

Knitting/Nålbinding

Category Rules

This category encompasses non-woven work done with thread or yarn and at least one needle. Examples include stockings, hats, shirts, gloves, and carpets. Nålbinding is a single-needle knitting technique known in Norse, Anglo-Saxon, and Coptic cultures in period.

Use of period materials encouraged, but if the entrant cannot use period materials or methods for allergy or other medical reasons and documents those reasons in the documentation, he/she should not be penalized. If using a hand-spun, hand-dyed yarn, it does not need to be spun/dyed by the entrant.

Research and Documentation (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce an item that would not be accepted in period but bears some relationship to an authentic work or which might be useful within SCA culture. Entry is inconsistent to period, location, and persona (ex: some period elements, but doubtful authenticity of materials, colors, technique, design, or planned use).
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the intended time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed.

- 3 Use of **either** period material **or** methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the time period, location, culture, and economic class for which it was constructed without explanation of any substituted materials.
- 4 Use of materials and methods entirely documentable to the relevant period, or the use of modern materials in a way that does not detract from the appearance, feels appropriate to the persona for whom the item was constructed (ex. hand-spun wool, silk, or linen thread, hand-dyed thread by period process). Reasons for the substitution are explained in the documentation and do not detract from the appearance and appropriateness for the persona.

Scope (Score 0-6 points for each bullet item)

Rank the **ambition**, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements:

- Size of project.
- Variety of stitches.
- Charting (if chart done by another person and was used without variation, score zero).
- Type of material used.
- Complexity of design (stitch or color).
- Extent gone to ensure authenticity of patterns, coloration, techniques, tools, and materials used.

Skill (Score: 0-6 points for each bullet item)

How well is the entry made? Rank the **success** of the entry for each of the following elements.

- Evenness (especially in geometric design and/or repeating patterns).
- Neatness.
- Starts and ends.
- Tension.
- Uniformity (in density, stitch length, etc.).
- Finishing of piece.

Ingenuity (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entrant's period?

Judge's Observation (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.