



KITGUIDE for the Northstorm, division of Jomsborg

Version 2.0

1. General points

1.1 some remarks about this kitguide

Jomsborg is a worldwide organization for the promotion of Viking warrior culture. For this reason the main priority within the Northstorm lies on the fighting ability in different fighting styles.

But this main priority is directly followed by the second priority: Authenticity!

There were in the past and will be in the future a lot of discussions about this word. And even if we as Jomsborg appreciate when members go deep in details to portray with a nearly hundred percent accurate display, we have to face the fact that in this matter for such a large organisation only basic requirements can be defined.

As the Jomsborg is historically a group of mercenaries, all representations throughout Europe are possible. Irish, anglosaxon, danish, swedish, rus, french...all this is possible. And even if the saga indicates an active Jomsviking-period within the 10th century, also the centuries before and after seem to be possible for Jomsborg-representations.

So every member is free to choose a representation of the European Dark Age, that suits him best.

So again there are many reasons, why only basic, general requirements can be defined.

As all Jomsborg-constitutions should not be a cage that causes limitations, this Kitguide should be seen as a way to help to ameliorate the equipment and to have a guideline for the lags for new member or to define their standards.

1.2 Introduction

The Jomsborg has an hierarchy that should be reflected in the Kitguide. Storm, Styrsmann and second in command should show their status through their equipment in and outside the battlefield. Every member should know, what he represents...which region, which rank and which period! Representing just a viking in viking-period is not enough! The equipment should reflect the special details of his representation so that the differences between the representations can be seen. Although the basic clothing is nearly the same for all social classes, the clothing worn must fit to the representation, since the quality of the equipment rises with the social status. The ornaments are detailed, the fabric woven of fine, etc. Serious anachronisms, such as "sword-but-no-shoes" or "low-rank-but-much-jewelry" must be avoided. The visible seams should be handstitched!

1.3 weapons and armour

Every dreng must wear correct and safe equipment! Weapons without scabbards and no sharp edges. NO sharps on a battlefield! Everybody in close combat needs gloves and armguards. A helmet or headprotection is recommended. Also additional Suspensoria for men and breastprotection for woman are recommended.

1.4 colours

All participators must be aware, that the shown colours on their clothings fit to the represented rank, status and family background. Lesser ranks have only access to pale

colours or noncoloured materials, whilst rich persons are able to wear full red, green or blue colours. Doesn't matter which rank, all equipment with fire red, pure white or purple must be avoided! If possible use plant dyed textiles!

1.4 Behaviour

On events a lot of media (TV, press and print media/books) could be present, but also later via facebook pictures or videos are shared. So for the image of Jomsborg, the behaviour and the used reproductions mustn't be shown in an anachronistic way. Modern haircuts, Make-up, modern jewellery or visible Piercings shouldn't be shown and must be covered. Female warriors should wear male clothing and behave as male.

2. Details for clothing

2.1. pouches: Simple round, oval pouch or "Pilgrim bags" made of soft leather or textile (like the ones found in Birka or the existing "kidney" bag) are ok. So as the popular shoulder bags if authentic for the period presented. Belt pouches should not be bigger than to hold flint, firestriker and other small personal items. Much practical as a carry bag is a shoulder bag. These are occupied by a large number of illustrations, and over one shoulder can, as the modern counterpart to be worn. They are also large enough to store a large number of personal items.

2.2. Jewellery: Amber is a popular and well-known semi-precious stone and there are finds from Scandinavia and England. With the increasing popularity more and more raw or rough amber is worn. This is wrong for this period. All from this period found was either too polished amber beads or pendants, and Polished.

If you are looking for alternatives may resort to pitch coal or carnelian which were very popular. From the 10th Century amber was in Viking circles out of Fashion.

Contrary to popular belief, did our early ancestors, no vast quantities of medieval jewelry.

They may have worn a pendant or a few beads of wood, bone, precious metal or glass.

Brooches, dress pins and rings were also frequently used. And the richer the person was, the larger the object could be. But please no early medieval Mister Ts should be seen...in no representation or period.

2.3. Photos

Everyone should have an eye on "civilians" with cameras. Avoids to be photographed while wearing inauthentic, blaming 21st Century equipment bears.

2.4 Under tunic

These should be made of linen, and cotton is not an option, cause only for the very, very rich. You may be slotted laterally and must have long sleeves, which are close to the forearms, but much of the upper arms. The undertunic can be color-contrasting and at the wrists, collar, bottom hem and the slots..

2.5. Tunic top

This was usually made of wool and had long sleeves, which closely on the forearms and upper arms are wide. You should either have a round neckline, or a more angular with a small slit. These can be decorated...

2.6. Decorations and trimmings

Modern reconstructions indicate that early in our medieval ancestors were exaggerated bravado and increase with increasing rank of the represented, the quantity and quality of decoration and jewelry. For sure they didn't wear the nicest and the richest decorations in

battle. But still also the battleclothings represented the rank of the person...and not only via armoury or weapons.

2.7 Belt and belt ends

A leather or cardweave belt completes the basic garment. He must be between 20 and 35 mm in width and 15-20 inches longer than your hips, as well as the authentic belt buckles and exhibit. Wide, extra long belt without a buckle or strap end should not be accepted.

