Pile upon Pile: Fabric having patterns formed by piles of different lengths. The difference in the length of pile on the same fabric can be obtained by weaving in weft containing (if pile warp is used) wires employed having varying thickness along their length. On the pile is produced by the filling, the filling is made of different length, shorter floats producing shorter pile than long floats. A greater variety of patterns can be obtained by shearing the pile with a knife after pile is cut or trimmed, or by machine. Part of the pile is pressed down and the remaining erect pile is shorn short. After the pressed down parts are brushed up again they will have a longer pile and thus form a design.

Pile Warp: A set of warp threads, separate from the warp forming the ground. The warp which produces the cut or uncut raised face of plush or tufted pile woolen fabrics, such as Velvets, Wilton and Brussels Carpets, Turkish Towels, etc.


A method of weaving in which there are more warps, one of which is formed into loops over wires, which are drawn out after the formation of the loops, which may be cut by a velvet or pile brocading procedure, as for example in Wilton carpets, or left uncut as a terrace pile as in Brussels carpets. The loops are cut when a special warp during weaving, by means of a special weave and a corresponding intermittent slackening of the pile warp on every third pick, is made to form loops on one or both sides of the fabric, as in Turkish towel weaving. Pulling the filling and cutting said floats by a specially constructed knife, either by hand or machine, as in velvets.

Pile-wire: One of a number of wires introduced automatically across the warp in weaving, and over which the pile warp-threads are formed into loops when they are again automated from the pile warp structure. There are two types of these wires, one with a smooth end, and which is used in the formation of a terrace, i.e., loop pile, like Brussels carpet, the other having the end of the wire turned up and sharpened to present a keen, sharp edge, being used when a velvet, i.e., a cut pile is desired.

Pillow Bar: The ground or filling of pillow lace, consisting of irregular threads of threads drawn from one part of the pattern to another. These bars may either be plain or have a minute pearl edge.

Pillow-Lace: When work in gold, silver, silk or linen, made upon a cushion by the use of a number of small bobbins; a design traced upon paper lies on the pillow. Usually two kinds of pins are used, one being inserted at cross lines of the design where desired. Three effects are produced, woven, gauze and embroidered; the work, because of the regular warps and filling, the gauze, since the threads which might be considered as warp and filling are withdrawn from each other at the crossing or regular interlacing, and finally, the embroidered, due to the introducing of points and thick threads.

Pillow Sham: An embroidered or otherwise ornamented cover, to be laid over a pillow when not in use.

Pilot Cloth: A coarse, heavy kind of woolen cloth, generally blue, such as is used for blacking or dyers cloths.

An indigo blue woolen cloth for overcoats and seamens' wear.

Pina: A fibre prepared from the leaf of the pineapple plant, sometimes known as pineapple fibre. The fibres obtained from the leaves of this plant are fine and silky, and have been used for cordage making and for mixing with cotton fibres, and as a substitute for silk. The breaking strain of some pineapple fibres has reached 150 lbs. It is found in China, South America, the Philippines, parts of Africa, Mexico and Central America. Their use has not been extensive on account of high cost of production. The leaf is picked before the ripening fruit, and the prickly edges being cut off, the leaves are beaten upon a wooden block with a mallet with silk cloth, and masses of fibres are obtained, which, after being washed and dried, are ready for spinning. Also called Pineapple Fibre.

Pina Cloth: A fabric made in Manila from the leaves of the pineapple plant. It is very thin and transparent.

Pinafore: A sleeveless apron protecting the front of a child's dress from being soiled.

Pin-check: A very small check pattern.

Pin-cop: A filling cop, to fit a shuttle.

Pineapple Fibre: See Pina.

Pinhead: Anything small, used in the textile trade, with reference to the patterns or designs of fabrics, as pinhead checks, etc.

Pink Boll Worm: The principal insect enemy of the cotton plant in certain Oriental countries. Recently it has been introduced into Egypt, where in the course of about five years, it became more important than any of the other pests. It has destroyed a large part of the cotton industry of the United States against the pink boll worm, as well as other foreign insects through quarantine, seemed to be complete, until it was discovered that a considerable number of infested seeds come to the United States in bales of cotton.

