

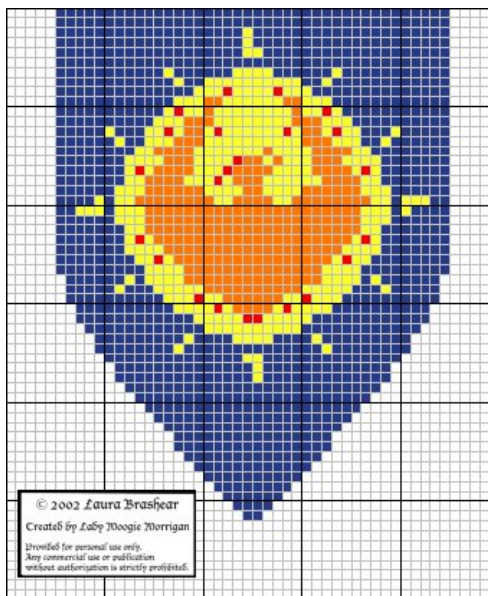


IN THE REIGN OF NOCTURNE THE FIRST, JUNE 2004

Heraldry: Neverwinter Cross-Stitch Pattern

Submitted by Sir Squeak Sai Yuk

This is a charted pattern of the Neverwinter heraldry done by Lady Moogie of the Emerald Hills. It requires only 4 colors (blue, yellow, orange and red) and is fairly easy to do. It make's a nice belt favor sized cross-stitch and is a good beginning cross-stitch project. Show your Neverwinter pride by wearing this beautiful belt favor. Go to <http://www.nondescript.net/embroiderweb/> for more of Moogie's patterns. The PC Stitch file for this chart is available online at the website. †



Words from the Prime Minister

By Glen, MoP

When I started the project of creating a newsletter, I didn't realize just how much work it would take. I figured, "Hey, get a few submissions, slap them together, and poof, I'm done and ready to move on to my next project." Not quite. A week and a half later, I'm just about done. I've learned a bit about using Microsoft Publisher in the interim. The biggest lesson being, "Make sure you know where your Quark Express disks are before you start a newsletter."

Now that the newsletter is done, I'm ready to begin next month's. If you have a story, fictional or factual, a tutorial, a pretty picture, or something else you'd like to submit, I'd be thrilled to have it. If you have an idea for a regular feature or improvements in the layout, please send them in. I can be reached at thescouts@yahoo.com.

In the future, you can look for some additional features in this newsletter. **Neverwinter Spotlight** will highlight citizens of various groups, one a month, to help us get to know our fellow Amtgarders. The column **Ask Lily** will provide people with answers to their questions. Each month we'll continue to highlight some upcoming event as well.

It's been a busy time as Prime Minster. I've recently completed the first audit of a group, doing my job to make sure that local funds and records are accurate and well-maintained. I've also been slogging my way through the new corpora, taking copious notes on changes I think are needed and wording that needs to be tightened. I'm heading down to Falling Fire in two days to snap some photographs for the Who's Who of Neverwinter.

I'm looking forward to the rest of my term. There are many things I hope to accomplish, and a lot of good I hope to do. For now, I wish you clear sunny days and dry battlefields. †

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Upcoming Event:

Winter's Edge Coronation

July 16-18, Golden Pond KY

www.nondescript.net/we_event/

Friday:

4pm Gate Opens

6pm Ditching

9pm Dinner

Saturday:

Fighting Classes
with Sir Sparhawk

8am- 9:30am Stretching/Footwork

9:30am- 10:30am Single Sword

10:30am- 11:30am Applications

11:30am- 12pm Q&A

Fighting Classes
with Dame Squeak

1pm-3pm Women's Fighting

Arts & Sci Classes

8am- 3pm TBA

Quest

2pm Monsters' Meeting

3pm Orc Horde Attacks!

6pm Feast

8pm Court¹

10pm Sir Michael HoG's Tourney

Fu class

Sunday:

10am Weapon making workshop

w/the champion of WE

2pm Cleanup and Departure.

