FABRICS
AND
HOW TO KNOW THEM

DEFINITIONS OF FABRICS
PRACTICAL TEXTILE TESTS
CLASSIFICATION OF FABRICS

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SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND RESET

55 ILLUSTRATIONS

PHILADELPHIA AND LONDON
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

This book has been rewritten and enlarged because of the appearance of new textile fibres, new fabrics, and because of changes in terms. It now includes also rugs and carpets, knit goods, mechanical fabrics, and some imported materials for drapery purposes.

Illustrations have been added and the section devoted to tests has been expanded. The names of nationally advertised fabrics were again checked by a group of representative merchants. Trade names registered in the U. S. patent office are so indicated. There is a new section on the labelling of textile fabrics. Important rulings of the Federal Trade Commission are cited. Miss Jessie Caplin of the extension service of the University of Minnesota has given valuable help in the revision of the book.

G. G. D.
PREFACE

This book of definitions of textile fabrics and terms relating to fabrics and of practical textile tests represents the accumulated knowledge of a large number of persons dealing directly with materials. Contributions have been made by salespeople, buyers, advertising experts, wholesale merchants, and experienced mill men.

The purpose of this publication is to present usable information about staple fabrics on the retail market. It is limited to yard goods, many of which appear in ready-to-wear garments and articles of household use. Rugs, window shades, blankets, and comforters are not included; they are textile fabrics but are not sold by the yard. Likewise, there are many mechanical fabrics, as automobile tire cloth, belting, felt for filter purposes, asbestos cloth, balloon silk, sail cloth, etc., which have been omitted because they are not sold over the counter in a dry goods store.

The list covers only materials on the American market. Fabrics recognized as staple or standard have been chosen and, as far as possible, novelties eliminated.

Brand names as "Lonsdale muslin" and "Skinner’s satin" have not been given, because each represents one only of a class of muslins and satins which can be defined without the use of the advertised name. Such names as "Soesette" and "Seco" denote fabrics which cannot be described without using the trade term. In order to give a representative list of these terms, a questionnaire was sent to 200 merchants in different sections of the country asking for the names of nationally advertised fabrics commonly called for by their customers. Accordingly, the trade names in italics are based upon the replies sent by these dry goods firms. Many fabrics have received their names through usage. For example, georgette was first produced by a French manufacturer. Because the name was not protected, it became common property and now is used as the name of a fabric.
The terms relating to fabrics do not include technical facts about manufacturing processes, because there are many reference books which supply this information.

The definitions are presented for the use of all those who buy or sell cloth. It is hoped that the information will be of value (1) to salespeople, in retail stores, wholesale and jobbing houses, advertising and merchandise managers and buyers of fabrics and ready-to-wear goods (2) to students of textiles and clothing in high schools and colleges and (3) to the buying public.

In addition to the many who have assisted in the preparation of the manuscript, special acknowledgment is made to Professor Robert Max Garrett, University of Washington; A. L. Gifford, President of American Association of Woolen and Worsted Manufacturers; Frederick L. Lewton, Curator Division of Textiles, United States National Museum; Wilbur W. Nugent, Circulation Manager, Fairchild Publishing Company; Professor Elsie I. Raitt, University of Washington; Mrs. Cassie Paine Small, formerly Associate Director of the Prince School, Boston; Arthur Weisenberger, formerly Director, Bureau of Research National Retail Dry Goods Association; Mrs. Mary Schenk Woolman, Textile Specialist Boston.

