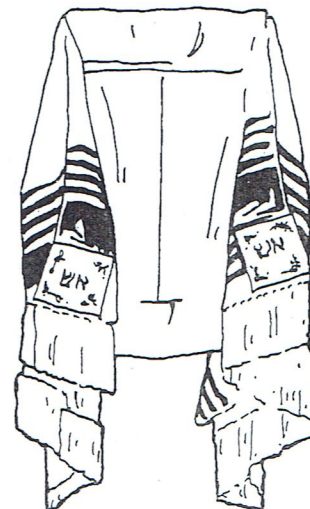


Important Jewish Objects and Symbols

Tallit

A *Tallit* is a four cornered garment that is worn during the morning prayers. The important part of a tallit is the *tzitzit*, or fringes, tied onto each of the corners. The commandment to attach *tzitzit* to the corners of clothing comes from the Shema. The three paragraphs of the Shema contain the most important statement of belief in Judaism. Here is a portion of the third paragraph of the Shema, Numbers 15:37-41:

The Lord said to Moses: Instruct the people Israel that in every generation they shall put fringes on the corners of their garments Looking upon the fringes, you will be reminded of all the commandments of the Lord and fulfill them and not be seduced by your heart or led astray by your eyes. Then you will remember and observe all My commandments and be holy before your God

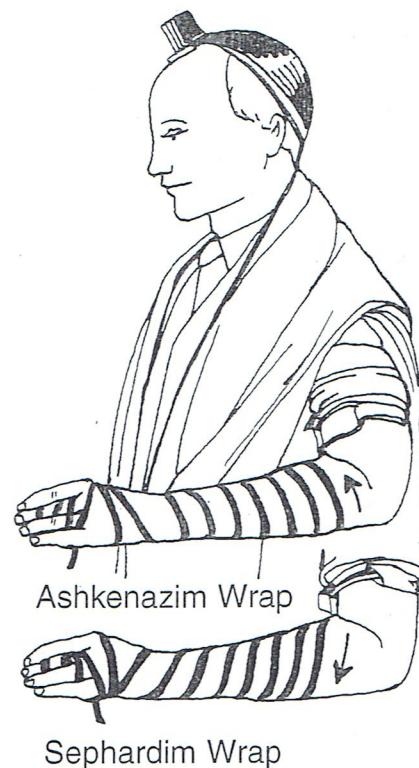


Some Jews wear a small four cornered undershirt, called a tallit katan (small tallit), so they can fulfill the commandment of wearing *tzitzit* all day.

Tefillin

Tefillin (called *phylacteries* in English) are small leather boxes with straps that can be tied on the arm and around the head. They contain verses on parchment from four sections of the Torah, including the first two paragraphs of the Shema. *Tefillin* are worn during morning prayers, except on Shabbat and Festivals. Wearing *tefillin* is a reminder of God's commandments. The *tefillin* on the arm (see illustration for two wrap methods) represents the opportunity to serve God with the body through doing commandments, and the *tefillin* on the head represents the opportunity to serve God with the mind through study and belief. The first paragraph of the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) is as follows (the commandment to wear *tefillin* is underlined):

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. These words which I command you this day shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children. You shall recite them at home and away, morning and night. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, they shall be a reminder above your eyes, and you shall inscribe them upon the doorposts of your home and upon your gates.



Ashkenazim Wrap

Sephardim Wrap