

Southern Song Dynasty Clothing

A Crash Course

Key Construction Characteristics

Chinese clothing during this period did not utilize gores, and seams were straight. Garments for the upper body generally consisted of two pieces with a center back and underarm/side seam. Garments for the lower body were generally attached (sometimes pleated) to a band that was wrapped and tied around the waist.

Silk was the primary textile used for clothing, but lightweight linen or cotton is a reasonable substitution. Reds, yellows, greens, and purples were popular. Blue was worn in small amounts. Women rarely wore black, and white was associated with mourning and rarely worn as an outer garment.

Women

The main articles of clothing for women during the Southern Song were a shirt, jacket, and skirt. Pants were worn under the skirt. Shoes had small, upturned toes. Cosmetics were simple and clean-looking. Hair ranged from simple to moderately elaborate up-dos, decorated with small ornaments.

How to Fake It

- Wear a camisole for your shirt.
- Make a simple wrap skirt with a 2-4" band and tie it in the front.
- The Jacket should hit you between the knee and the ankle, and your sleeves should be long and loose enough to cover your hands, and large enough at the shoulder opening that you don't have to worry about a gore. Split the sides from the hem to the top of your hip for easy movement. Curve the neckline so it lays correctly. Trim the neckline with some brocade.
- Wear ballet flats.
- Pull your hair up into a bun toward the top of your head and wrap the base with a length of ribbon. Slide a decorative comb – gold/brass with some red rhinestones is good, or simple stone or bone - for extra ornamentation.
- Wear simple pendant earrings/necklaces featuring polished stones, or beads of jade, carnelian, or coral.



Men

Men wore a variety of different outfits, but the easiest to recreate are the cross-collared shirt, the jacket, and the cross-collared robe. Like women, they wore shoes or boots with slightly upturned toes. Hair was worn in a top-knot and usually covered by a black cloth.

How to Fake/Make It (Which is Harder for Dudes, Sorry Bro)

- For the cross-collared robe, follow the instructions here: <https://torguqin.wordpress.com/2009/10/14/shenyi-for-dummies/>
- For the shirt, follow the instructions here: <https://torguqin.wordpress.com/2010/07/17/the-dummies-guide-shuhe-pt1/> (but don't worry about decorating it, and make full sleeves)
- The jacket is the same as the one worn by ladies, but the sleeves are much larger at the cuff (see image). The hem was also longer – often reaching the floor.
- If your hair is long enough, pull it up into a topknot. Cover your head with a piece of black cloth. Follow instructions here for how to tie a Jin: <https://torguqin.wordpress.com/hanfu/hanfu-history/list/>

