

# French Farthingale Renaissance Dress



The French Farthingale Dress was worn primarily in Northern Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The skirt over the farthingale was quite wide and made from a continuous piece of fabric, which was tucked up to form a ruffle on top of the farthingale. The sleeves were cut wide at the top to off set the size of the skirt. The ruffle at the neck also added height and width to the upper body.



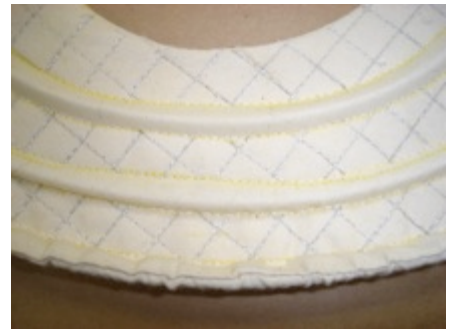
This pattern is based in the pattern from The Tudor Tailor, but altered to meet the needs of my 1/2 scale dress form

# French Farthingale

Cut out two sets of the pattern using muslin (for the top and the bottom) using a ¼" seam allowance

Cut out the pattern using a heavy batting or bottom weight material (used in the middle) with no seam allowance

1. Stitch the farthingale together on the outside and the inside edges, layering them Muslin/Muslin/Batting. Turn them so that the batting is in the middle and the two muslin fabrics are the top and the bottom.
2. On only one of the sides, turn the seam allowance under and stitch to close the end of the farthingale (this is at center back)
3. Stitch the boning oval lines into the farthingale. You will notice that one side of the center back is closed and the other side is open. The open side is where you will insert the boning.
4. Mark a grid work of lines that are ½" apart across the entire farthingale. Then quilt these lines, making sure that you do not stitch over the boning lines. This adds quite a lot of support for the farthingale.
5. The next step is to insert the boning, which are 3/8" wide cable ties and close the opening. The boning will stand up on edge as you insert it. Don't worry this also adds to the stability of the farthingale.
6. Grommets can be added to the back edges to close the farthingale with lacing, or ties used as closures.



# Bum Roll

Cut out 2 on the fold, each set using a double layer of muslin with a ¼" seam allowance. The muslin is doubled to add strength but a heavier, bottom weight fabric can be used instead of the muslin.

Cut 2 ties out of cording or twill tape each about 14" long.

1. Stitch the top and bottom of the bum roll together with the two ties enclosed at the ends/points, leaving about 3" open at the back for turning.
2. Turn the bum roll and stuff with fiber fill. Stuff as tightly as you can. Then close the back opening.





**This is how the French Farthingale sits on the Bum Roll. The back should be higher than the front. The point of the Stomacher will help to push the front down when fully dressed.**

## **Petticoat**

**I made a petticoat to cover the French Farthingale. I felt that it would help to cover the edges of the farthingale itself. I used the pattern for the skirt and cartridge pleated this onto the waistband using just muslin . See the directions for the French Farthingale skirt. I did not add the ruffle as described in the making of the Skirt.**

**Resources for making the French Farthingale and the Bum Roll:**

**Hunnisett, Jean, *Period Costume For Stage & Screen, Patterns for Women's Dress 1500-1800*, Studio City, CA: Players Press, Inc., 1991, p. 58-62.**

**Mikhaila, Ninya and Malcolm-Davies, Jane, *The Tudor Tailor; Reconstructing Sixteenth-Century Dress*, London: Batsford, 2006, p. 122-123.**

# Bodice

**Cut:**

**2 Fashion Fabric**

**2 Lining Fabric (can be the fashion fabric or some other light lining)**

**2 Inner lining Fabric (can be muslin)**

**Make sure to add 1/4" for the seam allowance.**

**Copy the marks for the boning on the inner lining only.**

**Join the lining pieces at the side seams. Then join the Inner lining pieces together at the side seams.**

**With the Wrong sides together, baste the lining and the inner lining pieces together around the outsides of the pieces.**

