

The Sensuous Story of Fishnet

Fishnet is hosiery with an open, diamond-shaped knit; it is most often used as a material for stockings, tights, or bodystockings. Generally considered to be a sexy garment, it may serve as a component of sexual fetishism. Fishnets are used mostly as a type of undergarment, and in as much as it defines curves by applying a grid close to the body it generally accentuates the wearer's muscular definition.

A more practical use of fishnet is in high performance next-to-skin apparel used in cold weather outdoor sports, including hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, and mountaineering. Fishnet is usually knitted from fibers of polypropylene, merino wool, or nylon, and offers a number of benefits over traditional densely knitted base layer apparel. These benefits are related to the presence of large void spaces in the fishnet fabric structure that trap insulating air for warmth in cool conditions, and allow for the rapid transport of moisture from the skin surface to outer layers to minimize conductive heat loss.

An early (perhaps the earliest) written reference to fishnet as an erotic device can be found in the Westcar Papyrus, specifically the tale of Baufra, c. 20th century BC. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishnet>]

Modern fishnet originated in Paris among the dancing, acting, and “prostituting” crowd that slunk around the City of Love at night. In particular, the free-loving girls at the Moulin Rouge made fishnets known to Europe and the world at large. The Moulin Rouge was a café popular with artists, intellectuals, and the “in” groups in Paris at the turn of the century.

The notorious apparel came to the United States in 1908, when women’s dress was becoming more liberating and shocking. Throughout the 1920s, flapper girls wore fishnets with their swaying dresses



because they showed some of the leg, but still left much to be desired underneath. In the 1970s, fishnets took a different tone, and they became popular with the punk rock/metal crowd that loved Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones. Although they were still associated with lowdown crack addicts, fishnets were becoming more acceptable and visible in American society. Black nets were the most popular, but with the advent of the wild '80s, bright (and garish) colors such as red, green, and pink were manufactured as well. Fishnets finally became more mainstream in the late 1980s-90s; today, every popular store (i.e. Target, Walmart, etc.) seems to sell them. Different variations on the traditional fishnet (i.e. wider triangles, jewels on the seams, heavier materials) are trendy today. [<http://www.learntravelart.com/2015/01/the-intriguing-story>]-

