

12

## Undercover agents

**Lace or latex? Satin or silk? Your underwear is an effective relationship barometer. Excuse us while we rummage through your laundry, but sorting out your smalls can make a big difference.**



Is your underwear slinky and seductive, casual and comfy or frayed and faded? Instead of rethreading the elastic into those greying boxer shorts, switch to sexy underwear and develop a sexy attitude.

### **A BRIEF LOOK**

People didn't wear knickers until the nineteenth century. The word is adapted from knickerbockers, those men's trousers which do up at the knees. We know your knickers don't come down to your knees, but do they do any more than just keep out the cold?

Here's an idea for you...

**Why not go through each other's underwear drawers and give some of the residents a new lease of life as dusters? Of course, it's hard to tell what they look like when they're lying in the drawer, so draw the curtains and get modelling.**

matter how long you've been together, knowing your partner is wearing underwear she looks fantastic in can give you both a little thrill. We're not saying flash your pants, but try giving him a little glimpse of your bra which has a captivating little detail like an embroidered dragonfly or sequins. Or let your partner know that under that sombre grey business suit, there's a shot of her favourite colour.

### **THIGH HOPES**

---

Tights are ugly. Nothing puts a damper on a relationship faster than a glimpse of flesh-coloured nylon wrinkling at the crotch. So whether you want to wear fishnets, lace tops or sheer, keep him in suspense with suspenders and hold up your relationship with held up hosiery - start stocking shocking stockings.

Defining idea...

**'You know it's a bad day when you put your bra on backwards and it fits better.'**

ANONYMOUS

### **FOR YOUR EYES ONLY**

---

At the start of relationships women tend to wear matching bras and briefs, lace body suits and slinky camisoles. And men make sure their underwear is clean. A few years down the line, we make the mistake of thinking we can get away with any old greying, fraying baggy granddad pants, because they're out of sight. No

### **MEASURE UP**

---

Most women are wearing a wrong sized bra, which can be uncomfortable and unattractive. You could go and be fitted professionally in a lingerie shop, but it's much more fun to do it together at home. Here's how: get your partner

to measure around your rib cage, directly under your bust. Adding five inches gives you your size. If it's an odd number, round it up to the next even one. Now the fun bit. Ask him to measure around the fullest part of your bust.

And the sums: compare the two numbers. Every inch difference is a letter size. So if you're 28 inches around your rib cage (plus 5 makes 33, rounded up to 34) and 34 around your bust, you're a 34A. If you're 31 inches round your rib cage (plus 5 makes 36) and 40 inches round your bust, you're a 36D.

### SHOPPING TRIPS

---

When you're buying lingerie or underwear for your partner, the trick is to choose something that they'll feel good in, rather than give you the hots. If he feels uncomfortable in the all-in-one Tarzan suit, it won't give your relationship the wild edge you hoped for. If your wife is romantic at heart, selecting something pink and pretty is a better bet than crotchless leather fetishwear.

### GOOD FOUNDATIONS

---

Underwear represents the secret and intimate side of your relationship. But the right underwear can affect the way you look and feel in your outerwear too. When you choose underwear for yourself or your partner, think about what they'll wear it under to avoid an ugly visible pantie line.

**Dressed like a diva? Now create a boudoir fit for lingerie loungers. Check out IDEA 33, Bedroom eyes.**

Try another idea...

**'There's a fine line between where the sexy underwear stops and the back pages of top shelves magazine begin. Cross it and enjoy yourself.'**

MARION MCGILVER, author of *Aphrodisiac*

Defining idea...

**'Brevity is the soul of lingerie.'**

DOROTHY PARKER

Defining idea...

How did  
it go?

**Q My girlfriend wears an old T-shirt in bed. I've bought her some sexy nightdresses, but she says her T-shirt is more comfortable and won't wear them. How can I persuade her to try them?**

A *Perhaps they weren't her style. But we agree that an old T-shirt isn't going to up the romance factor. If she's after comfort, why not buy her a soft, brushed cotton nightshirt or a pair of silk pyjamas?*

**Q I'd like to buy my wife some underwear but I don't know where to start. I've thought of asking a shop assistant, but I don't want to look like a dirty old man in the women's undies section. What can I do?**

A *Why not buy online? Next time your wife is out, have a peak in her underwear drawer to find out what she already has. If you buy something too far out of her range, she'll barely wear it. As well as looking at labels to get exact sizes, pay attention to her bras. Does she like underwire or padding? Cotton or other materials? Look at the cut of her knickers. Does she wear low rise, apple-catchers or thongs? Once you're armed with styles and sizes, browse a number of sites. Many of them show underwear on models, so if you're choosing a colour, see how it looks on a model who has similar hair and skin colour to your wife. If you can get it gift wrapped too, all the better.*

