

SUMMARY FOR ASSEMBLING YOUR KIT WARNER'S EXTRA-CONTINENTAL REGIMENT

This tutorial summary is designed to guide members through 5 stages of building an accurate and flexible kit in order to portray common soldier or Non-Commissioned Officer in Warner's Extra-Continental Regiment (re-created). The overall kit focuses on being able to travel light, campaign style. It also offers the ability to portray western New England militia as situations require. Carefully reviewing these pages will save you time, money, and frustration, as well as, build your knowledge of 18th Century skills and material culture. A comprehensive version of this tutorial, which includes additional details on clothing and accouterments, links to purchase items, and reference sources, is available at the Regiment's website or from the Sjt. Major.

All clothing and equipment is expected be from the correct period *and* from the correct location. For example, a reproduced 1778 linen hunting shirt from Virginia would not be appropriate for Warner's Regiment, but a wool frock coat from 1767 Massachusetts would. Items and patterns presented in this document have been vetted for accuracy and are approved for use by the Regiment; therefore, use only items and patterns recommended in this document unless approved by a senior Officer, your 1st Sjt, or the Sjt. Major.

Clothing is *expected to be cut and fit in the proper 18th century manner*. "Cut in the proper 18th century manner" means clothing which is cut following known and accepted techniques of 18th century clothing-patterns and surviving articles of clothing. "Fit in the proper 18th century manner" means clothing fits snugly on the body, without being constricting. Oversized or poorly fitted clothes draw attention to you and detracts from the overall authenticity of the Regiment; therefore it is important to have correctly tailored clothing. This is especially true for women who portray men in the line.

Combining stages is acceptable, however we do not advise you skip an entire stage to equip yourself from a later one. We do not expect anyone to be "fully" kitted at their first event (or even by the end of their first season). The Regiment has a limited "loner locker" of various uniform pieces which are available on a first come-first serve basis to help fill the gaps in a new member's kit. Speak to your 1st Sjt., or the Sjt. Major about your needs.

It is easy and tempting to buy an item on-line or at an event which is functionally useless or out of period and historically inaccurate. ***Do not assume that because a vendor sells it, it is correct for our portrayal. DO NOT buy anything without referencing either this tutorial or asking an experienced member of the Regiment.*** You are encouraged to take an experienced member with you to sutler's row while shopping at an event or before purchasing on-line.

Many Regiment members have found making or assembling parts of the kit themselves to be very rewarding, as it increases their understanding of eighteenth Century material culture, and in the long run, is far less expensive than buying from sutlers or on-line. Patterns are available for many items in your kit and are listed in this document; contact the Sjt Major. Even if you do not decide to make some of your clothing, nearly all clothing bought "off the rack" from a purveyor will require minor adjustments of buttons or seams. Learning basic hand sewing techniques for patching small holes and tears as well as attaching buttons is a practical necessity for the living historian. Correct sewing techniques are described in *The Lady's Guide to Plain Sewing [Book I]*, *The Lady's Guide to Plain Sewing [Book II]*, and *The Workman's Guide to Tailoring Stitches and Techniques*¹ and on the Regiment's website [www.warnersregiment.org/Links.html#sewing].

Notes on clothing practices -- It is helpful to know the social customs for wearing clothing in the 18th century². Men universally wore some type of hat or cap, a piece of cloth tied at the neck, a waistcoat over the shirt, and an outer garment over the waistcoat. A man without a waistcoat and neck covering was considered "undressed" if in public. The outer garment, most often some type of coat, was to protect the waistcoat and shirt from wear and dirt. Laborers often wore aprons or oversized, heavy shirts known as farmer's frocks to protect shirts and waistcoats. The military had specific variations on this custom such as fatigue caps to reduce wear on cocked hats and open front frocks to protect the waist coat and shirts. Only on the most heated days and heavy labor would soldiers forego waistcoats and labor only in their shirt.

Linen was more common in 18th Century New England than cotton; members are encouraged to purchase linen over cotton items as they buy new or replace old clothing. Specific fabric recommendations for items are given in the document.

