

# Disguising Blatantly Mundane Armor

By HL Clef of Cividale

My thoughts: If we continue to educate ourselves and the new fighters that are coming into our groups about our policy and encourage them to help us maintain the medieval atmosphere that we are trying to create.

## **The marshall's handbook rule:**

The armor requirements for the Kingdom of Calontir require that every fighter shall make every attempt to cover or disguise blatantly mundane aspects of their equipment/armor to help maintain a period atmosphere on the field. And that Newly authorized fighters shall be given a grace period to meet this standard.

## **What does this mean?**

The rule is telling me that we would like to have both the tournament list and the melee field free of blatantly mundane equipment/armor. To me the rule NOT about fashion and the rule is NOT about whether something is or isn't period. But the rule IS about mundane items being used as armor and covering those items in such a way that they do not appear to be mundane.

## **What are some examples blatantly mundane items that I believe should be covered?**

This is the list that I will propose (other people may add to or take away from this):

- 1) Any exposed plastic which by it's color or form appear to be from a mundane source (example blue pickle barrel or plastic with original lettering/numbering)
- 2) Any exposed mundane character print fabrics (example Looney Toones) and exposed mundane clothes (example t-shirts and jeans)
- 3) Any exposed modern sporting equipment (example hockey pads)
- 4) Any exposed foam
- 5) Any exposed modern items converted to armor/equipment (example stop signs).

**How can you do this or how can you get other fighters in your group to do this?** (Finally, what this class is about.)

This to can be simple and, believe it or not, it is much simpler than trying to write about it. I'm going to present this in steps.

- 1) Decide what needs to be disguised or covered.
- 2) Can the mundane items be covered with a t-tunic and/or pants? If the mundane items can be covered or disguised with a t-tunic and/or pants then decide which of these (or both) that you will need to use to disguise your mundane items. If you don't want to use a t-tunic or pants to disguise your mundane items then you will need to use another method of disguise.
- 3) Another method to disguise mundane items is to attach cloth or leather to the mundane items to prevent it from being seen while on the field.
  - a. Cloth can be easily attached to mundane items by applying a layer of spray glue to the items and covering the items with the cloth. The cloth will adhere to the items and it will be disguised. Remember to use a fabric that doesn't have a mundane pattern because this could be as bad as the mundane item itself. Depending on how thick the fabric is it will need to be regularly maintained and possibly replaced as the armor ages.
  - b. Leather can be attached in the same fashion as cloth if it is thin enough to conform to the shape of the items. If the leather you have is too thick to be easily glued to the items, then use rivets to attach the leather to the items.

## Disguising Blatantly Mundane Armor (continued)

### **Blatantly mundane armor parts and some ideas on how to disguise them.**

In most of these examples I have talked about plastic. I don't mean to focus on plastic, but it is usually one of the easiest and cheapest material for the new fighter to use.

**Shoes:** Leather covering is required for foot protection and heavy leather boots are recommended. But if all you can wear or have access to is tennis shoes you should cover these with leather spats.

**Leg Armor:** You are only required to cover your kneecap and both sides of the knee joints. Knee and leg armor can easily be worn under a pair of baggy pants to disguise any mundane items. But this armor can also be worn on the outside of pants if covered in cloth or leather to remove the appearance of mundane items.

**Groin:** For men this armor is classically worn under clothing, but an athletic cup can be covered in leather and worn as a codpiece. For women this armor is again classically worn under clothing, but the groin protection can be built in such a way that it can be worn on the outside of the clothes.

**Torso:** A kidney belt, coat of plates, or rigid suit can be made from plastic either attached to or covered in cloth or leather. You can also cover an entire suit with a large t-tunic and belt it at the waist to disguise mundane items.

**Arm/Elbow Armor:** You are only required to cover the point and both sides of each elbow. Arm/Elbow armor can be worn under a t-tunic with long sleeves or covered in cloth or leather to cover mundane items.

**Hand Armor:** The hand and wrist must be covered. This can easily be done by a half gauntlet and a basket hilt. The half gauntlet can be constructed of plastic covered in cloth or leather. Full gauntlets that covers the entire hand and wrist can be found or constructed of plastic and again can easily be covered in cloth or leather to hid the mundane features.

**Neck Armor:** A gorget of plastic plates can be covered with cloth or leather.

More thoughts:

The easiest solution for anyone is to build your suit of armor with the idea that you don't want anyone to know that you have used plastic or other mundane items in its construction. But even if you have your all plastic suit constructed you can at least disguise the mundane properties of it.

We need to remember that we are all doing this for fun and there are exceptions to the rule. There are times when we will hold special tournaments that may have an unusual theme and I believe that part of our fun is playing to that theme with our armor or weapons. And there are times when a group of friends will decide to do something different for a short period of time and that is their fun.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

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