Seattle business houses have contributed generously to the fund of information contained in this book. Grateful acknowledgment is here made to them.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firms That Have Given Data</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Illustrations</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Definitions of Fabrics and Terms Relating to</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Textile Tests—Practical Analysis of Fabrics</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Classification of Fabrics</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Labelling of Textile Fabrics</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Books of Reference on Textile Fabrics</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustration</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ada Canvas</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrachan</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Shade Cloth</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batik</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdseye</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brocade</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canvas Cross Stitch</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical; action of, on cotton and wool mixtures</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenille Rug</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenille Yarn</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chintz</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corduroy</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damask (Table)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damask (Upholstery)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Cloth</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piére Rug</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flock Dot</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friar’s Cloth</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frisé</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabardine</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Cloth</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeycomb</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huck</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knit Fabric</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leno</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras (Shirting)</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras (Curtain)</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquisette</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microscope</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microscopic Drawings</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milanese</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moiré</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (Bobbinet)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (Detail of Bobbinet)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustration Description</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (Filet)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick Glass</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Weave</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratiné</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satin Weave (Detail Filling Face)</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satin Weave (Detail Warp Face)</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serge</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seersucker</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss (Lappet)</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss (Swivel)</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapestry</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapestry Brussels</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied and Dyed Fabric</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricolette</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweed</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twill Weave (Detail as in Denim)</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twill Weave (Detail as in Serge)</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thread Counting Micrometer</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warp Print</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART I

FABRIC DEFINITIONS AND TERMS RELATING TO FABRICS
FABRICS AND HOW TO KNOW THEM

FABRIC DEFINITIONS AND TERMS RELATING TO FABRICS

The italicized words are trade names (*Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.). Only those necessary for identifying the fabrics have been mentioned. See preface.

**Abaca.** Incorrectly called Manilla hemp. Fibre commonly used in the Philippines. Fibres are tied end to end and woven without spinning.

**A. B. C.** See silk and cotton fabrics.

**Absorbent cotton.** Fibre or cloth with natural oil or wax removed chemically. Because of absorbent nature, used for surgical purposes.

**Acetate rayon.** See Rayon.

**Aida Canvas.** See Canvas.

**Airplane cloth.** Originally made of linen for airplane wings. Close even texture. Since the warp made of cotton in different weights and colors. Used chiefly in shirts. Weave—plain.

**Albatross.** A light weight wool fabric with crépy surface due to twist of yarns. Piece-dyed, usually in light colors. Launder well. A variety of albatross 44” wide is called Crêpe Egyptia, a trade name. Uses: dresses, negligées and infant’s wear. Weave—plain. Width, 36’.

**Aledo.** See silk and cotton fabrics.

**Alpaca.** 1. An animal somewhat like the Angora goat, but smaller, native to South America. 2. Name of a fabric originally made of this fibre. Similar to brillantine and mohair. Smooth, wiry with cotton warp and worsted filling (alpaca, mohair or any lustrous wool slightly twisted). Wears well, sheds dust. Uses: linings, men’s summer suits and office coats, women’s dresses (when in vogue).
3. Rayon and cotton fabric called alpaca because of its wiry nature.

Aeolian. See Bolienne.


Ada Canvas


Art linen. A general term applied to a variety of plain woven linens used for embroidery. May be unbleached, ecru, white; "round thread" i.e., not calendered or smooth. Uses: chiefly needlework as lunch cloths, napkins, doilies, towels, runners; also dresses, skirts, uniforms. Weave—plain. Widths 18\", 20\", 27\", 36\", 42\", 45\", 48\", 54\", 60\", 72\", 81\", 90\".
**Art ticking.** Distinguished from regular bed ticking by its printed design. Often a floral pattern in a stripe. A tough firm cloth. Uses: mattresses and pillow covers, sometimes as cretonne. Weave—Satin or twill. Width, 36”.

**Artificial leather.** A substitute for leather made by coating a cotton fabric with a nitro-cellulose preparation and embossing the surface to imitate leather. Various effects produced by kind of fabric foundation and the color and finish of surface. A good grade of manufactured leather is more durable than a poor grade of split leather. Sold under trade names as Pantasote, Leatherwove, Fabrikoid, Zapon, etc. Uses: upholstery, suit cases, millinery and dress trimmings.

**Artificial silk.** See Rayon.

**Artificial wool.** See Sniã-fil.

**Asbestos.** Fireproof fibre of mineral origin. Spun with cotton and woven. Cotton later burned away. Used for theater curtains and firemen’s gloves.