¹W.E. Monarchs meeting after court

Next Month:

- Update on the 6.1 Rules
- Article: What is the IRCA?
- Column: Ask Lily
- News from the Outlands

A Beginner's Guide To Armouring

By Blackrose of Falling Fire

Part I: An Introduction, Some Terms & Gathering Bare Bones Supplies

Introduction

Recently, I was asked to write an article for the Kingdom of Neverwinter's newsletter on the subject of armouring. I steered myself and set out to write up a short and simple collection of techniques. As I was doing this, questions came to light on many mailing lists and at events that made me realize that spouting mere technique just would not do. There are far too many misconceptions confusing the tools one needs to armour with the tools one may want for armouring, confusing basic technique with advanced styles, and just plain confusing the type and role of various armours. Realizing the amount of knowledge at my disposal that I take for granted, I sat down and began outlining a series on the subject with a renewed interest. I plan for this series to get armourers started and nurse that beginning through to intermediate and advanced techniques. So with little further ado, I present the first of what I hope to be many (possibly open ended, as even the "experts" are learning new things all the time) informative articles on getting started in armouring.

A brief disclaimer- No one knows everything there is to know about armouring (no matter what their ego tells them): this series is based on my historical study and experience. So take what you read with a bit of salt. Also know that while armouring is a relatively safe hobby, there are hazards such as metal slivers, smashed fingers, burns, and a variety of other ailments. Always take great care and keep a first aid kit handy.

Some Common Terms of Note

Anytime I become aware of a common (to armouring) term that needs to be explained or just clarified I'll be including a "Terms of Note" section. This helps avoid confusion caused by terms I would otherwise take for granted.

- Armour - The commonly accepted spelling among modern armourers. This is to distinguish it from modern armored infantry (tanks, etc), mainly in online searches.
- ASO - Short for Anvil Shaped Object, this is a common term for anything that will suffice in place of a true anvil.

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News From The

Outlands

There is a great deal more to Amtgard than simply the Kingdom of Neverwinter or a person's own local park. Amtgard is an international game, with people stretching from California to Florida and across the Ocean to Europe and even the confrontation line of South Korea.

Groups overseas wax and wane, mostly in response to the deployment of military personnel, who take the game with them wherever they go. The focus of this column will be the stable lands of Amtgard, which means North America. We'll take a look at the news happening in other parts of Amtgard on our continent.

A good starting point is learning which kingdoms are where. The map below was originally created by Randall of E-Samurai fame, and I've cheerfully stolen it from him. The map shows not only core groups, but also sponsored provinces and colonies. Neverwinter, for example, only extends as far north as southern Georgia, but sponsors Winter's Edge in the Tennessee area. The Burning Lands is the original Kingdom of Amtgard, from far back in the 80's when Amtgard began. The Rising winds is the newest Amtgard kingdom, being only a few years old.



Neverwinter prohibits some of the more aggressive fighting that is the norm in the West.

Next month we'll take a look at what is news in the other kingdoms. It might be a Prime Minister caught embezzling funds, it could be the heart-warming story of an Amtgard icon getting his fourth knight's belt. We'll have to wait and see what the next month holds. †

Dear Lily

By Dame Lily Sumac

In this space in future issues, you will find a column written by Dame Lily in answer to questions asked of her. If you'd like to ask Dame Lily's advice on sewing, crafting, Amtgard, or life in general, write her at:

LilySumac@yahoo.com

The Book of Stick

From the Holy Writings of the Faithful.

All was darkness. Chaos covered the land, and Standards were Ignored. I committed Great Crimes against Safety. One day, I dared to follow the Don of Death and put Quikcrete in my sword. Then the Great Lord came to me in smoke and flame and He spake thusly,

"Thou shalt not put Quikcrete in thy weapons as Quikcrete is foul in the eyes of the Lord."

And lo, I was awe struck, but in my foolishness I questioned the Lord,

"Why shall I forsake Quikcrete, Lord? Is it not heavy? Does it not counter the weight of PVC? Are my weapons not safe?"

The Lord was wroth with mine impertinence. The sky thundered and the wind howled. I shrank back upon myself. Yet still I dared gaze upon the Lord. His visage was a terror to behold, and He spake unto me again.

"Thou darest question the Lord thy God? He who led thee out of durance vile in the Burning Lands? For your insolence, I have Caused Stick To Be. Lo, shall It spread Terror and Suffering across the Face of the Earth. The heathen shall cry out in fear, and even the Faithful shall cower before It."

Then a great wailing arose in the West, for Stick had come into being. I did not know what manner of nightmarish man would dare to wield such an abomination, but such a fiend would surely be a Tool of Divine Retribution. I trembled at Its coming. I knew then I had sinned most egregiously against the Lord my God. I cried out,

"Lord, punish not this wretch! I am unworthy of Thy wrath, a mere worm beneath Thy Feet. Forgive me, Dread God!"