**Stitch in the boning casings leaving them open at the bottom for the insertion of the cable ties.**

**Insert 1/8" wide cable ties (these can be found in any hardware store) into the bone casings leaving about 3/8" at the bottom, which is enough room for the seam allowance, (you don't want to sew over the cable ties - you may break your needle)**

**Join the fashion fabric pieces together at the side seams.**

**With the Right sides together, stitch together the fashion fabric and the combination lining/inner lining so that the inner lining will be sandwiched between the fashion fabric and the lining fabrics when turned. Stitch only the bottom, front and the back neck section (leave the armscye and the shoulder seams free). Be careful not to sew over the cable ties. Push them up and away from the seam allowance when stitching the seams. Remember that there is only a 1/4" seam allowance.**



**Turn and iron the bodice and then join the shoulder seams together, machine stitching the fashion fabric side and hand stitching the lining together.**

**Press the shoulder seams and then baste around the armholes.**

# Sleeves

**Cut:**

**Larger pattern**

**2 Fashion Fabric**

**4 Inner lining Fabric (can be Muslin)**

**Smaller pattern**

**2 Lining Fabric (can be fashion fabric or some other light lining)**



**Make sure to add 1/4" seam allowance**

**Start with the inner lining pieces. Baste them together and then stitch around the boning lines leaving them open on one end for the insertion of the cable ties.**

**Stitch together the fashion fabric and inner lining pieces only at the sleeve head (right sides together), turn and press.**

**Baste together the sides and bottom of the pieces.**

**Stitch together the wrist edges of the lining and fashion fabric/inner lining pieces together (right sides together).**

**Insert the 1/8" cable ties into the bone casings, stitch down the inner arm seams of both the fashion fabric/inner lining and the lining pieces. Pull the inner lining up over the inner layer (which will now be sandwiched between the lining and the fashion fabric. The lining will be much smaller than the outer layer of the sleeve.**

**Cartridge pleat the top of the sleeve between the marks shown on the pattern (the lining should not be pleated) and hand stitch it to the armhole stitching both the top and the bottom of each pleat, so that it will stand out from the armhole. (See the resources list for information on cartridge pleating)**

**Hand stitch the sleeve lining up to the lining of the bodice.**

# Stomacher

**Cut :**

**2 Stomacher pieces from Fashion Fabric (or 1 from Fashion Fabric & 1 from Lining) adding ¼” seam allowance.**

**1 Stomacher piece from Inner Lining (Muslin) adding ¼” seam allowance.**



**1. Join the Inner Lining piece and the piece used for the Lining together with wrong sides together.**

**2. Stitch the Bone Casing lines into the Lining/Inner Lining, leaving the top open for the insertion of the cable ties.**

**3. Join the Fashion Fabric and the Lining/Inner Lining pieces together with right sides together, leaving about 2” open at the top for turning.**

**4. Turn the stomacher, insert the boning (cable ties) and hand stitch the top closed.**

**5. The stomacher is hand stitched to one side of the bodice front & closures are added to the other side.**

**6. When attached to the Bodice, the stomacher extends lower in the front.**

# Skirt

**Cut:**

**1 on the fold of fashion fabric for the front (following the curve at the top of the pattern)**

**1 on the fold of fashion fabric for the back (straight at the top)**

**If you want to line the skirt - cut one of each of these pieces from the lining fabric. Make sure that you add ¼” seam allowance.**

**Stitch the front and back pieces together at the side seams together.**

**Iron a stabilizer (Wigan works well) onto the**





top of the skirt,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " down from the top edge for support of the cartridge pleats.

Fold the top edge down  $\frac{3}{4}$ " over the stabilizer and baste down.

Cartridge pleat the top of the skirt, starting 1" on either side of the center point. Hand stitch the cartridge pleats to the waistband, stitching on both the top and bottom of each pleat.

A hem should be put into the skirt before the farthingale ruffle is pinned up.

Level the hem of the skirt and pin up the ruffle so that it rests on top of the French Farthingale. You want the ruffle to follow the line of the Farthingale, but still maintain the level hem. The tuck that you are taking will not be even all the way around the edge of the farthingale. Even out the ruffles as much as possible and hand stitch the farthingale ruffle in place using tacking stitches.



