

Recreating the Alcega Farthingale for Modern Bodies

Waist Size:		20-24"	25-29"	30-34"	35-39"	40-44"
Skirt Length	Waist to Ground	Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes
12	11.5	44.0	49.0	54.1	59.1	64.1
15	14.3	49.5	54.5	59.6	64.6	69.6
18	17.2	55.0	60.1	65.1	70.1	75.1
21	20.1	60.5	65.6	70.6	75.6	80.6
24	23.0	66.0	71.1	76.1	81.1	86.1
27	26	71.6	76.6	81.6	86.6	91.7
30	28.7	77.1	82.1	87.1	92.1	97.2
33	31.6	83	88	93	98	103
36	34.4	88.1	93.1	98.1	103	108
39	37.3	93.6	98.6	104	109	114
42	40.2	99.1	104	109	114	119
45	43.0	105	110	115	120	125
48	45.9	110	115	120	125	130
51	48.8	116	121	126	131	136
54	51.6	121	126	131	136	141
57	55	127	132	137	142	147
60	57.4	132	137	142	147	152

Cheat Sheet : Hoop Sides for creating a support skirt consistent with the Alcega Farthingale

Skirt Length	Waist to Ground	45-49"	50-54"	55-59"	60-64"
		Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes	Hoop Sizes
12	61.3	69.1	74.2	79.2	84.2
15	66.6	74.6	79.7	84.7	89.7
18	71.8	80.1	85.2	90.2	95.2
21	77.1	85.7	90.7	95.7	101
24	82.4	91.2	96.2	101	106
27	88	96.7	102	107	112
30	92.9	102	107	112	117
33	98.2	108	113	118	123
36	103.4	113	118	123	128
39	108.7	119	124	129	134
42	114.0	124	129	134	139
45	119.3	130	135	140	145
48	124.5	135	140	145	150
51	129.8	141	146	151	156
54	135.1	146	151	156	161
57	140	152	157	162	167
60	145.6	157	162	167	172

All measurements are given in inches. All information has been rounded to the nearest single decimal, because no one really likes measuring .875300964ths of an inch. Waist to Ground measurements are based on a natural waist location, which is where you bend in the middle, not necessarily where you wear your jeans. All calculations based on a creating a skirt that descends from the waist at 73 degrees. 73 degrees was arrived upon based on trigonometric analysis of Janet Arnold's recreation of Juan de Alcega's farthingale pattern, detailed in Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd, pg 196-197, and show on www.sempstress.org.

How to Use this Chart: Locate your waist size at the top of the chart. The Hoop Sizes that correspond to your waist size are listed in this column. Locate the Waist to Ground column(s), and find the measure closest to, but not more than, your own waist to ground measurement. Read across the chart to find the measurement for the bottom hoop in your support skirt. The numbers above this point in your column are additional hoops you may wish to use. I've given the measures for hoops spaced 3" apart. You might think this is overkill, and decide to use every other measurement listed (hoops 6" apart). However you do it, the Skirt Length column tells you how far down the skirt this piece of boning should be placed.

Handy Tips and Cheats:

- 1) The hem of your support skirt must be at least as large as the bottom hoop measure you're using.
- 2) The support skirt should be at least the Skirt Length listed for your Waist to Ground measurement.
- 3) If you trip a lot, base your support skirt on a Waist to Ground length one row up from your actual measurement - this will make the skirt about 3" higher than it would have been.
- 4) If mounting hoops on a gored skirt, make certain that the skirt has enough ease at the top for your waist and hips.
- 5) Now that you know how big your pieces of boning need to be, you can cheat and make your support skirt as a great big tube, and rely on the size of the boning to create the cone shape. I find this works best with a slidey form of boning like clear polyvinyl tubing.
- 6) If you really wanted to, you could cover hoops of the specified sizes with fabric and mount them on long pieces of twill tape, thus creating a suspended cage style support skirt. It's 300 years off the mark, historically speaking, but can be entertaining theatrically.