



Women's 1490's Italian Renaissance Ensemble Part 3: the Giornea

By *Baroness Briana Etain MacKorkhill*

And for formal occasions, there was added a *giornea*. This layer was yet another opportunity to display the wealth and hence the power and personal honor of the wearer. As the demand for more intricate brocades increased, a new way to display these beautiful fabrics evolved into the *giornea* and it was not usually heavily decorated, a simple trim or embroidery was all, allowing the material itself to be the highlight.

They designed the new garment to be worn over the *gamurra*. It was narrow at the shoulders, and slightly shaped in the chest area but then flows out to the hem. With the addition of a gore that extends from below the underarm to the floor, it is almost semi-circular at the bottom. This gives the fullness at the sides without the added material to impede the wearer's ability to walk. Most portraits of the period show the V-neckline and the *gamurra* underneath.

You can choose to have it open in the front on so that the *gamurra* could be seen but it could be closed at the front and open at the sides using the same pattern. Both styles were equally popular. Often the two garment layers were of different fabrics, many times contrasting colors. Brocades of silk, linen, and wool are common. Cotton also takes its place as a commonly utilized material. Wool and linen were often used for the northern areas more frequently, southern city-states preferred to use silk, cotton and linen for their clothing

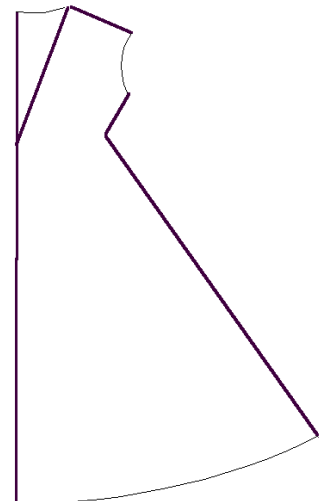
If you have already drafted a basic bodice, simply lay your pattern down on your paper. You will need to trace the armseyes and shoulder seam. Then drop in a shallow curve from inside shoulder center front.

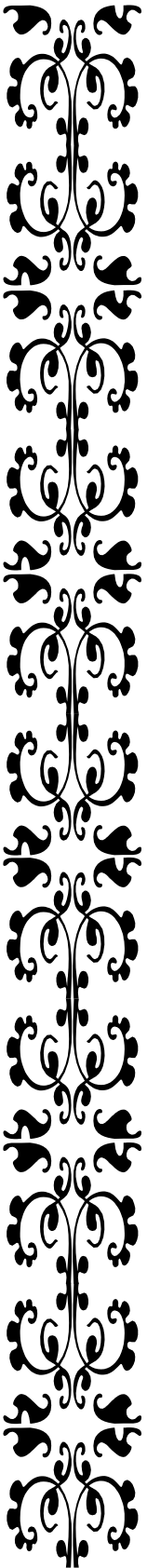
Next determine how low you want your V-neckline to be. Typically I like to have mine to come just below the breastbone. Mark that point on your pattern. Fold the pattern from the inside shoulder to that point. This should produce a nice diagonal line.

Mark your overall length (from your shoulder to the floor + 2 inches) on the center front.

Next trace the line of the side seam onto the pattern. From the bottom of the bodice side seam start a line out to the edge of your fabric at your length. (Measure from the bottom of your bodice to the floor + 2 inches)

Connect the front and side measurements with a semicircle (see pattern illustration).

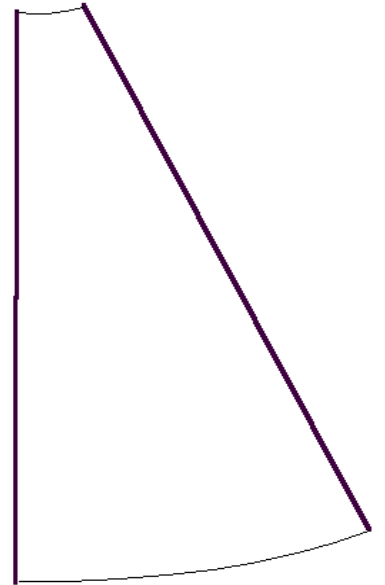




For the gore, simply measure from the underarm to the floor + 2 inches and mark that on your paper. Then measure over 2 inches and use the same measurement to the desired width of the gore at the bottom. Drop in the semicircle at the bottom. Cut 4 of these.

You will need 2 of the back main pieces, 2 of the front main pieces, and 4 of the gores. One for each edge of the main pieces. This is what gives the nice vertical folds so desired. Decide if you want it to close on the sides or front. If the sides are left open, I put 2 lacing holes just under the arm to keep the garment together. Sew up accordingly.

You will now need to hem the garment and if desired, place a simple trim or embroider a simple pattern...remember this layer is all about the richness of the fabric.



Once this is done, you now have a basic formal ensemble to wear. But wait it is not complete until you have added all the desired accessories. Accessories will be in the next and last part of this discussion.



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