Pinking: Ornamenting silk and other fabrics, used for dress or upholstery purposes with a pinking iron, or by punching a scalloped pattern along the margin of a fabric. Also called Pinking.

Pink Salts: A name given to the double carbonate of tin and ammonia. It was formerly employed instead of the other salts of tin, in the wood-pinks; it is now very seldom used with in leather.

Pin-rb: A delicate cord or rib woven in fine muslin.

Pin-work: In needle-point lace, small and fine raised parts of a design.

Pitambar: A piece of silk cloth or waist cloth dyed yellow, often with a border of some other color; worn by Hindus when worshipping, and during different meals.

Pitchy Wool: Unwashed wools.
Pittical: A blue compound obtained among the oxidation products of tannin and used in dyeing.

Pittman: An early maturing cotton from Louisiana, the plant being short-limbed and of the cluster variety.

Plaid: A pattern of colored bars or stripes crossing each other at right angles, a check pattern.

Plaid of Woolen Cloth: A garment of woolen cloth, often having a tartan pattern, being a large rectangular piece and worn in Scotland by both sexes for warmth and protection against the weather, the dress of the Highlanders, also forming part of the uniform of certain infantry regiments in the British army.

Plain Cloth: The simplest form of a woven texture, both warp and filling being over one and under one. By changes in materials, sizes of yarn and balance of structure, many of the best recognized styles of fabrics are produced with this interlacing.

Plain Cotton: See Cotton Weave.

Plain Wool: Wool in which the curves in the staples are scarcely discernible. Also wool in which the staple formation has ceased altogether and the fleece is only lightly held together by binders.

Plait: A portion of a fabric doubled over and secured in position by sewing; a flattened fold or gather.

Plaited Hosiery: See Plaited.

Plaited Stitch: Herringbone stitch used in embroidery to imitate the herringbone effect.

Plaiting: In hat manufacturing, the felting of the hair by means of pressure, so as to form the body; also called Hardening.

Planting: Placing additional colors of the warp yarns in the frames of Brussels and Wilton carpets so as to improve their general appearance as to coloring without increasing the framework. The color or the weight of the pile warp used. In some instances, the frames may be slightly increased. A process in weaving by which the various colored extra warps are interchanged.

Plaque: Printing of calico by means of padding.

Plaque of Hosiery: A term applied to designate hosiery that has been knitted from two or more different yarns in such a manner that the outside of the web is made from one yarn and the inside face is made from another yarn, or, the centre of the web may be made from one kind of yarn, the outer face of another kind and the inside face of still another yarn. The effect is the same as if two or more separate fabrics were laid together, with the difference that the separate fabrics so interlaced together in the knitting that the resulting web is practically a single fabric. Plated hosiery can be made in a variety of styles and from variety of textile fibres in one piece, the socks or stockings so made being thicker and heavier than plain knit hosiery, and are much more durable.

The chief use of this method is for producing a web of extra weight or durability or to produce an expensive looking garment at a low cost, which can be done by using different grades of yarn, using an expensive yarn, silk or wool, for the face of the fabric and a cheaper yarn, cotton, for the inside. Also called Plaited Hosiery.

Plated Yarn: A thread, having as a core a thread of cheap material round which is twisted a superior fibre, as cotton or thread twisted round with worsted, silk or metal.

Platina: An iron plate for glazing fabrics.

Plauen Lace: Applied to all laces emanating from Plauen, Saxony, the centre of the German Lace Industry, and includes imitations of nearly all point laces, with or without embroidery on a wool groundwork, this being afterwards dissolved in acid, leaving the cotton or silk design intact.

Pleus: A tangled mass of fiber.

Plisé: French for pleated. A pleated effect that may be applied to almost any material, including velvets. May be done by machinery, or, in case of ribbons, by use of draw strings. From French plisser, to plait, to crimp, to fold, etc.

Plissé Ombrel: An armure weave in plisse effect and ombre shading.

Plonkeet: See Plaque.

Plough: The velveteen cutter.

Plucked: An end of top, slubbing, roving or yarn which shows an irregular thinness due to excessive draft or drag.