**Resources for making the French Farthingale Dress:**

Hunnisett, Jean, *Period Costume For Stage & Screen, Patterns for Women's Dress 1500-1800*, Studio City, CA: Players Press, Inc., 1991, p. 81-83.

Ingham, Rosemary and Covey, Liz, *The costume Technician's Handbook*, Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2003, p. 230-231 (for information on Cartridge pleating)

Mikhaila, Ninya and Malcolm-Davies, Jane, *The Tudor Tailor; Reconstructing Sixteenth-Century Dress*, London: Batsford, 2006, p. 125-131.

# Ruff

The ruff for the French farthingale dress is very simple.

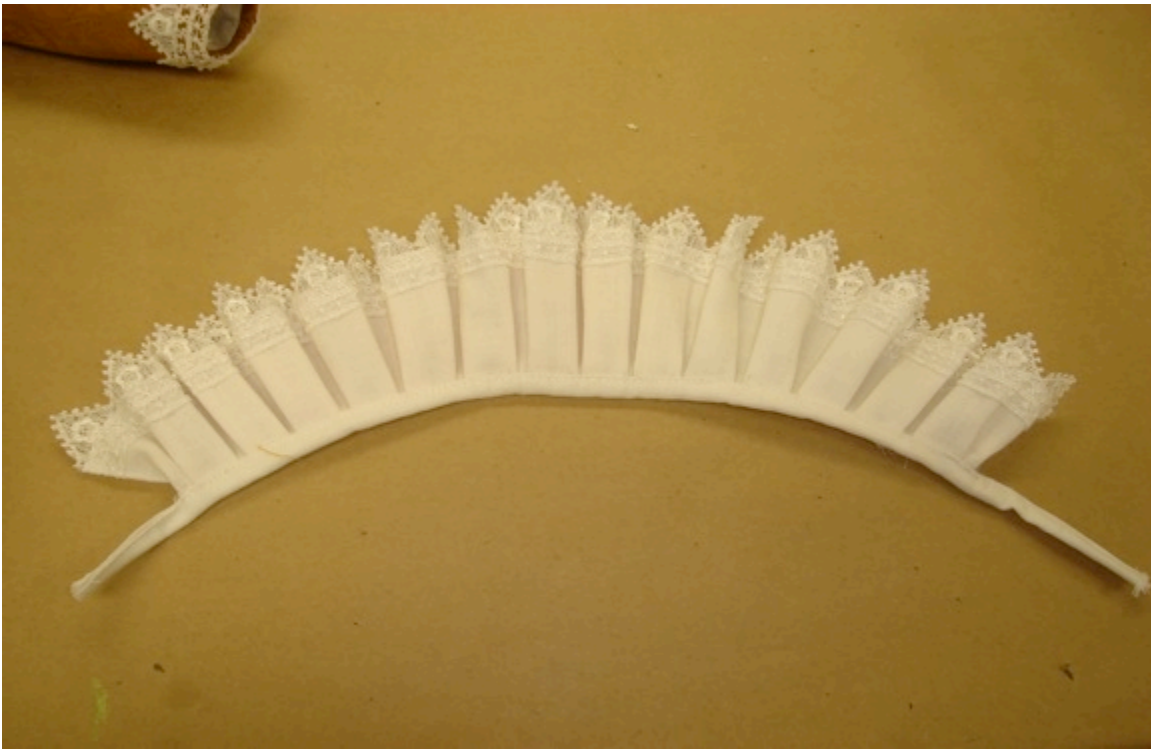
Cut out one piece from the pattern.

A stabilizer can be used to stiffen the fabric.

Fold along the fold line and add any lace at the line.

Pleat the lower edge at the lines marked and sew onto a strip of fabric that is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and 14 " long.

Turn as you could a waist band and hand stitch to the back.



Resources for making a ruff:

Hunnisett, Jean, *Period Costume For Stage & Screen, Patterns for Women's Dress 1500-1800*, Studio City, CA: Players Press, Inc., 1991, p. 84-89. (This book has the best explanation for making ruffs that I have found)