



Frequently Asked Questions About Buying Fencing Equipment

1. What do I need to buy for Intro Foil I or Learn-to-Fence day camp?

All you need is a fencing glove. We provide everything else. You will also need sweatpants or tights (no cargo pants or jeans), athletic shoes, and a T-shirt (no tank tops).

2. What do I need to buy for Intro Foil II/III?

Same as for Intro I, of course, and you will also need to purchase an underarm protector. We provide everything else.

3. What do I need to buy after Intro Foil III?

To continue fencing at SCF after you complete Intro III (including for Basic Foil Skills), you will need a French grip foil, a fencing jacket, breast protection (for female fencers), and a fencing mask (plus sweats, T-shirt, athletic shoes, glove, and underarm protector). A gear bag and a blade protector are nice to have, but non-essential.

4. What do I need to buy for Intermediate Foil, Intro Épée, or Intro Sabre classes?

You will need the stuff listed in #3 above, plus knickers and knee-high white socks or high-waisted fencing pants. A gear bag is extremely helpful.

5. What do I need to buy for subsequent épée and sabre classes?

You will need the stuff listed in #4 above, plus your own weapon.

6. When should I buy equipment?

Wait until you are at least most of the way through your first semester of class to find out if you really like fencing.

7. How much does a typical set of gear cost?

You should expect to spend between \$150 and \$200 for a foil, jacket, and mask. If you spend much more than that, you are probably buying higher-end gear than you need.

8. What about used gear?

The salem-classicalfencing e-mail list can be a good place to find good used equipment. SCF also has a limited selection of used equipment for sale in the salle.

9. What about buying used gear on eBay?

Be very, very cautious purchasing used fencing equipment online. There is plenty of junk equipment out there. Junk gear may just wear out quickly, but it may also be unsafe and be a danger to you and your fencing partner. Be especially wary of “antique” fencing gear, which may be best suited to hanging on a wall. If you do purchase used equipment online, please have one of the instructors inspect it before you use it the first time.

10. What if I can’t afford some or all of the gear?

If your finances are such that you cannot afford to purchase needed equipment, please apply for an SCF fencing equipment grant. See our web site, or ask a staff member.

11. How long will all this stuff last?

Assuming you don’t abuse it, your mask will last for many years, as will your jacket and knickers. Blades will last anywhere from a few months to a few years, depending on many variables (most of which are out of your control). You will probably wear out your glove in a year (or less, if you fence frequently).

12. Will I be stuck with all this if I outgrow it?

If you are young and still growing, you will probably outgrow most of your equipment before you wear it out. There are always new fencers looking to purchase equipment, so selling used gear is fairly easy. Better yet, you can donate your used equipment to the salle and take a tax deduction for its fair market value.

13. So, where do I buy fencing gear?

From Salem Classical Fencing, of course! If we don’t have it in stock, we can order it for you. We provide expert assistance and you can touch and feel what you’re buying before you buy it. We also sell fencing accessories like T-shirts, HeadSweats headgear, books, and more.

And when you buy from SCF, you’re supporting your salle d’armes, as well as getting great advice and customer service. (Or, you can order online, pay shipping charges, etc....)