**Astrachan.** Wool coating made to imitate Astrachan or Karakul fur. Foundation cloth, knitted or woven of cotton or wool. Curly pile of mohair yarn slightly twisted. May resemble the close curl of Persian lamb fur. Good quality. Wears well. Uses: coats for men, women and children, caps, muffs, trimmings. Weave—pile (may have knit back). Width, 52”.

**Aubusson.** (Fr. pr. o-bus-sone). Carpet made in Aubusson, France on hand looms. A kind of tapestry.

**Austrian shade cloth.** Originally made in Austria. Cotton shade cloth woven with crinkled effect in stripes, which are similar to seersucker only broader. Fancy woven stripes in color often alternate with crinkled stripes. Cotton, or mercerized cotton, silk or rayon used in combination. Natural, white or colored. Uses: window shades, bed spreads. Weave—plain with fancy stripes. Width, 36”, 45”, 54”, 72”.

**Axminster.** Pile carpet named for town in England where first made.

**Automobile tire cloth.** A variety of weaves and textures made from long staple cotton for tires. Treated with rubber and vulcanized.
Astrachan
Close curl and loose curl

Austrian Shade Cloth
Crinkle stripes resemble seersucker
FACTORIES

Awning stripe. Duck woven with stripes (yarn dyed) for awnings and lawn umbrellas. May be used for coach covers and chair seats.

Baby flannel. See flannel.


Balloon cloth. Closely woven, fine, light weight silk or cotton. Rubberized or given other treatment to make impervious. Uses: balloon covers, tents. Weave—plain.

Baronette Satin.* Trade name for rayon fabric or rayon with cotton back. Uses: sports wear, costume slips, millinery. Weave—satin. Width, 40".

Barré. (Fr. pr. bah-ray). Any pattern produced by stripes or bars extending crosswise of the goods. See Bayadere.

Basco.* Trade name for cotton damask with a special linenized finish. See damask.

Basket cloth. Plain woven fabric with two or more warp yarns used as one and interlaced with two or more filling yarns. It produces a basket effect.

Bast. Long cells beneath the woody tissue in the stalk of plants. Flax, ramie, jute, hemp are bast fibres.

Bathrobe cloth. Thick, warm, double faced, cotton blanket ing woven with tightly twisted warp and two sets of soft filling, which produce a good nap. Inflammable. Nap packs down after washing. Two or more colors in design. Sold by the yard or in pattern blankets. Uses: bathrobes, crib blankets, coach covers. Weave—Jacquard. Width, 27" or 54".


Batiste (French origin, from name of Jean Baptiste, a linen weaver). 1. Soft, thin cotton fabric resembling nainsook, only finer. Qualities vary from that of a fine nainsook to

very thin and delicate grades of batiste. Combed yarns of fine cotton are used; the better grades are highly mercerized and singed. Uses: handkerchiefs, all kinds of lingerie and infant's wear; the coarser grades for linings and undergarments. White and delicate colors. Weave—plain. Width, 30'', 36'', 45''.

2. Light weight, fine, smooth wool fabric similar to nun's veiling, only finer. Lends itself to draping effects and shirring. Plain colors. Uses: children's dresses, negligees. Weave—plain. Width, 40'', 44''.

Batik
Javanese wax painting (hand process)

Bayadere (Fr. pr. by-ad-air). Stripes in strongly contrasted colors, running across the fabric. Name derived from garment worn by dancing girls in India.

Beaver. Thick, woolen fabric with a napped finish similar to broadcloth. Originally made in England to resemble beaver fur, hence the name. The length of the nap varies greatly. A kind of beaver cloth used in millinery is a pile fabric somewhat resembling hatter's plush. The thirty and thirty-two ounce beavers used for uniforms and overcoats may be compared with kersey. They do not have the
hard finish of melton, but always show a nap. Weave—twill. Width 52", 60".

