



## Elven Equipment Part: 2 (Armor & Shields)

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### **Introduction-**

*I have already mentioned in part one of my series the delight and wonder I expressed at WETA's creative prowess. Those opening shots in the prelude to the FOTR with both Gil Galad and Elrond resplendent and lethal in their Noldorian armor were wonderful. In the TTT by comparison of armor styles of Haldir and the company of the Naith at Helm's Deep were a startling, yet appropriate visualization and made the elves seem more so otherworldly Tolkien. Again if there is any conflicting opinions or if you actually like it please let me know via email. Thanks and enjoy.*

Armor	Damage Absorbed	Weight	Culture
Leather	3(4)	7lbs	All (Nandorian)
Chain Mail (Corselet)	6(5)	20lbs	Nandorian, Sindarian
Chain w/Plates	7	25lbs	Sindarian
Chain Mail (corselet)	7(6)	20lbs	Noldorian
Chain w/Plates	8	25lbs	Noldorian
Shields	Parry/Attack Mod.	Weight	Culture
Buckler	+2/-2	1lbs	Nandorian
Small	+3/-3	3-5lbs	Any
Large	+5/-4	4-8lbs	Any

**Nandorian Armor-** The Nandor were not steeped in the lore of metalworking as were their westward kin. It was after their contact with the Sindar and Noldor realms that they began rudimentary efforts in armoring themselves (especially after the massive losses they suffered in the epic battles of the first and second ages). They preferred to remain fleet of foot and they employed skirmish tactics. In accordance with lightly armored troops they developed superior skills in leather working and often reinforced such leather armor with thin tempered strips of steel (an economizing measure due to the scarcity of metal and wood elves don't mine for ore). Nandorian jerkins are prized for their protective qualities as well as the flexibility and lack of encumbrance. Later, they learned to produce surpassing corselets of mail of astonishing lightness without compromising protection. In closing, the Nandorian Buckler is the noted choice of shield protection complimenting the intrepid swift attacks of the Silvan elves and their fabled two weapon fighting styles<sup>1</sup>. In the third age Nandorian armories are found in Tharanduil's kingdom and Lothlorien.

**Sindarian Armor-** Prior to the arrival of the Noldor out of the blessed lands of the west, the Sindar relied upon the dwarves of both Nogrod and Belgost for their supplies of armor. As time progressed the Sindarian armor smiths grew in skill began to challenge the superior craftsmanship with the Dwarves. This could be considered a result of contact with the great craftsmen of the Noldor or due to the continued contact with the dwarves themselves. Through the later ages the Sindar began to produce renowned coats of mail and hauberks of platemail esteemed for its lightweight without the sacrifice of flexibility or movement. It present day third age middle earth one would find the Sindarian smithies in Lothlorien and in Tharanduil's wood-elven kingdom of Northern Mirkwood.

<sup>1</sup> I am referring to the evident scenes of Legolas using both his long knives in the LOTR: The Fellowship of the Ring. It is a supposition about using bucklers not a canon fact.

**Noldorian Armor-** The Noldorian armorers are greatest craftsmen of middle earth. Due to the time spent in Valinor, under the tutelage of the Vala Aûle, they are fabled for their unearthly or magical comprehension of metallurgy. Noldorian smiths produce the lightest and the strongest armor in Middle Earth. Only the Dwarves armories of the elder days produced hauberks that surpassed Noldorian craftsmanship for protection. Even the mythical Numenorian Armories failed to match the High Elves' tempered steel platemail. In the third Age of middle earth some Noldor armories are still found in Imladris (Rivendell) and Mithlod (Grey Havens). I would presume that only a handful of the craftsmen from Eregion (Hollin) would have come to Lothlorien following the demise of that realm at the hands of Sauron in the second age.

**Closing notes** – I reiterate that elvish crafts are not normally found in open markets; therefore no prices are included in the tables above. Finished goods as usually acquired through friendship and gifts with or from the elves, rather than through open purchase. It should also be taken into account that elvish armor is crafted for the maximum flexibility and to minimize encumbrance. This should be taken into account for weariness and any check rolls involving any penalty for armor. –SVW3

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