Reed. 1. (Weaving.) Called also the slay or sley. An appurtenance of the loom, consisting of two parallel bars set a few inches apart and furnished with a number of parallel slips of metal or reed, called dents, between which the warp-threads are passed. The lengths of reeds are estimated in quarters of a yard, as \( \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, \) etc., and, if necessary, by a smaller fractional denominator, as \( \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{8}, \) or \( \frac{1}{12}, \frac{1}{16}, \) etc.

In Scotland they are estimated thus:—

<table>
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<tr>
<th>20 splits</th>
<th>5 porters</th>
<th>1 hundred</th>
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In other parts of Britain the estimate is by the number of splits or dents in 364 inches, or in 1 inch.

The reed is set in a swinging frame, called the lathe, lay, or batten. In the hand-lathe, the bottom of the batten is furnished with a shelf, called the shuttle-race, along which the shuttle is driven.

The office of the reed is to beat the weft up to the web, and the force of the blow determines the compactness of the fabric. Two threads of yarn pass between each of the reed splits or dents.

The number of dents in a reed of a given length determines the fineness of the cloth.

One form of linen-groover has 4 perforations to adapt it to the varying modes of estimating. The number of threads visible in this perforation ascertains the number of threads in the standard measure of the reed.

The first is \( \frac{1}{6} \) of an inch in diameter, and is intended to ascertain the number of threads per inch.

The second is for the Holland reed, being \( \frac{1}{40} \) part of 40 inches.

The third is \( \frac{1}{30} \) part of 37 inches, and is adapted to the Scotch reed, so called by ure, as being the regulation reed of that country.

The fourth is \( \frac{1}{20} \) of 34 inches, and is adapted for the French umbroes.

Two warp-threads count for 1 split.