



VER. 2025.01

Authenticity

Helmet - Side-hinged Visored Bascinet

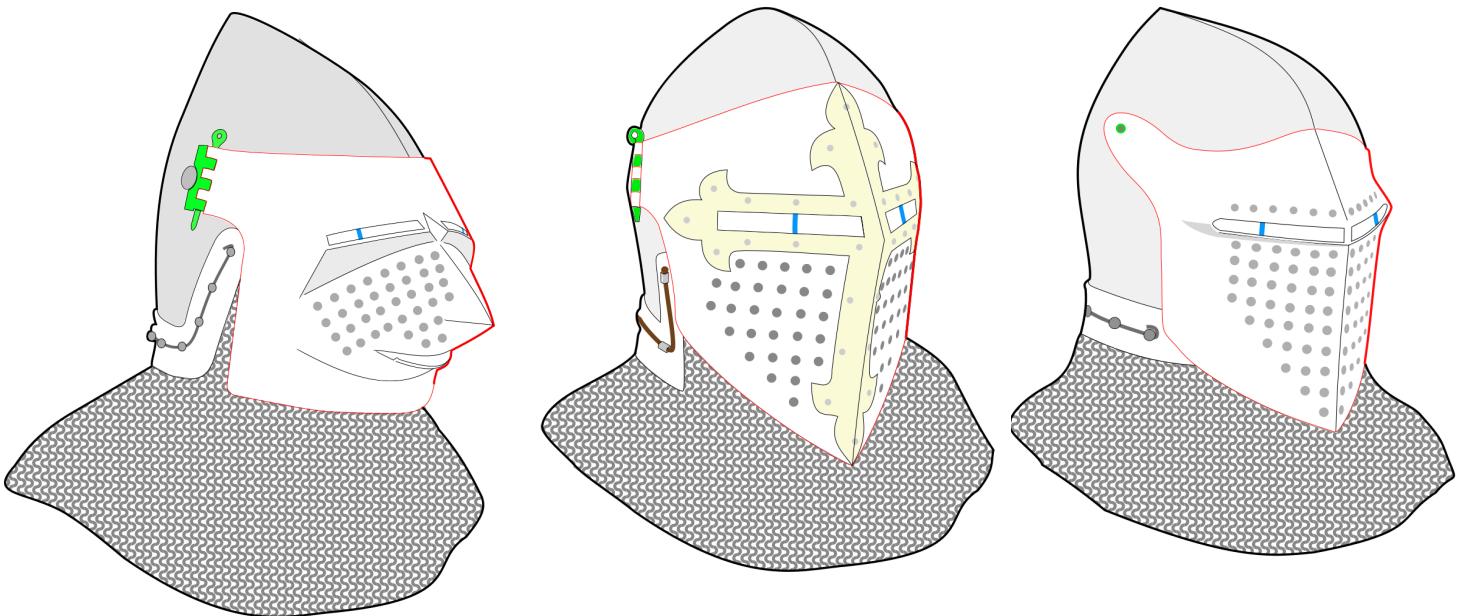
Helmet - Side-hinged Visored Bascinet

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1. Definition

- Side-hinged visored bascinets are helmets with movable visors attached to the dome with hinges at the temples, in contrast to center-mounted hinges on the forehead. This type of helmet was very popular in Western Europe from 1350 to 1450. Such helmets are designed to be worn as primary head protection, and the design of the visor is made to deflect strikes.
- Side-hinged visored bascinets use a solid metal visor to protect the face, attached on the sides by hinges.
- Side-hinged visored bascinets were used from the early 14th century to 1450 across all of Western Europe. The shape of the visor will evolve throughout time..



2. Historical Sources and Datation

2.1. Sugarloaf

- Sugarloaf helmets are one of the earliest types of side-hinged visored bascinets. It appears in the beginning of the 14th century and includes a solid chin protection, derived from Great Helms design.
- Sugarloaf helmets are **approved** for 14th-century armor.
- Sugarloaf helmets are **denied** for transitional armor and 15th-century armor.



BL Royal 6 E IX Address in verse to Robert of Anjou, King of Naples - 1335/1340 - Italy

2.2. Transitional Style Helmets

- In the middle of the 14th century, bascinets with a side-hinged visor began to be depicted in miniatures and art. They include a longer visor with no chin plate (such as sugarloaf) and will represent the majority of helmets until the middle of the 15th century.
- Transitional style helmets are **approved** for 14th-century and transitional armor.
- Transitional style helmets are **denied** for 15th-century armor.