The Lord looked upon me then not with pity but with eyes of flame. His voice mastered the thunder and drowned the wailing of lost souls in the West,

"I shall scourge thee. I shall scourge thee not just for thine own wickedness, but for the wickedness of all who doubt. Even the Faithful are not without wickedness, and they shall be Purified while the Heathen are Broken. Yet Mine Mercy shall remain. I shall give Mater Stridam Dominion over Stick. Only she shall turn Its wrath aside. When she looses It, Stick shall lay Waste, and when she Binds Stick, It shall lie Harmless."

I knew not this name, yet I knew Hope. Repenting, I went forth to Ditch and sin no more. †

Personals: SDM seeks SWP for dinner and fun

Single Dragon Male seeks Single White Princess for romantic dinner. Must be of royal decent to truly appreciate culinary flavors. Preference for unblemished maidens of virtue. Please no polyester the burning stink is terrible.

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- Aketon, Gambeson, and Arming Coat – Forms of padding which are also used as a foundation to attach plate armour.
- Maille – The proper term for “chainmail”.
- Dishing Stump – A stump or log, often of oak, with a rounded depression used to curve and bowl metal. A dishing stump is usually over 1-½ feet in diameter and 2 - 3 feet tall.
- Transitional – Armour from the “Transitional” period (Late 13th through early 15th centuries). Its mixture of chain, leather, and plate elements often characterizes it. This is the most common type of armour in film and fantasy since it can be mixed & matched relatively easily and still produces an attractive kit.
- Kit or Harness – A suit of armour.

Gathering Supplies

The most popular misconceptions about armouring come in the form of supplies. Many would-be armourers have come to me asking where I got my forge or my anvil on little to no income. The easy answer is “I didn’t”. As tools they’re just not a necessity. When I began armouring, I obtained all the bare bones tools to work leather, maille and plate for nearly nothing. The best place to start is with these minimums. I’ll be listing them from chain, to leather, and then to plate since that eliminates most crossovers. These are listed in the following format:

What: What you need

Why: Why you need it

Where: How you can get it cheaply and what to look for when you find it.

Maille

What: Small Pliers

Why: To close rings.

Where: Often times it is easy to find cast off needle-nose and other small pliers in clearance bins, at yard sales, or just cast off due to damaged grips (replace with grip tape) or damaged springs (nice to have, but not a necessity)

What: Small Bolt Cutters

Why: To cut rings from coils and to trim rivets for leather and plate

Where: The only thing I needed to purchase in the beginning, a good set of 8” Task Force brand bolt cutters can be had for \$5.99 from Lowes.

What: Winding Rod

Why: To make coils from your wire

Where: A winding rod can be any round object that won’t cave when you wrap the wire that has the diameter you want from your rings. I started with chunk of cast off craft dowel and later moved to steel rods when I had a few spare dollars.

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What: Wire

Why: If this isn't obvious, stop reading (just kidding)

Where: A variety of wires can be had at many differing prices, so shop around. Avoid most craft wires for armouring. Thick copper makes nice trim and can be salvaged from industrial wiring.

Leather

What: Utility (Razor) Knife

Why: Cheap way to cut leather in the beginning.

Where: Often times many garage hobbyist types will have lost more of these in nooks and crannies than they know of, help them clean the garage and ask if you can have one (or more, I have one for each of my 5 Amtgard toolboxes and paid for none of them). Usually they're the replaceable blade kind that may have a dull blade. The blades can be turned around and often spares are contained in the handle.

What: Dry Ball Point Pen

Why: Marking the leather without actually laying ink down. This creates a faint dent that will wear away. They can also be used as decorating styluses if you press hard enough on wet leather. Different brands and sizes make different marks.

Where: School teachers, secretaries, and the desk at home.

What: Ball Peen Hammer

Why: Peening rivets in both leather and plate. It is also used for dishing plate. Ball Peens have a variety of other uses in armouring and some can be reshaped if you have access to a grinder.

Where: Again yard sales and clearance bins are a good bet. Some people will toss a hammer out due to a cracked handle. Cracked handles are easily fixed with tape or replaced so ask if you can have it. Look for a smooth ball and a relatively smooth face, or at least be willing to sand away pitting, if any, from rust.

What: Leather Punch

Why: Making holes for rivets and buckles

Where: Small multi punch sets can be had new for under \$8. This is one of the few tools that should always be purchased new unless your source is very reliable.

