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# Authenticity

Great Helms

# Great Helms

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# 1. Definition

- Great Helms are a popular head defense formerly known as “Chapel de fer” from the 12th to the 14th centuries. Characterized by its cylindrical design and large size, it provided maximum protection for the face and neck. Often used as a secondary defense, it was worn over a maille coif, cervelliere, or bascinet.
- During the 14th century, great helms were used as a primary defense during battle. It was designed to be removed after the early engagements.
- In the late 14th and during the 15th century, Great Helms evolved to be suitable for tournaments only. Their latest version is called “Frogmouth” and is designed for jousting.
- Great Helms are **approved** for 14th century transitional armors, and 15th century armors.

## 2. Historical Sources and Datation



A



B



C



D



E



F

- A: Schweizerisches Landesmuseum - 1325/1350 - Switzerland
- B: Germanisches National Museum - 1350 - Germany
- C: Pembridge Helm, National Museum of Scotland - 1350/1375 - Scotland
- D: Gerhard von Rieneck, Ederbach - 1382 - Germany
- E: Sir Nicholas Hawkberk Helm - 1407 - England
- F: "Frogmouth" helmet, The Art Institute of Chicago - 1490

# 3. Requirements

## 3.1. General Requirements

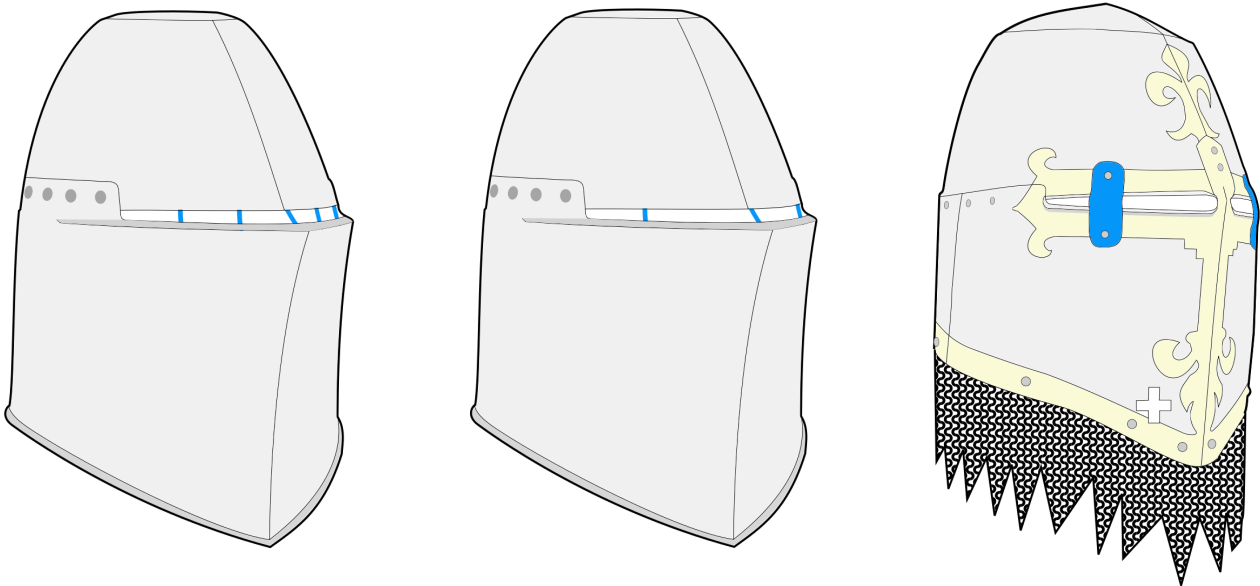
- Reproductions must closely resemble the appearance and proportions of the sources.
- Any metal part of the helmet must conform to the Armors and weapons Aesthetics and decorations document.
- Any textile or leather part of the helmet must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

## 3.2. Visor Requirements

- The visor must not be too long or too short, it must respect the proportions of historical sources.
- Breath holes should be round and consistently sized unless documented by the source. 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.

## 3.3. Eye Slots

- Eye slots should resemble sources for the visor.
- Eye slots should not exceed 25mm tall to prevent any injury.\
- Great helms 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.
- Great helms with a single eye slot are allowed to add up to five (5) buhurt-optimization eyebars: one (1) in the middle and two (2) on each side.
- It is not possible to mix externally riveted eyebars and buhurt-optimization eyebars on the same helmet. Only one type of eyebar is allowed.
- Eyebars must conform to the Eyebars Rules document.



### **3.4. Aventail**

- Great helms can be worn with chainmail or scale aventails. Fabric aventails are not allowed.
- Aventails must conform to the Aventail Rules.
- Great helms can not have a suspension system made of vervelles and leather. Chainmail should be affixed to the interior of the helmet.
- Protective plates covering the cervical spine must be hidden under the aventail.

### **3.5. Others**

- Great helms may be decorated in the spirit of medieval styles, such as an orle, torse, decorated aventails (with copper/brass chainmail rings) 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.

## 4. **Approved** reproductions



Picture from J. Gries ©



Picture from The Medieval Things ©

## 5. Denied reproductions



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



Design of the top of the helmet does not reproduce historical sources.

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©



## 6. Changelog

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