

Mounting a garter – Susan's way

With the help of Marilyn's garter for her granddaughter, Abbie, here is the way I mount a garter with the help of plush elastic (this is different on both sides and is like the elastic you find on bra straps).

Your lace should be joined together in a continuous piece on your pillow first. You now need the elastic joined in a similar way.

Cut a length of elastic 1 inch longer than the brides leg measurement. Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on both ends then overlap the elastic and pin together. On a sewing machine work a box over the two ends to secure the join as shown in the photo here.



In the same way that you would prepare a waist band on a gathered skirt use pins to equally mark one 16th of the total distances around both the elastic and the lace, do this by continuously folding the distance between neighbouring pins in half rather than measuring the distance.



Now make sure the plush side of the elastic is on the inside of the band, put the elastic ring inside the lace ring and match up the pins, make sure that when you do this the join in the lace is in a different place to the join in the elastic. When I am pinning I leave the pin marking the division on the elastic in place and use the pin in the lace to pin the two together. When you have gone all the way around the lace should look like the picture on the next page.



Now to the sewing machine. Set the stitches to straight, my machine has a maximum stitch length of 4, I sew garters on stitch length 3. Position the lace as shown with the needle inserted at the first pin, using both hands (one above and one below the pin stretch the first section of elastic so that it matches the length of the lace (in the picture I could only stretch the front as the camera was in my other hand!). I use my lace thread as the top sewing thread on the machine.



Carefully sew around the garter, stopping and tensioning after each pin section. Don't take the pins out as you go. When the first stitching line is finished tidy the ends on the elastic side of the garter.

Repeat on the other edge of the elastic, I always do this so the garter goes the same direction through the machine. When the ends have been finished remove the pins



If you are using a central ribbon feed this through the holes, I use the ribbon threaded through a tapestry needle to thread it, take care the ribbon is not twisted.



The ribbon needs to be longer than the stretched garter length. Fix one end of the ribbon with a pin then sew with the garter stretched through the centre of the ribbon (I use a colour on top in the sewing machine that matches the ribbon). There is no need to pin in advance



When finished either tie the ends of the ribbon to form a bow or add one, possibly in a slightly wider ribbon. Your garter is now complete!



Susan