



Flag Facts & Fancies

How To Make An American Flag



(NAPSA)—Here are a few facts for anyone who's ever wondered just how a flag is made.

An American flag may look simple, but it can be complicated to create—especially when you're making hundreds of them at a time. Here's how:

You take full rolls of red and white fabric and slit them into stripes so that they look like huge red and white tape.

Full rolls of blue fabric are then cut to the right width for the star field, which is technically called the canton. You embroider white stars on each blue canton.

The flag is made in two halves. The first half is the long stripes of red and white (three red and three white). The stripes are first joined in twos. Then the twos are joined to form the six stripes of the bottom half of the flag.

For the top half, you join six short red and white stripes in twos, and then an additional single red short stripe is cut to correct length. This is then sewn to the star field. This is one of the most difficult parts, since the stripes and the canton must line up perfectly.

At this point, both these halves

are still yards and yards long since it is easier to piece them together in strips and then cut to the proper length.

You then sew the two halves together making a really long series of flags. The series of flags is then cut apart into individual flags. These are hemmed and a header is put on, which is the part of the flag from which it is hung.

For some flags, grommets are put in the header, so that they can be attached to the ropes of flagpoles. Some headers have sleeves into which the flagpole slides. Lastly, each flag is inspected and stray threads are cut.

It's been less than a century that the flag, however it's made, has been standardized. It wasn't until 1912 that President Taft formally detailed the way the flag should be configured. Before that, it was up to the individual flag maker, reports Allied Materials & Equipment Company, Inc., a maker of U.S. flags exclusively.

To learn more about the manufacturing process, or to order American flags or other patriotic products, call 1-866-497-FLAG or visit www.alliedflag.com.