What: An ASO

Why: Used as a surface for setting rivets and bending and straightening metal plates

Where: Most any heavy piece of metal can do for an ASO. Common ASOs are short sections of railroad track or I-beam. A quick call to a freight yard might point you in the right direction. A trip to the scrap yard may yield either a railroad section or at least an I-beam. If you have a railroad museum nearby they can usually help you find a track for any small donation you can spare. If all else fails, small anvils suitable for leatherwork and light metalwork can be found online cheaply (I recently found a 15lb for \$10). If you buy one, try to find something with at least a small horn (for setting rivets inside of cylinders & such) and some kind of hardie hole (a square hole for holding stakes and such).

Departure

By Baron Andrew MacAulay

Their conversation was pleasant. Both were calm despite the circumstance. Actually, joy developed from the conversation. At last, all the answers were revealed. To know what was to come brought peace as the dark figure lifted the soul from the flesh and ascended to another plain. †

What: Buckles

Why: For strapping your armour

Where: These range from cheap little bar buckles to monstrously expensive saddle tack. Often great buckles (and strap stock) can be had from discarded belts. Also, cheap ugly belts with nice buckles can be found at flea markets, yard sales, or Goodwill. I will also be discussing how to make your own buckles from heavy gauge wire and light bar stock in future articles.

What: Rivets

Why: Binding it together

Where: Galvanized roofing nails make good, cheap, and rust resistant rivets in a pinch and are great for binding steel on steel. Make sure when using nails to cut some thin metal for washers or your rivets will tear out. Copper belt rivets will be sold at any leather store and are structurally sound for leather on leather or leather on steel attachments. Avoid "rapid" rivets and other types of pop rivets as they have a tendency to tear out or shear loose at all the wrong times.

What: Leather

Why: Your material of choice here

Where: Actually finding leather is tricky in some places. If you have a leather shop, ask if they have a scrap bin and where it is. Never be afraid to get to know the staff and ask about sales. I once got over 60\$ of usable leather for \$30 because of a scrap sale. Another place to look is shoe and boot repair places. Sometimes they have offcuts they'll be willing to sell cheaply just to get rid of it. For armouring, stick with vegetable tan (8 - 10 oz is good) for the body and either thinner vegetable tan or oil tan for straps

Plate

What: All of the Above

Why: Plate is an all-inclusive form of armour and will use all the tools listed for leather as well as using chain to fill in areas on transitional harnesses and complete the "look".

Where: As above

What: A Dishing Stump

Why: To bowl metal to various depths for rounded parts.

Where: Call a tree service and ask about obtaining a cut log or find anyone who has recently felled a tree. Then carve a bowl into it. I use the drill and chisel method (drill holes in concentric circles and

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chisel out the material). Try to obtain a log at least a foot in diameter if possible. A good bowl size is about 4" diameter and 1" - 1.25" deep

What: A Drill & Bits

Why: To make rivet holes

Where: Borrow, or purchase from a flea market/yard sale. Buy at least one brand new bit in the diameter of your rivets. Sharp bits are essential to drilling metal. A good cutting fluid will prolong the life of your bits.

What: Sheet Metal Shears or alternately a Jig Saw

Why: To cut your patterns

Where: Again, borrowing is an option here. Make sure that your hand shears are rated for your metal or that you have a saw blade rated for metal. Remember that these are the bare bones: other metal cutting alternatives will be covered in future articles.

What: Sharpie Markers

Why: Marking your patterns on metal

Where: Offices and schools often order far more than they need, just ask if you can have a few.

What: A Metal File

Why: To take the bite out of edges

Where: Old files can be cheap, and aren't always worn, just dirty. Carry a wire brush to flea markets and check a file before buying.

What: Metal

Why: Obvious

Where: Good cheap metal can be had in unlikely places. Old (very old) computer cases were made of steel between 18 and 16 gauge and computer repair shops will often toss them out because it's easier than scrapping them. Scrap yards will sometimes have leftover sheet from city projects (it goes quickly, so it's a rare find). If you're into working with aluminum, a call to the Department of Transportation or other regulatory body might yield a reasonable stock of legal decommissioned street signs cheaply.

And that's the bare minimum for the different types of armour. Next article I'll be covering basic leather technique and some intermediate tools for the leather oriented armourer. If you have any questions or comments on this article, or ideas for future articles, feel free to e-mail me at blackrosebrp@hotmail.com. †

Kingdom Finances

Beginning Balance: \$2688.40

Changes in 5/2004

Income:

Coronation Profit: \$9.00

Insurance Fees for Coronation: \$132.00

Expenses:

None.

Current Balance: \$2829.40