Notes for women portraying men – To successfully portray a man, it is very important that the clothes and overall appearance do not draw attention in a way that makes you stand out as obviously not male. The men's patterns presented in the document can be easily modified to fit a woman's body. Attentive tailoring of clothing along with a good, supportive sports bra achieves a convincing silhouette.

Other aspects of your portrayal, such as how you walk, run, use your firelock, and hairstyle are beyond the scope of this tutorial; the several women who portray soldiers within the unit will help you with your portrayal; so do not hesitate to seek them out.



This image depicts the standard uniform for the Regiment's 1775-1777 portrayal: green faced red Regimental coats, brown or natural linen breeches and waistcoats, grey stockings, and black half-gaiters over leather shoes. There is variation of headgear, knapsacks, and cartridge boxes and pouches.



Three images depicting civilian militia in various breeches, frock coats, a short jacket, and farmer's frocks, cocked hats, round hats, and knit caps.

Summary Checklist

Round 1: primarily addresses the survivability requirement of the 18th century soldier; eating, sleeping and carrying personal gear. Recommended patterns introduce you to basic sewing stitches and techniques.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wool Blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> Canteen (tin/stainless steel) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tumpeline sling | <input type="checkbox"/> (Market) Wallet* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eating utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> Haversack* |
| • wooden/horn spoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Half-gaiters (black linen or cotton canvas)
with pewter buttons |
| • wooden/tin bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Knit Cap (wool - navy, brown, gray or natural
Monmouth or Dutch type) |
| • tinned cup | |
| • pocket knife | |

Round 2: focuses on clothing that is difficult to make yourself and requires individual fitting.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeches (brown; linen or hemp twill) | <input type="checkbox"/> Garters (leather or cloth strips or tape) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stockings (grey wool) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes (rough side out) |

Round 3: finishes the small clothes³, and basic outerwear. Items here are easier to make or finish yourself without having to pay full price from a supplier. Your sewing skills should be adequate to construct your own shirt, waistcoat (either by hand or machine), and head gear if you previously constructed a haversack or market wallet.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirt (white linen) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neck stock (black) or neckerchief (black or brown) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waistcoat (brown linen) | <input type="checkbox"/> Round Hat* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frock Coat or Workman's Coatee
(linen or wool) | <input type="checkbox"/> Knapsack ("Uhl" style)* |

Round 4: focuses on the stand of arms⁴ and cleaning kit.

- Firelock
- Cartridge pouch or box
- Cleaning / maintenance kit
- Bayonet & carriage

Round 5: completes the basic field kit – enabling a member to participate in any activity the Regiment participates (Continental or militia presentation, immersion or public event). Once you have reached this point, it is wise to begin assembling duplicate items, especially stockings, shirts, and waistcoats. You may request a double sack style knapsack. Regimental coats are issued to members after their probation period is over. Additional items you may wish eventually to obtain/make include a jockey cap, moccasins, a cocked hat, a belt (if not already obtained), belt knife, and/or a powder horn.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spectacles (if necessary) | <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Axe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jockey Cap/Light Infantry Cap* | <input type="checkbox"/> Powder horn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Knapsack (B. Warner
double sack pattern) | <input type="checkbox"/> Calf's Knee (Lock cover) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regimental Coat | <input type="checkbox"/> Cocked Hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Moccasins |

*A pattern is available from the Regiment.

¹ Available from Kannik's Korner, P.O. Box 1654, Springfield, OH 45501-1654 www.kanninkskorner.com

² Men's Civilian Clothing - #205. <http://www.nwta.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/205meciv.pdf>
Copeland, Peter F. *Working Dress in Colonial and Revolutionary America*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1977.

³ *Small clothes* are shirt, waistcoat, and breeches.

⁴ *A stand of arms* is a firelock (musket), cartridge pouch or box, and bayonet and carriage.

Inappropriate Items

The following items are NOT appropriate for Warner's portrayal and should NOT be purchased or worn during public hours. Although this list is not exhaustive, it comprehensive.

