

Gordon's Womens Kit List

Modified April 2018 by
Karen Poffley

This kit list is also published on the [Members Area](#) of the Scots Brigade website
www.skscotsbrigade.org.uk - General/Kitlists/Gordon's Password: Whisky [no e]

Colonel William Gordon's Regiment of Foote was a regular highland unit that fought for the Royalist cause in Scotland between 1639 and 1646. Unlike Gordon's men, women only have one kit type. When the Regiment is fighting at SK events in England where no Scots were present, the Arisaid may be removed and headwear altered to present a more English/European persona. If you are not on the field, you may however continue to wear your Scots kit should you wish.

The most important bit: We set up Gordon's to re-enact the mid seventeenth century as authentically as we possibly can. We do realise however that this is not for everyone. However if you do wish to join the Regiment, please adhere to these guidelines. If in doubt, or if you need advice, please ask.

There are also previously-published articles on Scots Women's clothing available to view under the heading 'Useful Articles' within the Gordon's Members area of the Scots Brigade website.



GENERAL

- As the men are expected to wear full kit, heat is no excuse for women not to be correctly dressed.
- Absolutely no makeup (this includes mascara), piercings or jewellery (including watches).
- If you have to wear glasses, then either use contact lenses (preferred) or invest in some period glasses.
- Clothing should be plain - no lace or embroidery on clothing unless playing nobility and the rest of your kit is very high status.
- Off-white linen is encouraged – absolutely no cotton.
- All clothing should be muted in colour – brown, green, grey etc.

KIT ITEMS Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be acquired within the first 3 months of joining

COST Costs vary dependant upon supplier so the ones quoted below are intended as a guideline only.

KIT ITEMS	COST
HEADWEAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bare heads in public are only permitted in the following circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are a child, 2. You are an unmarried woman (when Scots only, not when in English guise) 3. You are a woman of ill repute. • Linen coifs* to be worn by all women at all times unless wearing a kersch or going bareheaded. Hair should be tucked in and completely covered up. • A kersch is an authentic alternative to the coif. [A piece of white/off-white linen tied around the head leaving a loose triangle of material exposed at the back of the head]. • Statute-type woollen hat maybe worn as long as worn over a coif - This must be worn forward on the head. NOTE: There is no known evidence to support a <i>Highland</i> woman wearing a statute hat. Query over validity for <i>Lowland</i> portrayal so probably best to avoid. Acceptable for English kit but definitely with no tartan material. • Black felt hats were worn but were not that common. • Absolutely no Scots bonnets when dressed as a woman (beer tent is acceptable but not in public please). • Period straw hats are acceptable, as long as worn over a linen coif. • Any modern-day hairstyles or hair accessories (such as hairbands) should be covered up 	<p>N/A or price of your reputation! Young maidens may wear red ribbons in their hair</p> <p>from £15</p> <p>from £20</p> <p>from £25</p> <p>from £15-35</p> <p>Please speak to Globags</p> <p>from £15</p> <p>Use a scrap of linen or braid to tie off long hair</p>
UNDER GARMENTS*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linen shifts – worn long and always past the elbows (Shifts were often interchangeable with men's shirts). Off-white colour. 	from £20
STAYS (CORSET)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worn as an undergarment – not on display (it would be like walking about in your bra!). • Made with Linen and stiffened. 	£60-80

A full list of recommended suppliers is posted on the Members Area. If in doubt, ask!
And remember, it costs no more to get it right, than it does to get it hideously wrong, so please make the effort.

Gordon's Womens Kit List

This kit list is also published on the [Members Area](#) of the Scots Brigade website
www.skscotsbrigade.org.uk - General/Kitlists/Gordon's Password: Whisky [no e]

KIT ITEMS	COST
<p>SKIRTS*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full skirts – no split fronts please. • Can either be wool or linen. • Minimum of one skirt. Can be layered up if preferred/in cold weather 	<p><i>Costs vary dependant upon supplier so the ones quoted below are intended as a guideline only.</i></p> <p>From £15 Patterns available to DIY</p>
<p>BODICE*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wool or heavy linen. • Early style ladies jackets with close fitting sleeves are more authentic for the thirty years war but a tabbed fuller sleeved bodice is acceptable • Should be worn over stays - preferably with sleeves. • Front fastening. • The silk type sleeveless style corsets are not authentic so please do not wear them on the parade if at all possible. • All in one bodice with split front skirts are also not authentic so do not wear them either – it's an SKism! 	<p>From £25 for sleeveless, around £35 with sleeves. Second-hand clothing cheaper. Patterns available to DIY.</p>
<p>HOSE*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either knitted or cut from woollen cloth. • Hold up with dull thin woollen braid. 	<p>from £10. Woollen braids from £8</p>
<p>FOOTWEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th century style latchet* shoes. Brown preferred as black was posher. Open or closed latches acceptable. • Cuarans may be worn as alternative to latches as part of highland dress. Brown preferred. • No desert boots 	<p>from £45. Tod Booth of Foxblade Trading offers discount to fellow Gordon's members and can handmake to order.</p>
<p>ARISAID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the addition of the arisaid in particular that signals a woman to be a Scot. The Irish did also wear plaid/arisaid but the pattern is subtly different to Scots. • Wool cloth in muted colouring – women's plaid usually had larger squares than the men's. Check before buying plaid cloth! • Material is to be the same quality expected of men's plaid. Minimum of 3yds/m required. • May be worn up over shoulders/head akin to a cloak. <p><u>NOTE 1:</u> if wearing the Arisaid, a linen Kerch should be worn and not a Statute cap.</p> <p><u>NOTE 2:</u> Also belts can be worn over the bodice as long as they are the thin period type and not thick modern belts.</p>	<p>Harris Tweed is a reliable supplier from £42.50 per metre. It's also possible for a price to get your own weave made. Cheaper versions of plaid from £15pm from other suppliers are available at times.</p>
<p>ACCESSORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neckerchiefs can be worn. Should be off-white linen <u>NOTE:</u> If portraying a covenanter, all exposed cleavage MUST be covered with a neckerchief. • Aprons can either be a large square of linen tucked into your skirt or tied at the back – No bib or gathers please. • Period ruffs are encouraged if you can get one. • Shawl: Woollen material can be worn as a shawl type garment (not Crochet). • Cloaks were generally worn with separate hoods. • Belts* can be worn but must be discreet and thin – absolutely no belts to be worn over the bodice. Narrow (less than 1”) leather with preferably iron buckles. Brass buckles and thick leather belts to be avoided • Pouches: Personal things (such as pouches) can be worn from the waist. • Baskets etc must be period not modern. 	<p>from £5</p> <p>from £15</p> <p>£25-35</p> <p>£10-20</p> <p>from £65</p> <p>from £15</p> <p>from £10</p> <p>from £10</p>

A full list of recommended suppliers is posted on the Members Area. If in doubt, ask!
And remember, it costs no more to get it right, than it does to get it hideously wrong, so please make the effort.