

## **Era Garters**

*By Gail Doemland*

*At the first mention of “Garters”, one may think of the “something blue” the bride wears at her wedding or what the groom “slings” to a group of eligible bachelors at the wedding reception. It may surprise many to know garters were frequently worn by all classes during the Model A years and that garters are just one style of the broad category of stocking supporters. Garters fall under the Footwear area of fashion judging, along with shoes and stockings. Other styles of stocking supporters for women are garter belts, girdles, and corsets. These styles of stocking supporters fall in the undergarment group of Coordinated Apparel.*

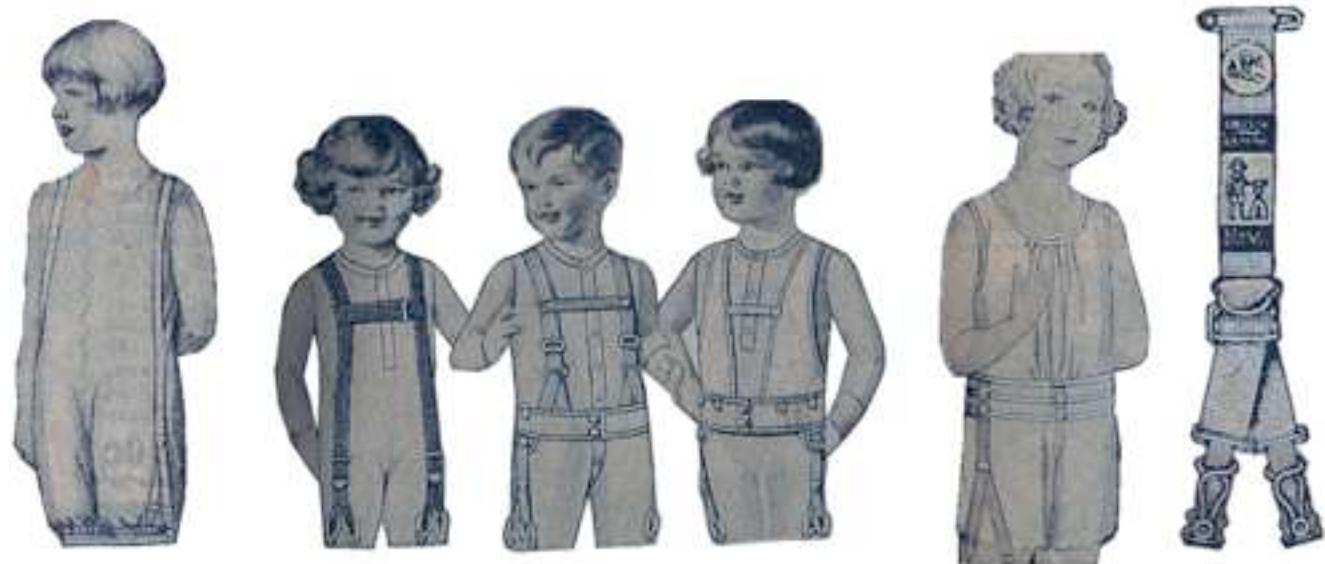
Toddlers, children and men wore garters for comfort, to prevent their socks or stockings from slipping down and bunching around the ankles. The only reason garters would be worn in today’s fashion judging by these same classes would be in an attempt to obtain extra points for the overall appearance or to prevent a reduction in points for ill fitting stockings.

Women, on the other hand, wore garters or some style of stocking supporters out of necessity, to hold up their stockings. It is for this same reason, garters or some style of stocking supporters are just as important and required in today’s fashion judging.



Diaper garters were specially made for babies. They were adjustable to size and were equipped with a special tab and safety pin for attaching. Diaper garters relieved the baby of the discomfort of having the stockings pinned directly to the vest and provided a greater freedom of the legs.

Children had an array of different styles of garters or stocking supporters. There were shoulder styles, waist styles, and pin-on styles. Shoulder styles were made of non-elastic webbing with adjustable straps and garters. The garter waists were made of white mercerized sateen or white muslin with hose supporters of strong elastic. Some garter waists came with chest vests or chest bands with adjustable shoulder straps for more support. The pin-on style of hose supporters were made of wide lisle elastic webbing with adjustable garters which would give freely to the movements of the body.