1. 19th century clothing and equipment (War of 1812 or American Civil War)
2. Polyester cloth
3. Canteen styles after 1780 or copper canteens.
4. Hudson Bay blankets, "candy cane" striped blankets, modern "fleece" or print patterned blankets
5. Crockery mugs, plates, or bowls.
6. Shirts with ruffles or printed patterns
7. From Jas. Townsend:
 - Belts with round hand forged buckles
 - Blanket shirts
 - Economy tricorn hat (TH-915 and 918)
 - Suede leather hunting bags/ canvas hunting bags
 - Anything described / listed as "costume clothing"
 - Striped stockings
8. Leather garters from Jas. Townshend and Smoke & Fire
9. Handwoven garters
10. Highland tams and knitted voyageur caps
11. Plug type bayonet, Scottish dirk, "Bowie" and dagger style knives
12. Rifles
13. Cloth "hunting bags"
14. Hat decorations post 1782, including Masonic pins
15. Modern baseball or tube socks, horizontal striped stockings
16. Full length (French & Indian) military gaiters
17. Mitass or Indian leggings
18. Modern shoes without half-gaiters
19. Breechclouts (breechcloths)
20. "Snap sack" styled bags
21. The "New and Improved" knapsack
22. Tumpline strap and any knitted goods from Bethlehem Traders.
23. Pickering style musket tool.
24. French throwing axes, "peace pipe" axes, or any other type of axe with a long thin blade

Approved Sources for Clothing and Equipment for Warner's Extra-Continental Regiment

NOTE: When putting together your clothing and equipment, *DO NOT* deviate from this list of approved sources.

Avalon Forge: www.avalonforge.com 409 Gun Road, Baltimore, MD 21227 (410)242-8431

Canteens, mess kits, pocket knives.

Bethlehem Trading Post: www.bethlehemtradingpost.com (603) 869-2133.

Starter breeches and shirts, belt knives. *Stockings, other knitted goods, leather goods, knapsacks, haversacks and tumpline strap should be avoided.*

Burnley and Trowbridge Company: www.burnleyandtrowbridge.com (757) 253- 1644.

Excellent source for yard goods, clothing patterns.

Carl Giordano, Tinsmith: www.cg-tinsmith.com P.O. Box 74, Wadsworth, OH 44282 (330) 336-7270

Excellent tinware including cups, and canteens.

Cartland Tavern: 2 George Bennett Rd., Lee, NH 03861, 603-659-6481.

Cheesebox canteens.

Dixie Gun Works: www.dixiegunworks.com 1412 Reelfoot Ave., Union, TN 38261

Muskets (Pedersoli), and misc. shooting supplies.

Fugawee Corporation: www.fugawee.com, 1-800-749-0387.

Shoes and shoe buckles.

G. Gedney Godwin: www.gggodwin.com. P.O. Box 100, Valley Forge, PA. (610) 783-0670.

Canteens, half gaiters, shoe and knee buckles, muskets (Pedersoli), and bayonet carriages.

JAS Townsend & Sons: www.townsend.us 133 North First Street PO Box 415, Pierceton IN 46562.

The quality and accuracy of their products is variable: Starter shirts, breeches, waistcoats, and stockings. Better hat blanks, hand axes. Bulk buttons and miscellaneous items. *Do NOT purchase shoes, leather garters, knitted items.*

Loyalist Arms and Repairs: www.loyalistarms.ca/mainpage.php 10 Brunt Road, Harrietsfield, Nova Scotia, CANADA, 902-479-0967.

Muskets and bayonets.

Middlesex Village Trading Company: www.middlesexvillagetrading.com Charlestown, New Hampshire, 603-826-5825. Muskets and bayonets.

Military Heritage - Access Heritage Inc. (formerly known as Discriminating General): www.militaryheritage.com

27 Auriga Drive - Unit 38, Ottawa, ON K2E 7X7 (613)692-6947

Muskets and bayonets.

Najecki Reproductions: www.najecki.com/repro/reproindex.html (401) 647-3631.

Offers a wide array of high quality goods. Excellent source for leather gear, buttons, yard goods, thread, haversacks, but may be slow in mailing orders.