2.8. Stitched turning shoes

The Jomsborg followed the fashion shoe section, which also prevailed in northern Europe seems to be purely superficial and of the late Roman period until 13 Century have not changed too much. The majority known from archaeology was of the type which is referred to as "a turning shoe" and had either a central upper seam or a flap-gag-combination. Barefoot doesn't fit to our representation as rich mercenary fighters.

2.9. Hats

Hats are not mandatory, but the worn must be authentic and represent a useful addition to the presentation.

3. Description of battle equipment

3.1 Arms

This is not the ultimate guide, but rather a superficial description of the equipment that is allowed to the Jomsborg on a battlefield. The reader should urgently the appropriate sources of treatment time to consult. A complete list of technical data on weapons will be submitted later.

3.2. Vambraces/lower armguards: If worn, they should be worn under the tunic top and the sleeves have to be wide enough to allow that.

3.3 Sax/Blades For the purpose of these guidelines were the Scram or Scramsax, sax and knife together under one category. This describes a single-edged weapon or tool, which was driven by free men. Normaly they were shorter than 35cm and can work for combat. Saxe with blades longer than 50cm, so called Langsaxes are primarily weapons. Worn regardless of the length, the weapon in a sheath or scabbard authentic. Sharp knives should NOT be worn on the battlefield, but the scabbard alone. Or leave both in your tent, cause an empty scabbard looks like you lost something.

3.4 Spears and Daneaxes.

These weapons with or without wings are very important in linefights to cause pression and damage to the opponent line. They should be used by experienced fighter. In an ideal world, probably all fighters had spears...

3.5. Gambeson and Aketon

The Gambeson is a heavily padded, one-piece garment that was worn alone, whereas the Aketon although being a similar garment, and which is worn under the chain mail. Even if there's not much historical evidence for these, their use is toleratet. The Aketon is driven by higher ranks and exclusively under the chainmail and should not be worn alone. He should have at least the length of the chainmail. It is mostly formed like a tunic. To keep the Aketon slightly but still protective, he should be lined with cotton batting. The outer layer should be made of linen or a linen-cotton blend fabric. The stitching should exist in the form of vertical or cross lines.

3.6 Helmets.

Although not all fighters have worn helmets they are mandatory for safety reasons. We have different types of helmets:

The first is the four-section, with clips and some that are riveted together from segments or one-piece conical helmet. This must be of steel and must not show any visible signs of turning. These helmets may also have a neck guard of chain.

The second form is a so called Gjermundbu Helmet including some variations. But try to respect the original form of this helmet with cateyelike faceprotection, 4 rounded straps and a chainmail.

The third party may even be worn as a helmet dome, with or without nasal, and he may then have no visible machine fabrication marks and be lined with fur or a heavy fabric in order to ensure additional protection.

The last option is a full leather helmet. This should consist of four parts, similar to the authentic metal versions exist, which are then secured with leather straps. The leather form should ultimately have a certain thickness of maybe 6mm. This version cannot be historically proofed.

Russian or Eastern helmets with horsehair tail, feathers and sleeves fall normally as four-section-helmets under categorie one.

3.7 Gloves and bracers.

These equipment items seemed to be worn, even if they can't be proofed historically. However, they are required for security reasons. Gloves should be made at least in the way leather welding gloves, but not in black, red or green and be reinforced with hardened leather on the hand and fingers.

Chain braid reinforcement is permitted but not desirable, since it does little to absorb the blow, but rather still be transported to the hand.

Bracers can be constructed in two ways. The first is a bar made of tempered, at least 6mm thick leather which is laced on the inside of the arm. The second is simply a piece of fabric or leather-covered plastic rain gutter. Other possibilities are conceivable, of course. In all cases, bracers cover the area from elbow to wrist. Tunics should be cut wide enough to hide among them the Bracers.

3.8 Shields

All those wishing to go into a melee should wear a shield. Bucklers are frowned upon and should only be worn by the poorest and the most conservative militants. In modern linefights with a big amount of longweapons big shields are recommended...also for runners!

All round shields should have a centrally positioned shield boss, which includes protection of the hand and handle. All shield types are either flat or slightly curved. As announced several times, a colour-code shows the rank of the drengir

3.9 Not acceptable items

This is not a absolute finished list of items, that are banned, just take them as examples:

- a. roman, celtic or high medieval helmets or weapons
- b. Larp or padded weapons
- c. Leather Lamellar-Armour in whatever construction, there are just founds for metal ones
- d. woolen chainmail
- e. special handycraft tools (hammer, forks, etc.) We are mercenaries...warriors not farmer
- f. two-bladed axes

- g. stick, cudgels or mace are banned for safety reasons from battlefields
- h. not authentic, modern footwear... except when it's allowed for safety reasons
- i. every sharp weapon on a battlefield
- j. armor made of horn, bone or wood if there's no historical evidence
- k. fur jackets or other Berserker Charakteristika
- l. shields that are not round, like oval or almond-shaped. No kites or high medieval shields
- m. Piercings should be removed and Tattoos should be covered or concealed with make-up.
- o. horned helmets are out of discussion
- p. glasses should be avoided if possible

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