

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

British Style vs. Continental School: Cultural Differences

Our Friends · Tuesday, September 15th, 2026

At festivals across Europe, armor tells stories even before a character utters a word. An experienced player can almost always guess whether a workshop hails from a misty island or the continent based on its silhouette, color, and surface finish.

The British school grew out of Arthurian legends, Gothic cathedrals, and gloomy moorlands. This is why British festival **LARP armour sets** usually go for a restrained aesthetic and dark fantasy. The Continental School has taken the baroque opulence and colorful heraldry of large festivals such as Drachenfest and Conquest of Mythodea.

British Style: Austerity and Authentic Folklore

In the UK LARP communities, the preference has always been for rough, unpolished harnesses. Popular styles include dark metals, weathered surfaces, and sparse ornamentation. It's all about creating an atmosphere. It's not just cosmetic. Armor should look as if it's been through a dozen battles, not just left the workshop.

Continental School: Pomp and Theatrics

Things are different on the continent. European festivals tend to favor bright heraldic devices, gilding, and symmetrical patterns based on Gothic and Renaissance styles. Armor usually dominates the center of the image. This is often complemented by coats of arms and other heraldic symbols. There are also engravings. The image has a rich color palette.

Armor Cut: How Geography Determines Shape

Regional history directly influences harness shape. British cuts are typically more functional and compact, reflecting the tradition of reenactment and a close affinity with historical fencing. Continental cuts experiment more boldly with volume: massive shoulder pads, long skirts, decorative spikes, and horns are much more common.

Why Polyurethane Suits Both Schools

Whatever a player's style, translating it into metal or leather isn't always quick and easy. This is where fiberglass-reinforced polyurethane resin comes in — a material that lets you capture any aesthetic, from rugged British to lush continental.

This is the material upon which all LARPSHOPKEEPER products are built. Before choosing armor, it's important to understand why artisans and players across Europe prize it:

- lightweight yet highly durable;
- fiberglass reinforcement for reliability;
- precise reproduction of the smallest details;
- ability to cast multiple identical copies;
- fast and affordable production;
- hand painting to suit any style.

These factors make polyurethane harness suitable for long festivals and multi-day games. It's lighter than steel, yet durable enough for active use in combat and camp.

At LARPSHOPKEEPER, polyurethane sets are manufactured using a full production cycle: from 3D sculpting and printing of master models to silicone molds and layer-by-layer casting with fiberglass. This approach lets you order anything from a simple British set in the spirit of dark fantasy to luxurious continental armor with heraldry and gilding — tailored to a specific character and festival.

The British and Continental schools approach it differently, but both agree on one thing: gear should tell a character's story. Fiberglass-reinforced polyurethane conveys both austere simplicity and baroque opulence equally well.

This makes LARPSHOPKEEPER a practical choice for players who need detailed, lightweight, and durable armor for a wide range of character styles. In our product catalog, you will find a wide range of models for all kinds of competitions and preferences.

Photo: Fernando Cortes via Pexels

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