R. Eckert Tinware: www.retinware.com

Member of the Regiment- correct handmade tinware.

Samson Historical www.samsonhistorical.com 119 N Meridian St, Lebanon, IN 46052

Starter shirts, breeches, waistcoats, jacket, and frock coat. Stockings, hat blanks, and miscellaneous items. *Buttons on breeches, waistcoats, jackets and frock coats are modern press together forms which break easily. Expect to replace the original buttons with white metal (pewter) or brass buttons.*

Wm. Booth, Draper: www.wmboothdraper.com 1365 Edgewood Dr., Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Excellent source for yard goods, thread, clothing patterns, sewing notions, knee and shoe buckles. Often has hard to find fabric types.

Approved Clothing & Equipment Patterns for Warner's Extra-Continental Regiment

NOTE: When purchasing patterns, DO NOT USE YOUR CLOTHING SIZE. Have yourself measured and purchase patterns based on your body measurements. If you are between pattern sizes, go up one size; you can take the pattern in to fit.

(Market) Wallet:

- Regiment pattern. Contact the Sjt Major.

Knit Cap:

- Monmouth pattern [Mara Riley pattern](#).
- Dutch pattern

Half-Gaiters:

- Man's Gaiters or Spatterdashes by Kannik Korner KK-4801. Requires some changes to the pattern – no points on the front, single point on the back.

Haversack:

- Regiment pattern. Contact the Sjt Major.

Breeches:

- 18th Century Fall Front Breeches by JP Ryan JPR02. Only one size per pattern. This pattern can be tricky; if you are not an experienced sewer, please get assistance in using this pattern.

Shirts:

- Pattern from Beth Gilgun's *Tidings from the 18th Century*. Pp 84-89. Texarcana: Scurlock Publishing, 1993.
- A Manual for the 18th Century Shirtmaker 1750s-1780s Larkin and Smith.
- Men's Waistcoat ca. 1770 and Shirt by Mill Farm Patterns. Two sizes per pattern 36/36, 38/40 and 42/44.

Waistcoat:

- 1770's Waistcoat by JP Ryan. The shorter version is correct for 1775-1783, either with or without sleeves. Only one size is included in the pattern.
- Men's Waistcoat ca. 1770 and Shirt by Mill Farm Patterns. Two sizes per pattern 36/36, 38/40 and 42/44.
- Waistcoat and Vest Pattern By Eagle's View (PM/68). Includes sizes 36 through 50. Waistcoat approved, *but not the vest*. Styled well to Rev War, not earlier. Move the pocket line down to be on a line from the top of the v-cut in the front to the top of the center seam in back.
- 1776 Men's and Boys Waistcoats by Pegée of Williamsburg.

Round Hat:

- Regiment pattern. Contact the Sjt Major.

Light Infantry/Jockey Cap:

- Regiment pattern. Contact the Sjt Major.

Frock Coat:

- Gentleman's Frockcoat by JP Ryan. This pattern may be made up in several different ways to reflect variations in social class. Only one size is included in the pattern.
 - ❖ Fully lined, with cuffs, collar, working pockets (26 large buttons, 4 small buttons; or 12 large buttons, 4 small buttons); most formal and fancy.
 - ❖ Partial lining, no cuffs, no collar; working pockets, pleated vents (16 large buttons); middling formal.
 - ❖ Partial lining, no cuffs, no collar, no working pockets, un-pleated vents (10 large buttons) less formal - good for working class impression.
 - ❖ Partial lining, no cuffs, no collar, no working pockets, no vents or skirts (10-16 small or large buttons) least formal - good for working class

Workman's Coatee:

- Man's Double-Breasted Short Jacket 1770-1800 by Kannik's Korner's KK 4551. Lay out as single breasted and lengthen the body.

Knapsack:

- "Uhl style" – Regiment pattern. Contact the Sjt Major.

Cartridge Pouch:

- "Valcour Lake" pattern. Contact the Sjt Major.

