



Cactus Needles

15.05 – May, 2015

The Southwest Costumers Guild
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Briefs



International Costumer 14.3, May-June 2015 features a President's Message highlighting upcoming summer conventions and announces ICG's new special interest groups. Byron presents some details on Richard Man's "Transformations" photography project. Sharon Sbarsky presents a preview of the Sasquan Worldcon masquerade. Sandy Swank and Dora Buck preview CC33, including Charleston tours. Lisa Ashton highlights (with real lights) the LED workshop at CC33. Proxy form for ICG annual meeting. ICG members receive a link, username and password to download the issue, or a paper copy by mail. The cover e-mail now includes ICG proof of membership, suitable for getting discount cards at fabric stores, etc.



Patterns of Time is moving. Effective May 1, 2015, the new mailing address is 11585 Allendale Drive, Peyton, CO 80831-6811. Of course, the web site remains at www.patternsoftime.com.



10 Best Costumes at Amazing Arizona Comic Con 2015 via NewTimes. http://blogs.phoenixnewtimes.com/jackalope/2015/02/amazing_arizona_comicon_best_costumes_cosplay.php



Upcoming themes for **Mesa Second Friday**, the festival/block party on the second Friday evening of every month in downtown Mesa, include many fannish and costumeey events. May 8 Dog Days – Bring your dog. June – SciFi Friday. July – Attack of the Nerds & Geeks. August – Hotter than Hades. September – Pirates' Block Party. October – Nightmare on Main Street. November – Word on the Street. December – Star Wars Tribute. There aren't many details up yet, but keep checking <http://2ndfridaynightout.com/2.html>

SWCG Activity April 26, 2015 at Chuck & Tasha's in Glendale, Arizona.

Recorded by Randall Whitlock, SWCG Secretary

Present were Frances, Diane, Jean, Mahala, Tasha, Randall, Paula, Sharan, Lyn

This was a "sweatshop" style workshop dedicated to working up our challenge costumes from the silver satin Tasha obtained at a Costume-Con some years ago. The design is up to the

individual, but most of us are going for long, open sleeveless over-gowns of a general sort popular in Tudor times. Given the spacey silver fabric, these should be adaptable to sci-fi and fantasy looks too. We started early and finished late. Not really finished – we'll take up the project again at the May meeting.

In parallel to the silver satin sewing, we finished up many of the pet blankets started several meetings ago to be donated to local animal shelters.

No formal business meeting was convened, but some topics of general interest were discussed, including getting your proxies to an ICG member of your choosing in time for the annual meeting at Costume-Con. To the best of your secretary's knowledge, no currently active SWCG members will be at the meeting, so you'll need to choose your proxy-bearer from another chapter.

Your editor/webmaster reported recent e-mail communications with ICG President Phil Gust. Phil has set up some server space for our use under the ICG hosting account. Randall will experiment with this over the next few weeks. If it works out well, the SWCG web site will move to a new home and we can allow our current hosting contract to expire.

Randall also reported on a rather mysterious e-mail query received at the Secretary e-mail address from someone looking for a cheap, possibly second-hand, historical reenactor dress, but did not specify the period to be reenacted or the size needed. The plot thickens as this query was also sent to several other ICG chapters. Some suspect a new online scam a-brewing. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Sharan directed us to some well produced how-to quilting videos. Go to www.youtube.com and look up "Missouri Star Quilt Company Tutorials."

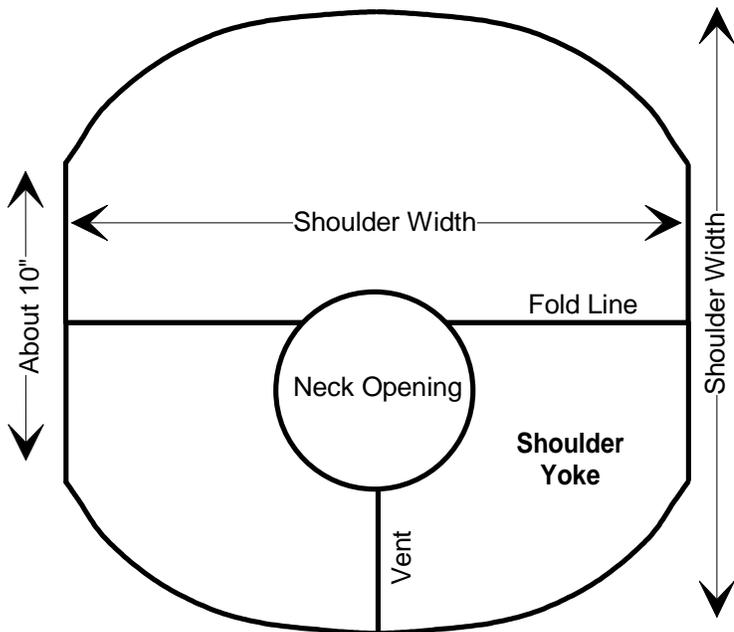
The Houppelande Wraparound Comes Around
by Randall Whitlock

I'm flattered that some SWCG members have chosen to do a yoked houppelande inspired by my past work for their silver satin challenge fabric projects. I ran out of time and energy to do any more one-on-one tutelage at the April meeting, but here is an article I originally wrote for the July, 2005 Cactus Needles and later included in "Yardstick and Chalk: Randwulf's Ramblings on Costume Volume II." All time references are from the original, written nearly ten years ago.

