

On Creating State Tartans

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Recently the state of Wisconsin adopted a State Tartan. It joined 38 states, all Canadian provinces, all U.S. military services, the FBI, Germany, Communist China, and many more entities, in having a distinct corporate tartan, officially sanctioned by the Lord Lyon. For those desiring to induce their state to do the same, Dave Berger has the following suggestions.:



* **It must be done by legislation.** Consider it as a symbol or signature representing the heritage and history of the people of your state, and educate a sponsor and the legislature accordingly. Educate the people of your state through publicity, possibly through a contest about the symbolism.

* **The tartan is symbolic of the state itself, not just an ethnic symbol.** For example, the Wisconsin State Tartan incorporates the following stripes or colors, signifying the following: brown is for the fur trade, grey for the lead mining in the Southwest corner of the state, green for the lumber industry and Wisconsin's great pine forests, blue for the two Great Lakes bordering Wisconsin, yellow for the dairy and brewing industries, red for the University of Wisconsin. The intersection of yellow & green symbolizes Wisconsin's Professional Sports industry, exemplified by the Green Bay Packers' colors.

* **Weavers:** At this time, there are no commercial Scottish weavers in the United States. Wisconsin uses the Dal Glish weavers in Selkirk, Scotland.

* **Tariffs:** For those wanting upholstery fabric, there is no tariff. There is a 25% U.S. tariff duty on dress fabric.

* **At the present time,** the Scottish Government is establishing an official Register of Tartans, under the auspices of the Lord Lyon.

* **To look at existing tartans,** use the Tartan Authority's "Tartan Ferret" found at the following website: <http://www.tartansauthority.com/web/site/home/home.asp>

* **For more suggestions** about creation of state tartans, contact Dave Berger or Robert McWilliam (COSCA trustee). Also check out the Wisconsin website: <http://www.standrewssocietymilwaukee.org/page4.html>.



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<http://www.lyon-court.com>



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