Belly Box:

- Tulley Pattern based on British style-- Tully, Mark R. *The Packet, Being a Collection of Patterns, Articles and Essays of Particular Interest to the 18th-Century Re-enactor*. Baraboo: Ballindalloch Press, 1999-2001. Pp 30-31.

Short Jacket:

- Man's Double-Breasted Short Jacket 1770-1800 by Kannik's Korner's KK 4551. May be laid out as single or double breasted front, has 3 cuff patterns.

HOW TO MEASURE YOURSELF FOR 18TH CENTURY MEN'S CLOTHING

The cut of 18th century clothing can differ greatly from the modern clothing we wear today. Knowing your correct measurements is essential for finding the right pattern sizes and obtaining a correct fit. The guideline below will help you achieve this.

Record your measurements on the chart below for future reference. There may be additional measurements needed for adjustment for specific patterns, but they will be included in the directions for those patterns.

DO:

- Use a cloth or tailors measuring tape, not a ridged ruler or yard stick.
- Have someone else measure you for accurate results.
- Measure over comfortable, but not bulky clothing. A tee shirt and comfortable pants is ideal.
- When measuring for waistcoats and coats, measure over the 18th century shirt and/or waistcoat you will wear under it.

DON'T:

- Rely on your modern clothing sizes. They may not translate to the sizes on the patterns.
- Measure an article of clothing to determine a size (e.g.: measuring across a flattened tee shirt to determine chest size).
- “Pad” your measurements by measuring “loosely” or allowing for “breathing room”. The pattern takes this into account, so you don’t have to.

Head: Measure the circumference of your head across the brow and just above the ears where you wish the hat to sit.

Neck: Measure the circumference of your neck at the fullest part. This is usually at the base of the neck about 1 finger width above the shoulders and collarbones.

Sleeve: With your arms hanging naturally and relaxed, measure from the joint of the arm and shoulder down to the wrist bone.

NOTE: if you have longer or shorter than average arms take two additional measurements: from the shoulder joint to the elbow and from the elbow to the wrist. Because 18th century jacket patterns have the elbow curve built into the pattern, you will need these measurements so you can shorten/lengthen the sleeve evenly over both the upper and lower parts of the sleeve instead of just taking off or adding inches to the bottom of the sleeve. If you don't adjust both areas evenly the elbow curve will be in the wrong place.

Chest: Measure around the fullest part of your chest, keeping your arms at your sides. This is usually about 2 or 3 fingers width below the arm pit.

Shoulders: Standing naturally, measure the width across the fullest part of your back from edge to edge at your shoulders.

Back (neck to waist): Measure along your back from the nape of your neck (first bone of the spine) to your natural waist.

Bicep: With the arm bent at the elbow, measure around the fullest point of the upper arm.

Waist: Measure at your natural waist, not where your pants waistband falls. This is usually right across your navel, about 3 or 4 finger widths above your hip bones.

Thigh: Measure around the fullest part of the upper leg while standing straight.

Inseams: Measure the inside of your leg while standing straight.

- **For breeches** - from the crotch to 2" below the knee.
- **For trousers** - from the crotch to desired length at ankle.

NOTE: if you have longer or shorter than average legs take two additional measurements: from the crotch to the just below the knee and from just below the knee to the ankle. You will need these measurements so you can shorten/lengthen the leg length evenly over both the upper and lower parts of the leg instead of just taking off or adding inches to the bottom.

Knee: Measure around the circumference of your knee: measure across the back of the knee and under the front of the knee cap.

Calf: Measure the circumference at the widest part of your calf –typically 2/3 of the distance between your ankle and knee while standing straight.

Ankle: Measure the circumference of your leg just above the ankle bone.

MEASUREMENTS FOR _____

HEAD: _____

NECK: _____

SLEEVE:

Upper Sleeve: _____

Lower Sleeve: _____

BICEP: _____

CHEST: _____

SHOULDERS: _____

BACK: _____

WAIST: _____

THIGH: _____

INSEAMS:

Breeches: _____

Trousers:

Upper leg: _____

Lower leg: _____

KNEE: _____

CALF: _____

ANKLE: _____

NOTES:
