



INVOLVING JEWISH MEN IN JEWISH LIFE

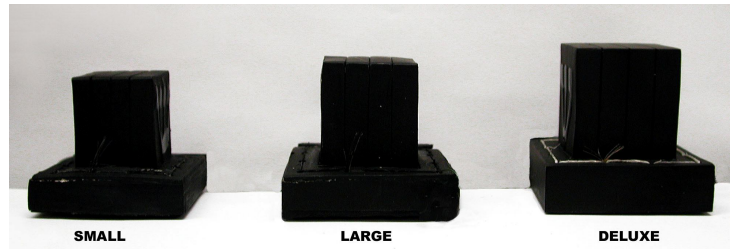
F.A.Q.'s on Tefillin in General & Tefillin Carried by FJMC's Website Store

What are the different components of tefillin?

- **Batim** - the black leather boxes.
- **Retsuot** - the straps.
- **Parshiot** - the scrolls containing passages from Sh'mot (Exodus) and D'varim (Deuteronomy). They are inside the batim.
- **Rosh** - goes on the head.
- **Yad** - goes on the arm.

What are the differences between the various types of tefillin that FJMC carries on its website?

- **Katan** - the tefillin boxes are 2.5 cm square.
- **Gadol** - the tefillin boxes are 3.0 cm square.
- **Deluxe** - the tefillin boxes are 3.0 cm square, but the construction is of higher quality (see the photo the right and check out the picture of deluxe in our website store, links below.).
- The straps are the same length on all types of tefillin. One size fits all and may be adjusted.
- The Katan and Gadol tefillin are written on mashuach parchment and are peshutim. The Deluxe tefillin are written on non-mashuach parchment and are peshutim mehudarim [see definitions below]. They are made of better leather and are designed to last a lifetime.



What does mashuach mean?

- Mashuach refers to a scribal practice developed about 200 years ago in which the parchment used for the parshiot is coated, making it smoother and easier to write on.
- Mashuach parchment is considered Kosher in all of the Masorti/Conservative Movement and most of the Orthodox world. It is not considered Kosher by Chabad.

What is peshutim? What is peshutim mehudarim?

- Peshutim - the boxes are made from multiple pieces of leather that are glued together to form the boxes.
- Peshutim Mehudarim - the boxes are made from multiple pieces of leather that are connected by one additional piece of leather.

What is the difference between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Tefillin?

- There are 3 main differences:
- The Shin on the box:
- ASHKENAZI: 3 branches, pointy triangular base.
- SEPHARDI: 4 branches, a flatter, more square base.
- The letters on the scrolls:
- ASHKENAZI: Less rounded; slight variations in the writing of certain letters.
- SEPHARDI: More rounded; slight variations in the writing of certain letters.
- The knots on the straps (there are several differences, but the Rosh knots are easier to spot):
- ASHKENAZI: Knots tied to form a double dalet.
- SEPHARDI: Knots tied to form a single dalet.

What do I do if the strap around my head is too small or too big?

- Start by asking your rabbi or the gabbai at your shul to adjust it.
- You can ask a local scribe affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti Movement to adjust it for you.
- If you are local to our office in New York stop by and Rabbi Simon will take care of it. If you send it back we will try to adjust it long distance (It is much easier to adjust with the person standing in front of you.)

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 832, New York, NY 10115.

Help!! This is really confusing - I'm right handed. However, I know that tefillin go on the opposite arm. **So, do I order right-handed or left-handed?**

- If you are right-handed, order right-handed tefillin.
- If you are left-handed, order left-handed tefillin.

My child is going to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in a few weeks. What size and type should I purchase for him/her?

It depends on your child and your community. If your child studies at a day school or if you often daven in an Orthodox environment, then we recommend the flat finish, which is most common in traditional communities. As for size, we recommend that parents order what is most suitable for their children. If your child is a regular shul-goer, you might want to consider the Deluxe tefillin. However, if there is a chance the tefillin will fall in the lake at summer camp, then buy a less expensive pair.

How long will it take to receive them?

This depends on where you live. If you are on the East Coast, or in the Midwest, you can expect to receive your tefillin 1 to 2 weeks from the time you place your order. If you live on the West Coast or Canada, please give us at least 2 to 3 weeks from the date the order is placed. Customers in other locations should allow 3 weeks for delivery.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are ordering SEPHARDI or LEFTY tefillin, please add an additional week to the shipping schedule above. We keep a lower inventory of these on hand. We will let you know if an item is backordered so please include your e-mail address and telephone number in your order. ALSO, if you have an upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or another deadline, we strongly advise that you order as early as possible, just in case.

What types of leather are acceptable for the tefillin boxes?

Any kosher animal – cow, sheep, or goat.

Do you sell Gassot and Dakot tefillin?

We are committed to providing inexpensive, quality kosher tefillin. Gassot and Dakot tefillin are more expensive. If you are interested in Gassot and Dakot tefillin, please contact a scribe.

Links

- **FJMC Website** www.fjmc.org
- **FJMC Website Store** <http://fjmc.org/catalog>
- **FJMC Website Store Tefillin Page** <http://fjmc.org/catalog/tefillin-more>
- **World Wide Wrap** www.worldwidewrap.org

The World Wide Wrap is a signature program of the FJMC, teaching thousands of people about the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin!



- **Build-a-Pair Kits** <http://fjmc.org/content/build-pair>

Build-A-Pair is a fun and educational program for 5th through 7th graders, and is an adjunct to the World Wide Wrap. Students learn about Tefillin, construct 'model' Tefillin in which they place Hebrew script they write, insert their 'straps' and more. Complete kits with everything you need are available in the FJMC Store.