**Bedford cord**. Corded material first made in this country in New Bedford, hence the name. A similar material in cotton which originated in France is called piqué. First made with cords running from selvage to selvage. In modern practice both piqué and Bedford cord have cords running lengthwise. Worsted, silk, cotton or combinations. Wearing quality, excellent, unless weave is loose with weak filling yarns. Uses: infant’s wraps, riding habits, coats. Weave—fancy. Width, 44", 50", 54". See Piqué.

**Beetling**. A pounding process which gives round thread linen cloth a flat effect. When beetled, linen damask has a leather-like texture.

**Beige**. (Fr. pr. bay-zh). 1. Natural tan or ecru color or undyed yarn or fabric. 2. A kind of wool fabric no longer on the market.

**Bengaline**. Similar to poplin only heavier. Silk warp with worsted filling. Lower grades have cotton filling; sometimes silk is used. Warp entirely covers filling. Yard-dyed. Wears very well unless loosely woven. Uses: dresses, coats, trimmings. Weave—corded (variation of plain). Width, 36", 40".

**Billiard cloth**. Woolen cloth or felt dyed green for covering billiard tables.


**Blanc** (Fr. pr. blong, meaning white). In the French dry goods trade everything which is bleached.

**Blanket**. Cotton, wool or mixed fabric. Usually napped. Single or double size for bed covers. Horse blankets are heavy felted, coarse. Weave—plain or twill.

**Bleaching**. The process of whitening textile materials. **Bleaching may be done in the yarn or in the piece. Chemi-**
cal bleaching (chlorine) is most frequently used for cotton and linen. For the latter sun bleaching is preferred. Wool and silk are usually bleached with sulphur dioxide or hydrogen peroxide which is harmless to fibres but not permanent.

**Block printing.** The hand printing of fabrics with blocks, as distinguished from modern printing with rollers.

**Blond net.** See net.

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**Bobbinet net.** See net.

**Boiled-off silk.** Silk which has had the sericin or natural gum removed. See degumming.

**Bolivia.** Woolen or worsted weft pile fabric. Soft and velvet-like in feel. Made in variety of trade marked materials as **Marcella.**

**Boll.** (pr. bole). Seed pod of cotton plant. Contains cotton fibres.

**Bolt.** Entire length of cloth from loom, rolled or folded. Called piece or cut of cloth. Bolts vary in length.

Bolting cloth. Stiff, transparent fabric made of silk in the gum. Made only on hand looms in Europe, mostly in Switzerland. 24 different numbers from 0000, the coarsest, to 25, the finest (200 meshes to the lineal inch). Uses: fine sifting in flour mills, also for stencils, sign making, foundation for wigs and toupees. Weave—leno. Width, 40".


Boott mills.* Trade name for cotton toweling in fancy weave; absorbent and durable.

Boot. Part of hose, usually silk or rayon, between foot and cotton top.

Botany. Originally fine merino wool from Botany Bay, Australia. General term for all classes of fine wool.

Bouclé (pr. boo-clay). Having knots or loops on the surface as imitation astrachan.

Box loom. Fabrics made with 1. right and left hand twist in filling as "box loom crêpe" (Japanese Crêpe) or 2. different colors in filling which necessitate the box loom attachment in weaving as in plaid ginghams.

Brilliantine. Smooth, wiry material the same as alpaca or mohair. A heavier quality is called Sicilian Cloth. Warp, cotton; filling, lustrous wool or mohair with little twist. Sheds dust, does not wrinkle. Used for dresses only when stiff fabrics are in vogue. Excellent wearing quality. Uses: linings, office coats, dusters, dresses. Weave—plain or twill. Width, 44", 50", 52", 54".


Broad silk. Wide silks; those distinguished from ribbons and eighteen-inch silk.

Brocade. Originally heavy silk with elaborate pattern in silver and gold threads. Name applied to many materials which resemble historic brocades. When designs are woven in relief against a foundation of another weave, as a satin ground, the material is said to be brocaded. A contrast of surfaces in the weave may produce pattern, or different colors may be introduced. Brocade has an embossed appearance, while damask has a flat effect. Weave—Jacquard.

