

## Bridal Garters / Garter Belt



Garters are items of clothing worn around the thighs. They are normally just a few inches in width. They often contain small bells and/or ribbons. In the 19th and 20th centuries, they were used to hold up stockings, but the advent of elastic has made them unnecessary.

### The Garter Belt

Today the garter is more of a traditional custom of the western culture wedding ceremony rather than a clothing necessity. After the Bride has thrown her bouquet to a single woman, the Groom takes the garter belt from his Bride's leg and throws it to a group of single men. The man who catches the garter then puts it on the leg of the woman who caught the Bride's bouquet.

Garters are quick, fun and easy to sew they can be delicate or bold, usually reflecting the style of the dress.

Sew a fabric garter edged in lace, or make a garter from a width of galloon lace, which has two decorative edges. Either style can be embellished with ribbons, lace appliqués, ribbon flowers, beads and other trims.

Consider making two garters for your wedding day, one for your own keepsake and one for the ritual toss.

### Making a Fabric Garter

#### You Will Need

A wedding is a ceremony that celebrates the beginning of a marriage or civil union. Wedding traditions and customs vary greatly between cultures, ethnic groups, religions, countries, and social classes.

In some countries, cultures and religions, the actual act of marriage begins during the wedding ceremony. In others, the legal act of marriage occurs at the time of signing a marriage license or other legal document, and the wedding is then an opportunity to perform a traditional ceremony and celebrate with friends and family.

A woman taking part in the ceremony is called a bride, a man called a bridegroom, after the ceremony they become a wife and a husband, respectively.



Wedding ceremonies vary within country and cultures however, most contain wedding vows of some kind and a proclamation of marriage, usually officiated by a local religious clerk. Most weddings also involve wearing the traditional clothes of the culture in which the couple is wedding. A wedding is often followed or accompanied by a wedding reception.

Other elements may include music, poetry, prayer, scripture, or other traditions. In most societies a number of traditions or customs have emerged around the wedding ceremony, many of which have lost their original symbolic meaning in the modern world. Other wedding traditions are relatively recent. Some elements of the Western heterosexual wedding ceremony symbolize the bride's departure from her father's control and entry into a new family with her husband. In modern Western weddings, this symbolism is largely vestigial, since husband and wife are of equal power and status. In some cultures, same-sex weddings are celebrated.

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If you are planning on being a wedding consultant or photographer there is a strong likelihood you will be limited to the number of weddings you can do on any specific day.

Most weddings are local, so look for information pertaining to your area. For the number of weddings in any specific area call the County Clerks office in that county.

#### **Statistics for the Wedding Industry**

- **2,226,000** weddings occurred in the US from June 2004 to June 2005 spending approximately \$85 billion. If considering all the items a bride will purchase 6 months prior to 6 months after her wedding the total exceeds 120 billion dollars.
- Over **9,000,000** weddings in China per year with an average \$19,900/wedding.
- 714,000 Japanese brides spend an average of \$70,000 per wedding in 2005.
- Number of worldwide weddings 115,000/day.
- #1 wedding city in the world is **Istanbul, Turkey** with 166,000 for the year.
- #2 wedding city in the world is **Las Vegas, Nevada, USA** with 116,000 weddings.
- #3 wedding city (2nd in USA) is **Gatlinburg, Tennessee, USA** with 42,000 weddings.
- #4 wedding city (3rd USA) is **New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** with 36,545 marriages in 2002.
- In Australia figures show that the average age of a bride in 2003 was 29, compared with 26 in 1993. And 75 per cent of couples lived together before marrying, up from 16 per cent in the 1970s. Average number of guests that are being invited to a wedding is 164.

If you are looking to determine the number of brides in a specific area and you do not have the time to locate the county or city clerk's office to get that information. About .007% of the population will wed in any specific area during a year's time frame.

- 1/4yd. fabric
  - 1yd. galloon lace for edging
  - Elastic, 1/2in. wide
  - Small safety pin or bodkin
  - Fabric glue
1. Cut fabric strip 5in. wide with length equal to 1 ½ to 2 times leg measurement. [Fullness depends on thickness of fabric]. Zigzag or serge upper edge; fold under 1in., and press. Stitch close to fold and again 3/4in. below first row of stitching, forming casing.
  2. Lap lace over lower edge of fabric strip, right sides up, stitch along upper scallop of lace, using zigzag. Trim away fabric behind lace, about 1/8in. from stitching.
  3. Cut elastic 1in. larger than leg measurement. Attach bodkin or safety pin to one end of elastic, thread elastic through casing. Anchor other end of elastic inside casing with stitching line, 1/4in. from fabric edge.
  4. Wrap garter around leg, and adjust snugness of elastic as desired; trim away any excess elastic even with casing

Average traditional wedding in the USA is \$20,000 - \$25,000 \*\* Average age for first-time brides is 25 years. For grooms, it's 27. \*\* June is the most popular month for weddings, followed by August, September, October and May \*\* One third of engaged couples retain a wedding consultant. \*\* The average household income of a newly married couple is \$60,000/year.

99% of couples who get married go on a honeymoon. \*\* Couples spend an average of \$5,000 on their honeymoon. \*\* The honeymoon industry is a 12 billion dollar a year industry. \*\* An average honeymoon vacation is one week. 45 percent of honeymoon trips are to domestic locations; 55 percent are international. \*\* Most popular honeymoon activities that honeymooners enjoy are:

- Visiting a new place for sightseeing, restaurants, entertainment and nightlife - 75%
- Beaches and lakes - 45%
- Casinos - 20%
- Cruises - 15%
- Golf/sports vacations - 10%
- Skiing trips - 5%

opening and pin.