



VER. 2025.03

Authenticity

Greaves

Authenticity rules - Greaves

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1. Definition and General Requirements

2. Definition and general requirements

Greaves is the term used to describe all lower leg protections.

1.1. Types of Greaves

1-Panel Greaves (Half-Greaves)

- Made of 1 plate of metal forged to the shape of the lower leg.
- Attached by a leather strap at the back of the calf.

2-Panel Greaves (Cased Greaves)

- Made of 2 plates of metal built to protect the lower leg at 360°.
- The plates are built with hinges and attached by a leather strap at the inner side of the lower leg.

3-Panel Greaves

- Made of 3 plates of metal attached with leather.

3/4 Greaves

- The front side of the lower leg is protected by a metal plate.
- The outside of the lower leg is protected by a half-plate of metal, leaving the inner side of the lower leg unprotected.

Splinted Greaves

- Metal plates riveted to a leather base.
- The plates are alternately outside and inside the leather.

Brigand Greaves

- Metal plates riveted to a fabric base.
- The plates are covered by the fabric.

Eastern Greaves

- Due to very few historical sources, it is allowed to use eastern stylization of European greaves.
- Allowed designs are displayed in the document "Eastern Armors."

1.2. General Requirements for All Greaves

- 1.2.1. **Historical Basis:** Must be based on historical sources.
- 1.2.2. **Anatomical Shape:** Must have the anatomical shape of the lower leg.
- 1.2.3. **Proportions:** Must reproduce the proportions based on historical sources.
- 1.2.4. **Malleolus Protection:** Must protect the malleolus bone.

2. One Panel Greaves (Half-Greaves)

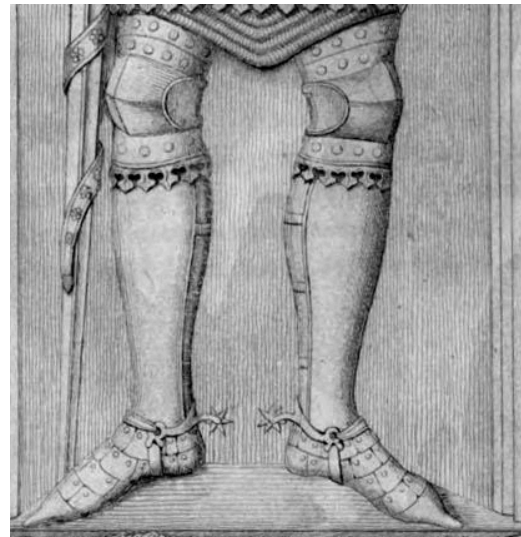
2.1. Historical Sources and Datation

- The 1-panel greave is the earliest form of lower leg protection available for knights, originating in the **early 14th century**.
 - **Approved** for 14th-century and Transitional armors.
 - **Denied** for 15th-century armor.
- **Historical References**
 - Crucifixion, Niederhaslach – 1360, France (A)
 - J. von Falkenstein – 1365, Germany (B)

(A)



(B)



2.2. Specific Requirements for One Panel Greaves (Half-Greaves)

- must conform to the general requirements outlined in article 3
- The entire front of the lower leg must be covered by the greaves

2.3. Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Picture from Forge of Svan ©



Picture from Age of Craft ©

2.4. Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Non-anatomic shape

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

3. Two panels-greaves (cased greaves)

3.1. Historical Sources and Datation

- 2-panel greaves, also known as **cased greaves**, were the most common form of lower leg protection from 1370 to 1600 and later. They provided superior protection for competitors by covering the entire lower leg from all sides.
- **Approved** for 14th-century, Transitional, and 15th-century armors.



Metropolitan Museum of Arts - 1450



Brescia - 1470/1480 - Ital

3.2. Specific Requirements

must conform to the general requirements outlined in article 3

Articulated Plates

Permitted:

- Articulated plates are allowed if worn with the **adequate armor style from the 15th century**.

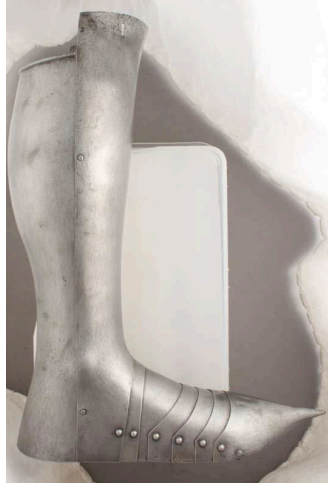
Denied:

- Articulated plates at the **bottom** or **top** of the greaves are **not allowed** for **14th-century** and **Transitional-style armors**.

3.3. Examples of Articulation

Fully enclosed greaves (with heel-protection) appear in the late 15th century only. They are **denied** for 14th century and Transitional style armors.