Brocatelle (pr. brōk-a-tell or brōk-a-tell). A variation of brocade with a higher relief or repoussé effect with warp and filling yarns unequally twisted and an extra set of yarns for backing. Jacquard pattern stands out in a raised or blistered effect.

Broché (pr. bro-shay). French term for brocade. Woven with a raised figure, usually in imitation of embroidery as Broché shawls, another name for Paisley shawls.


Brushed wool. Knit fabrics for sweaters, scarfs, trimmings which have been napped. Usually contain mohair fibres which make long, silky nap.

Buckram. Millinery fabric, two ply, stiffened with sizing or glue. One side resembles crinoline and the other tafialan. The two fabrics are glued together. Can be moistened and shaped. Black or white. Sold by the yard or ten yard bolt. Uses: frames for velvet or cloth hats. Width, 27".

Brocade (silk)
Satin on plain ground
trains and boats; a softer quality for dress goods. Weave—plain. Width, 18", 36".

**Burlap or gunny.** Coarse canvas made of jute. Natural color or piece-dyed. Fades. Uses: low grades for gunny sacks and wrapping furniture; firmer quality with finish for drapery purposes. Weave—plain. Width, 36", 50".

**Butcher’s linen.** Coarse, bleached crash originally used for butcher’s aprons. Practically replaced by art crashes and **Indian head.** Weave—plain. Width, 36", 40".

**Buty Chine.** Trade marked fabric for lingerie purposes in satin weave of mercerized cotton.

**Cable net.** See net.

**Calendering.** Finish on cotton and linen goods which gives smooth surface, not permanent. Cloth passed between cylinders with heat and pressure.

**Calico.** Name derived from Calicut, India, where cloth was first printed with wood blocks by hand. Originally a fine printed cotton fabric, which has become an inferior material; narrow, coarse, made from low grade cotton and highly sized. There are still some good calicoes, but they are more in the nature of chintzes, i.e., with good design and colorings and used for drapery purposes. Percale has almost replaced calico. Calico may be printed directly, or may have the figure discharged chemically from a dark background. Some calicoes are not printed as Turkey red and other plain colors. It does not tear straight across the cloth because of rapid feeding into the calender machine. Uses: aprons, dresses. Weave—plain. Width, 25", 27¾.


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Canton Crêpe. Crépy wool fabric or silk goods resembling a heavy grade of crêpe dechine.

Canton fabrics. General term covering cotton and silk mixtures known only by trade names as A. B. C., Sero, Fairy, etc.

Canton flannel. So named because first made in Canton, China. Heavy cotton material with twilled surface on one side and long soft nap on the other. Valuable for its warmth and absorbing quality. Bleached or unbleached or piece-dyed in plain colors. Uses: sleeping garments, interlinings, household purposes, diapers. Weave—twill. Width, 27”, 36”.


4. Lining canvas made of linen or cotton, soft finished or sized. Uses: interlining, art needlework. Weave—plain. Width, 27”, 30”, 32”, 36”.

**Cape net.** See Rice Net.

**Carding.** Process of separating fibres preliminary to spinning.

**Cartridge cloth.** Plain woven, spun silk fabric for cartridge bags. Made according to U. S. government specifications.

**Casement cloth.** Broad term which covers many drapery fabrics usually light, plain, neutral colors as cream, ecru, oyster, gray and tan. A variety of weaves are employed as plain, twill, satin striped, small figure. In silk, silk and cotton, mercerized cotton or rayon. Uses: curtains, particularly for French windows, screens. Weave—plain or fancy. Width, 36”, 45”, 48”, 50”, 54”.

**Cashmere.** 1. Light weight dress fabric originally made from any fine wool of the Cashmere goat, but now from any fine wool. Similar to henrietta, but not so closely woven or highly finished. Piece-dyed. Laundered. Uses: dresses, negligees, infant’s wear. Weave—twill, filling on
the face. Width, 42". 2. Hosiery "made entirely of high grade pure wool". Ruling of Federal Trade Commission. Term has been misused.