Houppelandes are very full-bodied tunics that were popular in the time of Henry the eighth. Some were gathered in pleats to a deep yoke over the shoulders. Originally worn by men, the style later came to be used as a long ladies' gown.

Many years ago, I drafted "Randwulf's Pirate Shirt," a simple puffy shirt built around a curved shoulder yoke. It was the first of the Randwulf's pattern line and has been one of my best sellers.

About four years ago, I had an idea to base a houppelande around the yoke from my pirate shirt. I made a few out of heavy upholstery velvets and felted wools to use as warm overcoats at the Estrella War and other winter season medieval events. It has become one of my trademark "looks." I make these open in the front with no built-in closures. They can be worn open as a loose mantle or closed with a belt.



The yoke is as wide as your shoulders and is drawn around a fold line that runs across your shoulders.

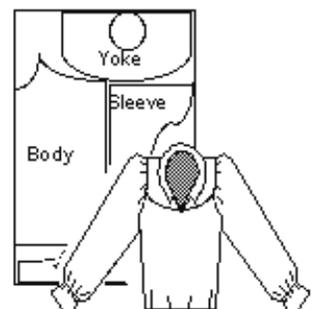
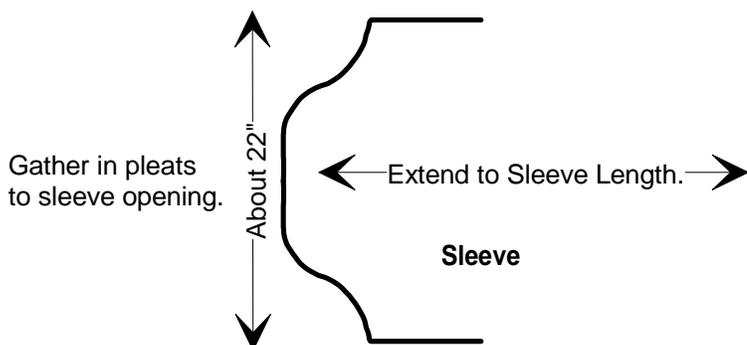
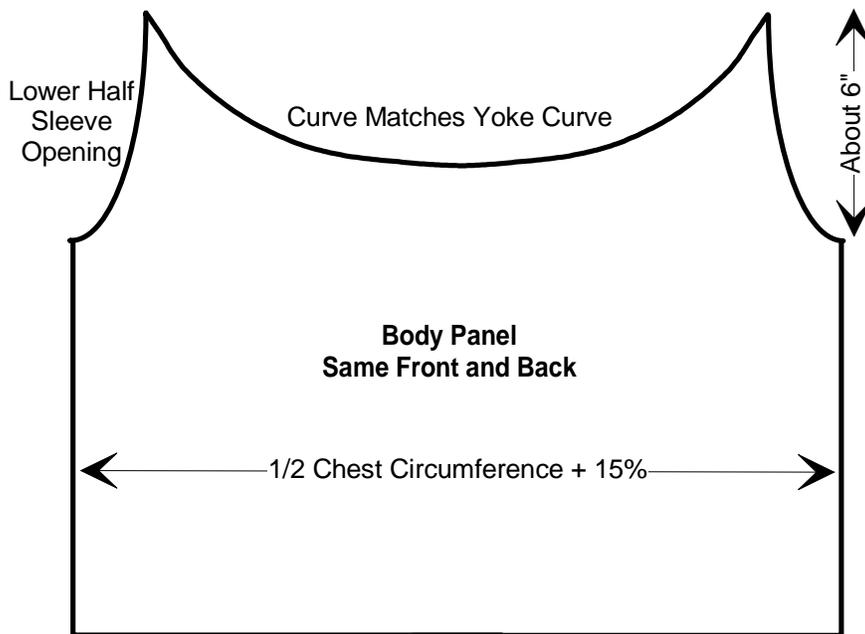
The straight line at the side is the top part of the sleeve opening.

The curved top and bottom of the yoke run across your chest and back.