Examples of fully enclosed greaves:



3.4. Examples of **Approved** reproductions



3.5. Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Non-anatomic design Greaves with riveted ankle part (not based on historical sources)
Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

4. Three Panel Greaves

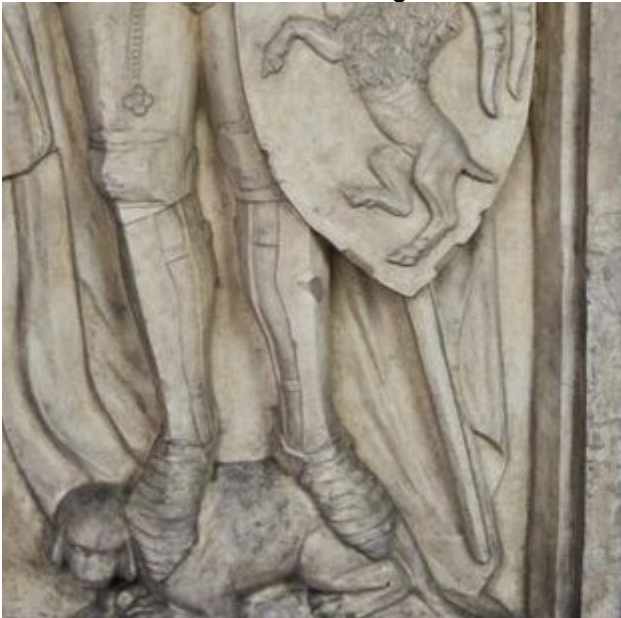
4.1. Historical Sources and Datation

3 panel greaves are mainly represented in **Germany** from **1360 to 1380**. They consist of one front panel and two side panels, articulated by leather straps.

- **Approved** for **14th-century** and **Transitional armors**.
- **Denied** for **15th-century armors**.

4.2. Historical Example:

- Sir Burchard von Steinberg – 1376, Germany (A)



4.3. Specific Requirements

- must conform to the general requirements article 3
- The side panels must protect both sides of the lower leg, including the malleolus bone.
- The panels can be articulated with leather straps or a piece of leather between each panel.
- It is **allowed** to extend the width of the side panels to cover the back of the calf, despite this not being based on historical proportions.
- It is **allowed** to use hinges instead of leather despite it not being documented by historical sources.

4.4. Examples of approved reproductions



Side panels that are based on historical proportion

Picture from Age of Craft ©



Wider size panels for safety

Picture from Medieval Extreme ©



Picture from The Medieval Things ©

4.5. Examples of **denied** reproductions



Side panels lack of shaping
Does not adequately protect the malleolus bone, rule 1.2.4

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

5. Three Quarters Greaves

5.1. Historical Sources and Datation

3/4 greaves first appeared in the **15th century**.

- **Approved** for **Transitional** and **15th-century** armors.
- **Denied** for **14th-century** armors.
- **Historical Example**
 - **Metropolitan Museum of Art** – 1550, Italy (A)

(A)



5.2. Specific Requirements

- must conform to the general requirements article 3.
- The side panel must cover at least half of the back of the calf.

5.3. Examples of **approved** reproductions



Picture from Age of Craft ©

5.4. Examples of **denied** reproductions



Picture from The Medieval Things ©

6. Splinted Greaves

6.1. Historical Sources and Datation

- **Introduction:** Splinted greaves are represented in Europe from 1350 to 1380. They consist of metal plates riveted to a leather base.
 - **Approved** for 14th-century and Transitional armor.
 - **Denied** for 15th-century armor
- **Historical Examples:**
- **Louis Thys** – 1365, Belgium (A)
 - **G. von Schwarzburg** – 1349, Germany (B)

(A)



(B)



6.2. Specific Requirements for Splinted Greaves

- must conform to the general requirements outlined in article 3.
- Must be made of metal plates with the following features:
 - Rectangular shape.
 - Firmly riveted to a leather base.
 - Plates must be riveted alternatively inside and outside the leather base.
- Plates must conform to the anatomical shape of the lower leg.

6.3. Examples of approved reproductions



Picture from Medieval Extreme ©

6.4. Examples of denied reproductions

Fantasy designs and Non-anatomical shape



7. Brigand Greaves

7.1. Historical Sources and Datation

Brigand greaves are represented in Europe from **1350 to 1380**. They consist of **metal plates riveted to a fabric base**.

- **Approved** for **14th-century** and **Transitional armors**.
- **Denied** for **15th-century armors**.

7.2. Specific Requirements for Brigand Greaves

- must conform to the general requirements outlined in section 1.3.
- Must be made of metal plates with the following features:
 - Rectangular shape.
 - Firmly riveted to a fabric base.
 - Plates must be riveted inside the fabric, not outside.
- Plates must conform to the anatomical shape of the lower leg.

7.3. Examples of **approved** reproductions



Picture from Forge of Svan ©

7.4. Examples of **denied** reproductions



Non-anatomical shape
Picture from The Medieval Things ©

8. Other denied items

8.1. 4 or 5 panels greaves

This type of greaves is not based on historical sources.

To get an approved piece, the 4th plate can be removed. The closest alternative would be the 3-panels greaves.

8.2. Examples of **denied** reproductions:



Picture from The Medieval Things ©

9. Change log

Below, we will keep track of all the changes made over the lifetime of this document. This way, all our members can see how the documents are changing over time.

March-2025 (V2025.03)

- **Formatting:** Overall grammar and formatting
- **add:** 8.1: the 4th plate can be removed
- **add:** 4.5: Side panels lack shaping, Does not adequately protect the malleolus bone, rule 1.2.
- **add:** 3.5: Greaves with riveted ankle part (not based on historical sources)

December-2024: -add

Document has been created