Plucked Wool: Wool plucked from a sheep which has been dead a few days. Sometimes the term is applied to skin wool.

Pluie: Luxurious dress goods and tapistry, made in France of silk or camel hair warp with gold or silver threads interwoven in the wefting.

Plumettes: Cotton or woolen cloth showing on a clear face ground, raised dots or figures in relief, the design presenting a feathery effect.

Plunket: (1) in the 15th century a blue color; (2) under Edward VI a coarse woollen fabric. Sometimes written Plonket; also called Blunket.

Plush: A fabric formed of a ground texture and a pile texture, the latter standing up more or less straight from the ground texture. There are two kinds: (1) filling piles, and (2) warp piles. In filling piles, the pile filling during weaving is simply floated on the top of the ground and subsequently cut in the finishing operation. In the warp piles, the pile is formed by warp-threads which are either looped over wires to form the pile, or two ground textures are woven with a small space in between, across which the warp pile threads pass from one cloth to the other, forming the pile on the under surface of the top texture, and the upper surface of the under texture when the two cloths are cut in finishing. A long pile (over 1 inch in length) velvet like structure, made in cotton, silk, wool, mohair, camel's hair; from Peluche. Not French for shaggy. This use of plush dates back to the 16th century.

Plush-velvet: Plush having a shorter nap than is common, and thus resembling velour.

Plush-velveteen: Cotton velvet plush, closely imitating silk plush.

Ply: A term indicating the number of units of which a yarn or fabric is composed. Thus, two-ply yarn indicates a yarn composed of two single strands. Three-ply cloth refers to cloth which is really composed of three single cloths, solidly bound together.

Pocket: Pocket drill: Stout, unbleached cotton drill, used for pockets.

Pole: French term for pile. Silk thread used as a core for gold and silver tinsel, consisting of 8 or 10 cocoon filaments twisted together.

Poll de Chevre: A ladies' dress goods made in France, the warp of which is fine spun silk, colored, and the filling of Angora or White Syrian Wool, thrown prominently to the face, the design being in black, brown, etc. It has a soft feel and pleasing effect, but does not wear well. Imitations are made with a cotton warp, and which combines well with the goat's hair.

Point: In lace-making, needle-point lace, as Alençon point, Dresden point, etc. A collar of point; used in the plural the term denotes fine lace in general; used freely in connection with the decorative arts (as tapestry or Beauvais point) to some peculiar kind of work, and is even applied to bobbin-lace and the like; also denotes vaguely a pattern embroidered, usually applied to embroidery, etc., usually in connection with the stitch or the peculiar method of work which produces it; a lace with tags at the end, such laces being about eight inches long, consisting often of three different colored yarns twisted together and having their ends wrapped in cotton, used in the Middle Ages to fasten the clothes together, but giving way to buttons in the 17th century; also made of silk or linen resembling a tagged lacing; made with the needle; said of lace, a needle-point.

Point a Bride: The ground of lace when made of brides or bars; lace having a bride ground as opposed to that having a reseau ground.

Point Applique: Point lace in which the design, after having been separately made, has been applied to the net which forms the foundation.

Point a Reseau: Lace with a net ground worked together into the pattern, as is the case with Mechlin.

Point de Alencon: See Alençon.

Point de Angletterre: English point; English style of lace work; English lace.

Point de Angletterre Lace: Fine Brussels pillow lace, distinguished by a rib of raised and plaited threads worked in the lace. Shown in floral, ornithological and geometrical decoration.

Point de Arabe Lace: Coarse bobbin lace made in Belgium and France as well as Arabia. Shows a large, bold pattern cable edge, and is almost invariably in a deep terra cotta. Used for curtains and draperies.

Point de Armes: An embroidery stitch used on transparent materials for leaves and flowers. It is worked on the face a hemstitch while the threads are crossed in the back in a close lattice fashion.

Point de Gauze: Every fine needle made ground for lace, generally identified with the finest Brussels lace when made wholly with the needle.

Point de Gaze Lace: Flemish point lace resembling point de Alençon, though much softer, being without horsehair.