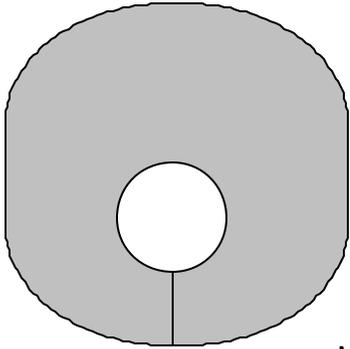
The neck opening is a circle set somewhat forward of the middle.

A vent runs from the middle of the neck opening down the front of the chest.

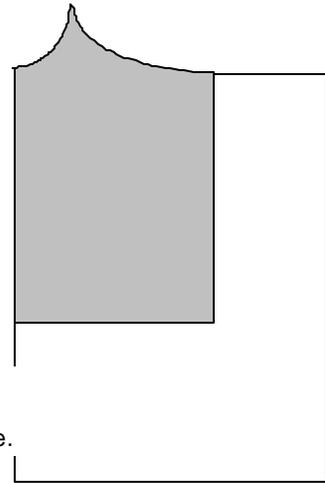
A Quick Summary of Randwulf's Pirate Shirt



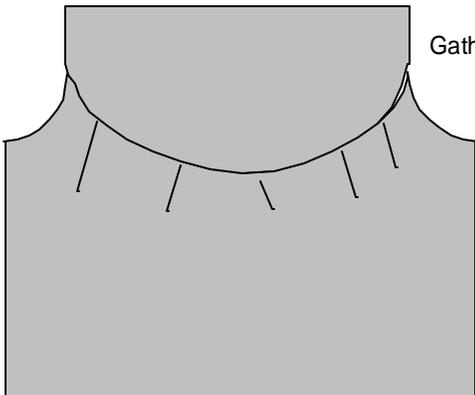
Make a Houppelande Wraparound Using the Randwulf's Pirate Shirt Pattern



Cut a shoulder yoke and neck opening as directed. Make the neck circle a little loose.



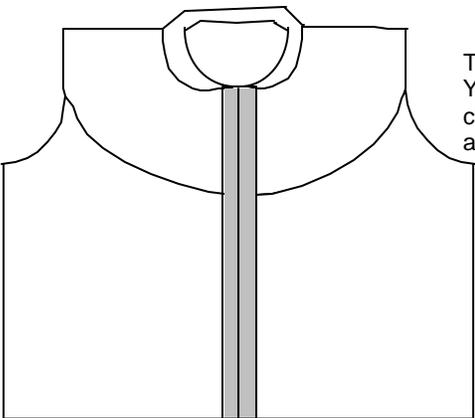
Make the body about 40 inches long and about one-third wider than a pirate shirt body. The front is in two pieces. The back should be a single piece.



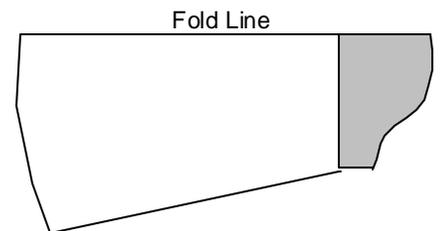
Gather the body to the base of the yoke in several deep pleats and sew them together..



Measure the circumference of the neck opening. Make a dome-shaped collar about two inches shorter than the neck opening and 5 inches tall. Center the collar on the neck opening and sew in place.



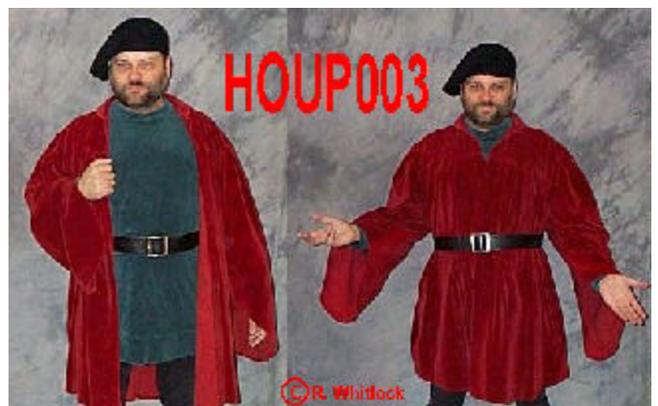
Turn back the front opening and finish it. You may apply frogs, buttons, or other closures. I usually just wear the garment as a wraparound with a belt.



Use the sleeve cap from the pattern and extend it to form a bell sleeve.

Finish the ends of the sleeves by turning under and sewing. Attach the sleeves to the shoulders. Close the undersides of the sleeves and the sides of the body. Hem the bottom of the garment by turning under and sewing.

Houppelande is finished!



