

GORE & ELASTIC

"Gore" or "Goring" are terms that have become synonymous with elastic in the shoe industry. This is peculiar to the shoe industry since the garment industry uses the term gore in its more traditional meaning of a tapered insert in a garment and is almost always made of the same material. Elastic is a narrow fabric with strands of rubber incorporated into its construction and like any other fabric it can be made by a woven, a knitted or a braided process. We supply a wide variety of elastic products for the footwear and apparel as well as medical, luggage and other industries.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Common to all types of elastic, regardless of construction, are two properties that are important if the elastic is to perform satisfactorily for its intended application.

PERCENT OF STRETCH

The amount or distance that an elastic will elongate is expressed as a percentage. The normal test is to stretch a 5" sample of the elastic to its limit and if the stretched length is twice the original length it has 200% stretch. Three times the original length is 300%, one and one-half the original length is 150%, etc.

MODULUS

Modulus is a measurement of the effort required to achieve the above stretch, usually expressed in ounces or pounds of pull. Percent of stretch and modulus can define within fairly precise limits the properties of a given elastic, from a loose, stretchy elastic to a very strong elastic with limited stretch.

SIZES OF ELASTIC

Sizes on elastic are approximate. Every effort is made to hold the dimensions exactly but the variation in the rubber causes some deviations from the stated sizes. Atmospheric conditions also effect the size and properties.

WOVEN ELASTIC

Weaving is the most expensive of the methods of making elastic and due to the time and cost required in setting up a loom, there are rather substantial minimum requirements for any item. There are certain properties inherent in woven elastic that account for its continued popularity.

Generally stretches only lengthwise.	Retains its width when stretched.
Has smooth, finished appearance.	Both sides can be finished, one side can be napped.
5/16" widths up to approx. 4" maximum.	Narrow widths can be tipped.
Popular for belts and suspenders.	Used for instep and side gore on footwear.
Available in round and flat shape.	Metallic or non-metallic.
Available with single or multiple colors and stripes.	
Can be made in a no roll design for slacks and trousers.	

We stock a woven gore in 5/16", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", 3/4", 7/8", 1", 1-1/4", and 1-1/2" widths in black and a variety of colors in some widths. These are direct dyed for use as shoe gores; fast color dyes are available for use as garment elastic. We also stock a 3/4" light elastic for use as a strap on dust or facial masks and for use as an eyeglass retainer strap.

BRAIDED ELASTIC

Next in line in cost after woven elastic is braided elastic. It is often referred to as ribbed gore in some applications. Some of the features of braided elastic include the following:

All ends run in one direction.	Will narrow when stretched.
Available as narrow as 1/8".	Can be flat or tubular.
Popular for waistbands, legs, cuffs, fitted sheets.	Can be used to attach buttons.
Shoe applications: attaching buckles, topline puckering, sandal straps, ballerina shoes.	

Stock sizes in flat tubular for the above shoe applications are 1/8", 1/4", 5/16", 3/8" and 1/2".

A lighter weight elastic with less modulus and greater percentage of stretch for less strenuous applications is the #2 light weight braided in 1/4", 5/16", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", 3/4", 7/8", and 1" widths.