2.2.1. Romance of Alexander, Spoleto, and Other Flat-faced Bascinet

These helmets are based on period art:



A



B



C



D



E

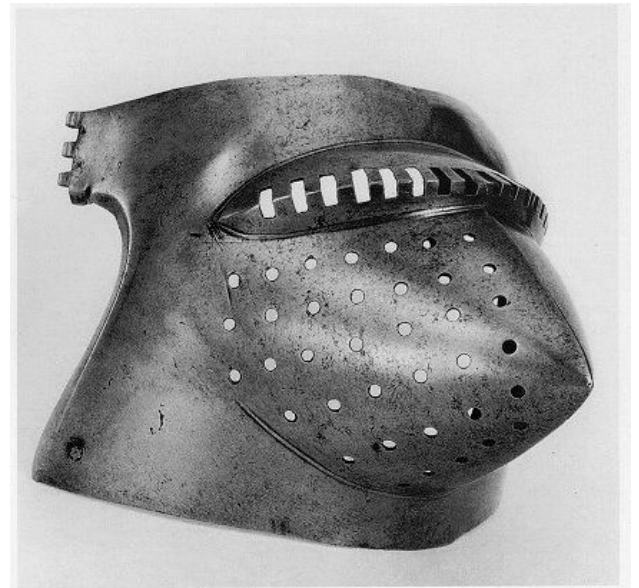
- A: Spoleto church - 1370/1380 - Italy
- B: Codex Balduini Trevirensis - 1341 - Germany
- C: Morgan Library - 1390-1399 - France
- D: Holkham Bible - 1327/1335 - England
- E: Romance of Alexander- 1338 - England

2.2.2. Houndskull/Hundsgugel Style Bascinet

These helmets are very common at this time. Many originals survived and are displayed in museums.



1400-1410 - Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien - Austria



1390-1410 - Churburg - Italy



Bodleian Library - 1400/1425 - England



Les Grandes Chroniques de France - 1400/1425 - France

2.3. 15th-century Style Helmets

At the edge of the 15th century, an evolution of previous bascinets was developed. The great bascinet encompasses an increased neck protection that makes it very safe. Some extant artifacts are displayed in museums.



A



B



C

A: Musée de l'Armée, Paris - 1400/1420 - France

B: Musées des Beaux Arts, Dijon - 1400/1420 - France

C: Doges Palace, Venice - 1380/1390 - Italy

3. Requirements

3.1. General Requirements

- Reproductions must closely resemble the appearance and proportions of a side-hinged bascinet source.
- Any metal part of the helmet must conform to the Armors and weapons Aesthetics and decorations document.
- Any textile or leather part of the helmet must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

3.2. Visor requirements

- The visor must not be too long or too short, it must conform to the proportions of historical sources.
- The hinges must be reproduced as per historical sources.
- It is permitted to weld the visor down. A welded visor must resemble a functional removable visor.
- It is permitted to add metal plates to protect the throat. Such a plate must be strong enough to endure full-contact fighting and must be concealed under the aventail.
- A leather strap can be used to secure the visor.
- Breath holes should be round and must not exceed a diameter of 10mm. Breath holes must not be so numerous that they compromise the helm's structural integrity. It is acceptable to mirror breath holes to both sides.
- Breath holes of other shapes must be documented by historical sources to be permitted.

3.3. Eye Slots

- Eye slots should resemble sources for the visor.
- Eye slots should not exceed 25mm tall to prevent any injury.
- Side-hinged visored bascinets with two (2) eye slots are permitted to add up to two (2) externally riveted eye bars or buhurt-optimized internal eye bars per eye slot.
- Side-hinged visored bascinets with a single eye slot are permitted to add up to five (5) buhurt-optimized eye bars: one (1) in the middle and two (2) on each side.



Example from Medieval Extreme ©

- Eye bars must conform to the Eye Bars rules document.

- It is recommended to use small ocular such as the following:



BL Royal 20 C VII
Chroniques de France ou de St Denis
1380/1400 - France

3.4. Aventail

- Side-hinged visored bascinets must be worn with chainmail aventails, fabric aventails, or scale aventails.
- Aventails must conform to the Aventails document.
- Aventails must be attached to the bascinet by a system of leather and vervelles, or sewn to the edges of the helmet.
- The aventail must be fastened down to the outer edge of a padded pelerine attached to the helmet liner.
- Protective plates covering the cervical spine should be hidden under the aventail. Supplemental hidden collar plates are permitted.

3.5. Others

- Side-hinged visored bascinets may be decorated in the spirit of medieval styles, such as an orle, torse, decorated aventails (with copper/brass chainmail rings), vervelle covers, coat of arms badges, etc.
- Such decoration must be made in coherence with historical sources.
- Using modern and/or offensive imagery and slogans is prohibited as part of decorations or heraldry.

4. Approved Reproductions

4.1. Sugarloaf



Picture from Age of Craft ©



Picture from Forge of Svan ©

4.2. Romance of Alexander, Spoleto, and Other Flat-faced Bascinetets



Pictures from Master Uley ©



Pictures from Medieval Extreme ©



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©



Picture from Zoom en Lice ©

4.3. Houndskull/Hundsgugel Style Bascinet



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©



Picture from Medieval Extreme ©

4.4. Great Bascinet



Picture from The Medieval Things ©

5. Denied Reproductions



Too many eye bars, not painted in black.
Eye slots are too tall, the safest option is to
choose a helmet with thinner eye slots as per
sources.



Additional plate must be concealed



Design of the bottom of the visor
does not reproduce historical
sources.

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

6. 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.

December-2024: **Add**
Document has been created