

***Haneto* Costume**

The *haneto* (festival dancers) are required to wear a certain type of costume, as specified by the Nebuta Festival's preservation society. The costume consists mainly of a *yukata* (lightweight summer kimono); the *haneto* fold the fabric at the waist to shorten the *yukata* to knee-level to allow for all the kicking and dancing. The costume is secured around the waist with a belt and a yellow waistband. To secure the long, loose sleeves, a bright length of cloth is wrapped around the shoulders and tied in the back with a bow. Tied up with distinctive, bright fabric, the costume is donned in such a way that nothing will come apart in the middle of the parade.

The full costume consists of the *yukata* and accessories, along with footwear, bells, and a *hanagasa* (flower hat). Footwear is limited to *tabi* (traditional split toe socks) and *zori* (thonged straw sandals). *Haneto* dancers pin small bells to their costume so when they jump and dance, the bells ring in unison. Topping off the whole costume is a *hanagasa*, an elaborate triangular straw hat decorated with bright flowers.