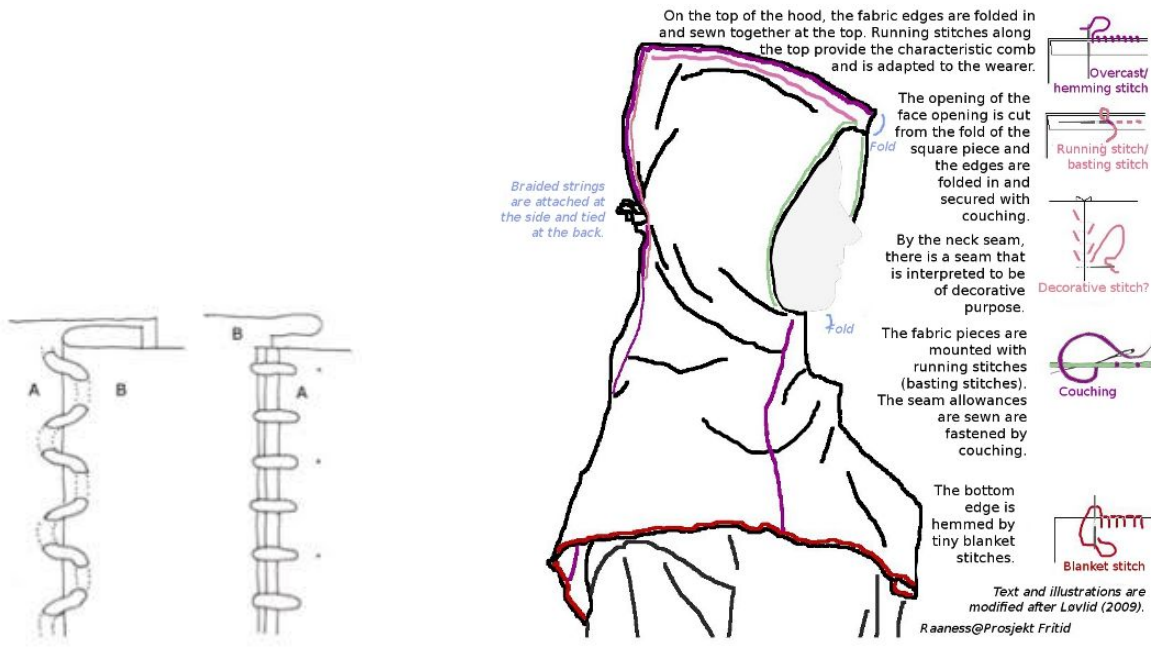
The gores of this hood differ from other medieval hoods in that the bottoms are not curved, but left as squares. This gives it a distinctive look and widens the bottom of the hood (Lucas, 2009). The main body of the hood measures 56cm tall and 28cm wide. The gores measure 28cm square, giving a hem of 138cm around, fitting over the shoulders (Lucas, 2009).

An interesting detail of this hood is the angled seam at the top. It is sewn so that the angle comes down in the front, giving a tighter fit around the face. The excess fabric sticks up like a “cockscorn” and is not hidden inside the hood. Lastly, there are two ties/cords on the sides of the hood at 13cm from the bottom. They were found tied under the chin. It is debated whether this is used to close the face opening by tying in the front, or to widen the opening by tying in the back. There is no distortion in the fabric to give clues as to what they were used for, so perhaps they were not used often (Lucas, 2009). I believe if they were found tied under the chin, then they would be used to help keep the hood on during windy weather. Although these last details of the hood are interesting, they are rarely used in constructions for reenactment purposes.

Hand Sewing

This well preserved garment allows us to see stitches that were used during the 11th cent in Norway. Most are common stitches found on other garments, but there is also one stitch, referred to as the “Oblique Basting stitch”. It is said that this is a decorative stitch but I find it useful to open and hold down seam allowance. The thread used is wool and ranges in color from yellow to red to grey-brown. There is contrasting information if the gores are attached with running stitch or with whip stitch, either can be used. One source states that the threads were knotted at the start and end of the stitches (Lucas, 2009). The couching of thicker yarn around the face opening helps give it shape (Deyeson). Here are the stitches and where they are found on the hood:

- Whip Stitch
 - Grey/Brown: Used to sew the top of the hood edges (turned inward)
 - Dark Brown: Used to attach the gores to the body
- Running Stitch
 - Grey/Brown: Used to create the angled seam at the top of the hood
- Couching
 - ?: Two, single ply threads laid down. Used on the inside of the hood opening, to secure down the turned in edge
 - Red & Yellow: “Decorative” yarn to couch the yarn down around the front of the hood, mostly red, then changes to yellow on bottom left section
 - ?: Used on the inside to secure seam finish edges
- Blanket Stitch
 - Grey/Brown: Used to hem the bottom edge of the hood (not turned/rolled)
- “Oblique Basting” Stitch
 - Golden/Yellow: Used to “decorate” back of the hood and the front neck seam(?), holds seam allowances open

