

# Adornments Commissions

**Materials and Methods:** I prefer to work in natural fibers, especially silk, linen, and high-quality cottons, though I will sew most fabrics. The bulk of the items you see in my galleries are silk shantung, taffeta and dupioni or cotton reproduction prints, solids, and velveteens. I use only the highest quality threads and needles in my sewing machine.

I hoard vintage and antique glass buttons, lace, and sewing notions and have a small stock available for embellishing and finishing work on commissions. Modern glass and natural pearls, glass and stone beads, brass stampings, and embroidery are also available options for your commission.

My pieces are constructed using a mixture of hand and machine stitching. When it's a concern to the customer, I will do items entirely by hand (though the price, and the timeline will be affected). Generally I prefer to offer two options: modern (standard machine stitching interior and exterior, hand-stitching where it's more convenient for me), and visually historical (no visible machine stitching--hems and topstitching by hand, interior seams and lining by machine).

I sew on a refurbished 1880s Singer treadle sewing machine or on my Husqvarna Viking Designer SE, depending on my mood and the project. My serger is currently under the weather (which is fine because we don't get along well at all—it knows it's getting replaced by a Viking Huskylock soon).

*Human commissions:* For mid-late nineteenth century designs, I will gladly use the treadle machine exclusively for accuracy. Finishing on historical designs in human sizes is accurate (flatlining, pinking). Buttonholes can be applied by hand or machine, depending on customer preferences.

*Doll commissions:* I prefer to line doll outfits in lightweight cotton or silk to prevent staining. Things that are best unlined are finished with french seaming, hand-rolled edges, machine-applied scallops, or the very-occasional machine overcast/drop of fray check.

Whenever possible, I like to create items by sticking to period patterns and methods, and I have reprinted period manuals in my collection to that end. I also love to tackle a new era or shape (working on regency right now), or do unique designs inspired by historical ones, so don't be afraid to ask.

*Doll commissions:* My pieces are generally at least unique--I use, usually, reprints of period magazine pattern layouts and tailoring manuals, just as with full-sized items. So, a garment cannot be strictly OOAK. I recycle the patterns I modify from period sources to save time (and keep costs lower), but I will not copy a previous doll commission exactly for another customer. I currently own the following dolls: Brenda Starr, FM Elizabeth Taylor and Lucille Ball, AD Violet Waters and Trent Osborn, Barbie (old and new body styles), Clea Bella basic ballet foot, Elfdoll BJD LB girl and a DIM Minimee boy. You

can check here for measurements to compare them to your own dolls. I have had some success sewing simple and minimally-tailored items for other dolls with just a list of measurements--but I would prefer to do closely fitted items with a tangible form. If you can part with your doll for the time required or arrange for some substitute (making a duct tape dummy, for instance), that's best.

**Prices and payment:** vary based on the amount of detail and the scope of the commission. I do give discounts to living history sites and their volunteers/employees, and to fellow members of the SCA on human-sized commissions, and I'd be happy to consider doing the same for doll-scale replicas for interpretive purposes if ever asked to take on such a project.

I accept PayPal, money orders, and personal checks. Shipping by USPS Priority Mail with delivery confirmation is always included in the price quotes I give. I cannot be held responsible for items once they leave my possession, though, and strongly recommend insurance (usually an extra buck or two).

**A note on timing:** I am a full-time graduate student with a part time job, so you cannot expect immediate turn-around on your commission, though I will move commissions ahead of my personal projects. Simple pieces may take a week or two, more complex commissions up to two months, depending on how my academic schedule is looking--I'll provide you with a more accurate estimate when we discuss your project.

**Contract:** I require a paper contract for commissions, regardless of scale. The contract outlines the scope of the commission, details the items included and the timeline, and specifies payment and delivery deadlines. This protects me from indecisive clients, misunderstandings about color/shape/size/trim, and allows me to sell abandoned commissions within a reasonable time period. More importantly, it also protects customers. I am not flaky, and prefer to finish things before deadlines rather than by deadlines, but I've seen some horror stories and I want clients to feel secure with their purchases--you will know exactly what you'll get, when to expect shipment, and you'll know that you have recourse in the unlikely event that something goes wrong.

*Full-sized commissions:* I require a 25% non-refundable deposit at contract signing. Fabric for your project will not be purchased without this deposit. The remaining balance is due before items are shipped (or upon delivery for local clients).

*Doll commissions:* A 20% deposit is required before I'll purchase fabric for a commission. Deposits on doll commissions are refundable if cancelled before fabric has been purchased. I will send photos of completed projects before shipping. If you are unhappy with the item(s) before shipping, you may choose not to pay the remaining balance and accept a refund of your deposit, at which point I will offer the item for sale to others as an abandoned commission. If the item sells, your deposit will be returned to you. 3 weeks will be allowed for final approval once preview images have been sent—commissions which are not approved and paid in full within three weeks of completion will be considered abandoned and sold as Ooak items. Final payment and acceptance of the shipment indicates your approval of the

commission visually, and refunds/alterations will only be given if there is a severe flaw in the fit or construction of doll commissions.