There was little difference, if any, between boy's and men's garters. The hook-on garters were wide Rayon covered elastic used to hold up knee length athletic socks as those shown.



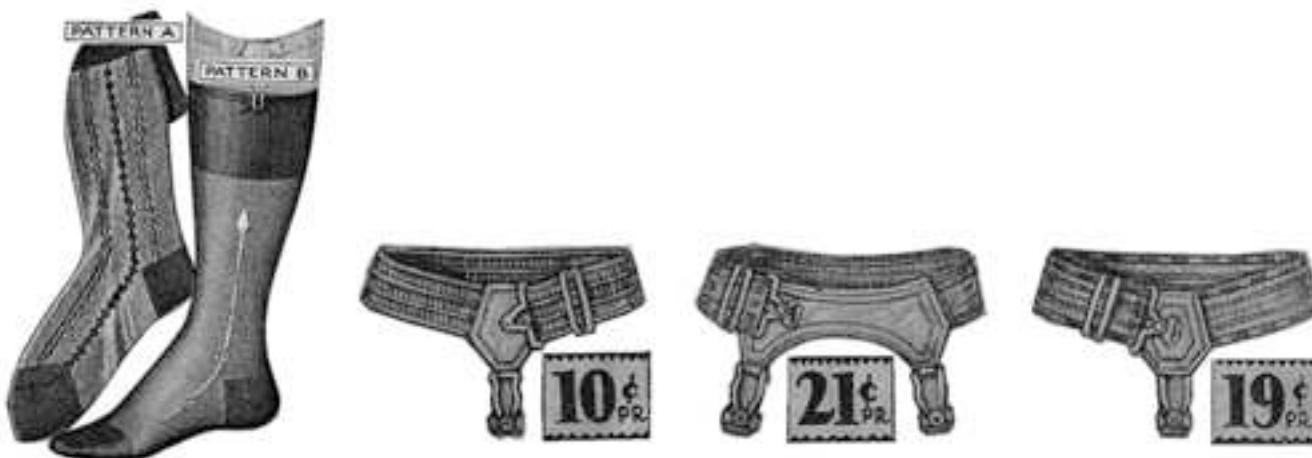
Boy's Gem Dandy garter



Men's golf garter



The single and double grip garters were used for wear with suits or casual wear and were concealed by long legged trousers. Grip garters were mostly made of Rayon covered elastic webbing, with satin pads preventing the metal from touching the skin.



Women's round garters came in two basic styles; the adjustable fancy rayon covered elastic with colored metal hooks and fittings, and the Shirred satin ribbon garters with flower trim in pink, turquoise blue, orchid, and light blue.



Round garter material was also available and sold by the yard for the home seamstress.

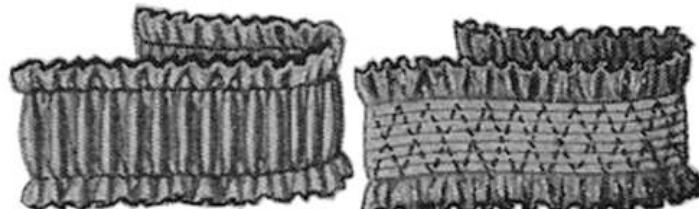


Picot edge flowered Rayon elastic available in colors pink, sky blue, peach or white. Width of elastic is 7/8 inch.

Flowered Rayon garter elastic used extensively for garters. 7/8 inch wide elastic. Colors: pink, sky blue, nile green, coral, peach, gold or white.

Printed Rayon elastic available in colors pink, blue, peach, nile green or white.

On the left below, satin ribbon is shirred over 5/8 inch strong elastic. Colors: Light blue, rose, pink, orchid, peach, orange, and nile green. On the right, new rubber is woven into lustrous Rayon. White with colorful strips in diagonal design with a narrow frilled edge.



#### References:

- Montgomery Wards*, S/S 1929
- National Bellas Hess*, S/S 1930
- Sears*, S/S 1931