

# Tradesman's Apron

For our purposes, a cotton drill material serves best unless you are portraying a Blacksmith when leather is required.

The basic apron consists of three parts, the bib to cover the chest, the skirt to cover the legs, and ties to hold it in place.

The bib is sized to cover about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the chest from 4" below the collar bone to the navel. The skirt is sized to cover a bit narrower than the hip-to-hip measurement and long enough to cover just below the knees. A farrier will wear a split skirt apron for shoeing.

Create paper test pieces from your measurements. When they fit you the way you want lay the pattern pieces onto the fabric with the pattern aligned with the warp. Pin the pattern and cut out the fabric.

Fold and press the outer edges for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " hem. Only heavy canvas or leather could be left raw edged.

Assemble and hem the pieces of the skirt first. Then hem the upper three edges of the bib. Join the bib to the skirt reinforcing the seam with a fabric band one to three inches wide. The final set is to sew a grommet (or a button hole) into the top right corner of the bib and attach your choice of tie straps to the bib and skirts. A narrow belt around the waist is a documented method of securing the apron.