

Why Are Diamond Bracelets Called Tennis Bracelets?

It's not often that a piece of jewelry is named for an accident, but such is the case with tennis bracelets. They got their unusual name from an incident involving professional tennis player Chris Evert during a match in 1987. Evert had been wearing an expensive bracelet featuring an inline string of individually-set diamonds. When the clasp snapped, she asked the officials to stop the match until the jewelry could be found. Since that day, bracelets featuring an inline array of diamonds have been called tennis bracelets.

Tennis bracelets are popular accessories for formal occasions due to their luster and sparkle. Individual diamonds (or reasonable facsimiles) are placed in square settings and then strung into a bracelet held together by a clasp. The settings and support wiring may be constructed from silver or other quality jewelry metal. The individual settings allow tennis bracelets to move comfortably while worn.

Other types of jewelry that share the form of these bracelets are referred to as tennis-style. Groups of different sized stones may be used in tennis-style bracelets, but the jewelry retains the inline look of original tennis bracelets. Classic such bracelets tend to feature a uniform arrangement of diamonds and can be very expensive.

One important element of well-constructed tennis bracelets is the safety latch. The clasp of a typical such bracelet depends on a springy metal latch meshing securely with a hook. Over time, this clasp style can become less reliable. Therefore, jewelry designers include a secondary security measure in these bracelets. The two most common styles of safety latches are chains and 'figure eights.'

The chain safety latch connects from one small stud to another on the other side of the main clasp. If the main clasp fails, the chain should hold the bracelet intact until it can be repaired. The figure eight safety latch is a small double loop of metal. One loop snaps over a small post on one side of the main clasp, while the other loop snaps over a similar post on the opposite side. Even if the main clasp separates, the figure eight loops will keep tennis bracelets from falling off.

These bracelets should be custom fitted for maximum security and comfort. Tennis bracelets which fit too loosely can become snagged and pulled. Overly snug tennis bracelets can chafe the skin and become stretched to the point of breakage. An ideal fit allows one finger to pass easily between the bracelet and wrist.

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Victor Epan is the owner of <http://www.JewelryGift.biz>, a huge online jewelry retailer featuring the largest and best selection of jewelry including personalizable items...