18th century stocking designs

In the 18th century both men and women wore stockings. Men wore them with breeches, and women wore them underneath long dresses.

Wealthy people could afford elaborately designed handmade stockings made of silk, whereas common people tended to wear plain wool stockings.



Detailed embroidery at the ankle known as 'clocks' were fashionable at the time. Women's clocks often took on a lace appearance.



By the end of the 18th century ribbing was common. In the 1770s and 1780s vertical stripes became popular and a zigzag pattern also appeared for a time, although the stripes were the most popular.