Janet Wilson Anderson has suggested that I draw up the Randwulf's Houppelande Wraparound and publish it as a separate pattern. I'll get around to that someday. Meanwhile, the preceding pages present a cartoon flowchart of how to convert the Randwulf's Pirate Shirt pattern. It was drawn earlier this year at the request of a customer.

Of course, it would not be fair to reference a pattern you do not have, so a quick flowchart of Randwulf's Pirate Shirt is also included.

Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.*

May 8-10, 2015 – **Mad Monster Phoenix** horror convention at Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak, 7677 N. 16th Street, Phoenix. The web site says they're doing conventions in Chicago and Charlotte this year too. <http://madmonster.com/events/phoenix2015/>

May 9, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Retro Rockabilly" <https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

May 15-18, 2015 – **Costume-Con 33** "Buccaneers, Belles & Bootleggers" at the Charleston Plaza Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina <http://cc33charleston.org/wp/> (Get your ICG annual meeting proxy form from the April, 2015 Cactus Needles or from www.costume.org .)

May 23-25, 2015 – **Wyatt Earp Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstone.org/wyatt-earp-days-may/>

May 28-31, 2015 – **Phoenix ComiCon** at the Phoenix Convention Center <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>



May 31, 2015 – **Lep Prep*** SWCG meeting at Tasha's place. Discuss plans for the annual LepreCon SF convention. Continue work on the silver satin costumes.

June 4-7, 2015 – **Fangirls** by Manda Leigh Blunt at the Brelby Theater, S of SEC 58th Avenue and Glendale Avenue just off the Glendale town square. <http://brelby.com/2015-studio-series/>

With Comic Con only days away, Lila is shocked to find that her arch nemesis has stolen her idea for the original character contest. She has only four days and her three best friends to help her come up with a brand new idea. Matters aren't helped when Lila's cousin Marcie comes to visit, a budding fashion designer who is nothing like Lila and does not understand her obsession with all things fandom. Throw in a

Wonder Woman bedspread, a Dr. Who Sonic Screwdriver, a Benedict Cumberbatch pillow, a Captain Planet salute, Vulcan ears, a lynx costume, a book on potions, a date, a make-over, a betrayal, and light sabers, this is one week that these girls are never going to forget. That is, if they make it Comic Con in one piece.

June 13, 2015 – **Daddy O's Desert Caravan Open Belly Dance & Drum Circle** at Daddy O's, SE Corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird, Phoenix. This is one of our own Paula's performance venues. All shows start at 6:30 PM. This month's theme is "Folkloric Fest"
<https://www.facebook.com/DaddyOsDesertCaravanBellydanceDrumCircle>

June 25-28, 2015 – **LepreCon 2015** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (I-17 & Greenway).
www.leprecon.org.

June 28, 2015 – **LepreCon Get-Together*** informal SWCG meeting at the LepreCon SF convention. Mainly a meet & greet, but specific details to be determined. Maybe show off our new silvery finery? Will there be cookies this year? Discuss at the May meeting.

July 9-12, 2015 – **Highlands War** near Flagstaff, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul's midsummer event moves to a new site near Ashurst Late this year. <http://highlandswar.org/>

July 10-12, 2015 – **Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire** at 1101 N. Woodland Rd. Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ. <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

July 10-12, 2015 – **Phoenix TARDIS 2015** Dr. Who convention at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap Avenue, Phoenix. <http://www.tardisconventions.com/#!phoenix/cjg9>

July 18-19, 2015 – **Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Foxglenn Park, 4200 E. Butler, Flagstaff. <http://www.nachs.info/festival.shtml>

July 19, 2015 – **Aquatic Costumers*** SWCG social at Castle Cady Classic. Our annual pool party. Theme and other details to be announced.

October 10, 2015, Noon-4 PM – **LibraryCon 2015** at the Southeast Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road in Gilbert, AZ. Come to the Southeast Regional Library for LibraryCon 2015! Join us to celebrate all of the stuff that you love including: comics, graphic novels, anime/manga, cosplay, cartoons, artists, horror movies, Sci-Fi/Fantasy books & movies, and games of all types. Costumes encouraged! Show off your amazing style in the costume contest. Learn something new in one of our panel sessions. There will also be photo booths, crafts, tabletop and video games, prizes, and giveaways! <https://www.facebook.com/librarycon>

October 16-18, 2015 – **Helldorado Days** in Tombstone, Arizona.
<http://www.tombstonehelldoradodays.com/>

October 30 – November 1, 2015 – **TusCon 42** SF convention at the Hotel Tucson City Center in Tucson. This year's con features guests Seanan McGuire and Bridget E. Wilde.
<http://tusconscificon.com/>

November 6-8, 2015 – **Tucson Celtic Festival** at Rillito Park. <http://tucsoncelticfestival.org/>

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