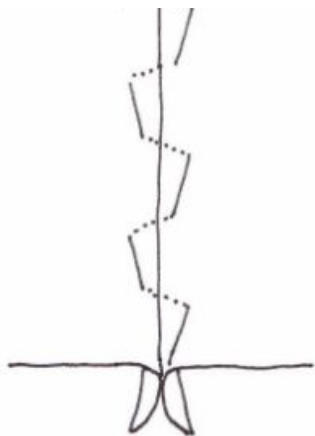


Text and illustrations are modified after Lovlid (2009). Raaness@Prosjekt Fritid

foto: J. Thorsen/illustration - illustratorkollektivet.com

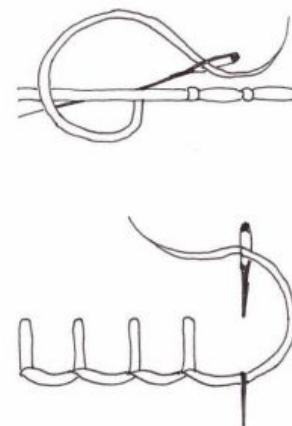
Left = Running Stitch, Right = Whip Stitch
Figure 2 (Lovlid, 2009)

(Project Leisure Blog)



Figur 8. Dekorasjonssømmen i nakken. The decoration seam in the neck.

“Oblique Basting Stitch” (Lovlid, 2009)

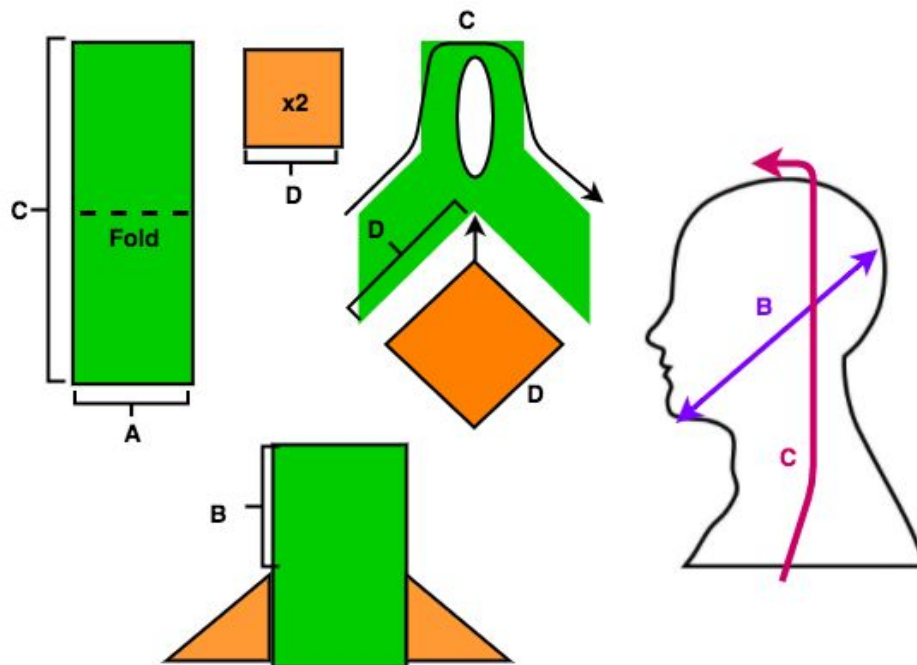


Figur 1. To typer sømmer brukt på drakten. Leggsøm (øverst) og tungesting (nederst). Two types of seams used on the costume. Couching (furthest up) and blanket stitch (furthest down).

Couching and Blanket Stitch (Lovlid, 2009)

Making Your Own Hood

Now that you have an idea of what the original hood was like, let’s talk about what you need to make your own version. I tend to make mine using wool and lining it with linen. This makes it a bit warmer and keeps the wool off your skin if it is sensitive. If you decide to use a lining, you essentially cut out two hoods, using the same dimensions, one out of the lining and one out of the outer material. Using a fabric measuring tape, take the following measurements:



A=Width of the hood _____ **B=Front Opening Size** _____
C=Hood Length _____ **D=Gusset Width** _____

Don't forget to add seam allowance to your measurements before cutting the fabric out. Do not make the measurements too tight, this is not necessarily a fitted hood. **C**=edge of shoulder, into neck, over head, into neck, to the edge of other shoulder. **B**= Around head from bottom of chin to back top of the head. **A**= Forehead to back of head, plus some ease. **D** = After taking other measurements, **D** will be $(C-B)/2$. For **D** you can also cut out the main hood body first, try it on pinning it at **B**, and measure the distance left on the bottom of the opening.

I suggest "bag-lining" the hood by sewing the face openings together. Then finish the hem with a stitch such as blanket stitch. If you wish to add seam finishes, do so before sewing the hood to the lining. Some folks add decorative embroidery or applique to the square gussets, again, do this before sewing the pieces together.

Sources:

Lovlid, Dan Halvard (2009), "Nye tanker om Skjoldehamnfundet"

<http://www.ceilingpress.com/Resources/Nye%20tanker%20om%20Skjoldehamnfundet.pdf>

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Project Leisure Blog "Hood from the Skjoldehamn findings"

http://www.pvv.org/~raanes/prosjekt_fritid/?page_id=3295

Mistress Eleanor Deyeson "Hand finishing the Skjoldehamn Hood – Class Handout"

<http://eleanordeyeson.wordpress.com/2014/09/13/hand-finishing-the-skjoldehamn-hood-class-handout/>