Cassimere. Cloth for men's suits, made of hard spun yarns finished without a nap. Not typical worsted. Weave—plain, twill or fancy. Width, 54".

Celanese.* Trade name for a kind of rayon made by the acetate process.

Chain. Another name for warp.


Chambray (pr. sham-bray). A type of gingham, plain in color, often having dyed warp and white filling. Chambray gingham wears well and is easily laundered. Weave—plain. Width, 27", 28", 32", 36". Manchester chambray, the old type, was narrow, thin and stiff. Weave—plain. Width 25". Heavy English chambrays are used for work shirts and are sold by weight, as for example, 3.80 equals three and eight-tenths yards to the pound. Weave—plain. Width, 28".

Chamoisette.* See Fabric gloves.

Chamoisicude.* See Fabric gloves.

Chardonnnet (Fr. pr. Shar-don-nay). Nitrocellulose process for making rayon named for Count de Chardonnnet.

Charmeuse* Fine worsted dress fabric with a steep twill which resembles satin weave.

Charmeuse (pr. shar-muz). 1. Light weight, rich looking satin weave with a dull back. May be described as a very soft satin with a subdued lustre, due to the spun silk filling; adapted to draping. Piece dyed. Uses: gowns, party wraps. Weave—satin. Width, 40" 2. Cotton Char-
meuse is a highly mercerized cotton fabric used for bloomers, slips, linings. Lingette® and Busy Chine® are trade names.

**Cheesecloth.** Originally used for wrapping cheese. Thin, loosely woven cotton material made from coarse yarns. It is unfinished, feels soft, has fuzzy surface. Bleached, unbleached or dyed. Better grades launder but shrink. All grades called gauze by the manufacturer. When dyed called bunting. Uses: poorer quality called hospital gauze for dressings. Better grades—curtains, pageant costumes, pattern modelling and many other purposes. Weave—plain. Width, 25″, 36″.

**Chenille** (pr. shen-eel). French for caterpillar. 1. Name for a yarn having a pile protruding all around at right angles. Used for filling in cloth, also for fringe and tassels. May be of silk, wool, mercerized cotton or rayon. 2. Cloth

*Reg: U. S. Pat. Off.*
made with Chenille yarn for filling, used for hangings and
couch covers. 3. Kind of carpet or rug reversible (Smyrna
type) or single faced. Plain color or designs. Good
quality, rich looking and durable.

Cheviot. So called because originally made of wool from the
Cheviot sheep. 1. Rough-surfaced wool fabric similar to
serge only heavier and rougher. May be made of woolen
or worsted yarns. Stock- or piece-dyed. Somewhat fulled
and napped. Excellent wearing quality. Uses: suits and
2. Stout, cotton shirting made of coarse yarns.
Softer than hickory shirting or gingham. Stripes or checks.
Yarn-dyed. Brown and white or blue and white. Weave—
plain. Width, 28".

Chiffon (Fr “chiffon”, a rag; pr. sheef-on). 1. Descriptive
term indicating light weight and soft finish as chiffon velvet
or taffeta. 2. Light weight silk hose, usually four strand
yarns. 3. Thin, gauze-like silk fabric with soft or some-
times a stiff finish. Warp and filling of hard twist singles.
Chiffon cloth is heavier in weight than chiffon and more
durable. Uses: party gowns, veils, trimmings. Weave—
plain. Width, 40", 46".

China cotton. Short staple, white cotton grown in China.
Coarse and harsh with a feel which resembles wool. Used
in cotton blankets and in cotton and wool mixtures.

China grass. See Ramie.

China silk. Originally, plain hand woven silks made in China.
Soft, light weight, thin silk. Wears and launder well. Piece-
dyed. Heavy weight is habutae. Uses: linings, underwear,
dresses, lampshades. Weave—plain. Width, 37", 36".

Chinchilla cloth as distinguished from fur of the same name.
No resemblance. Heavy coating with napped surface
rolled into little tufts or nubs. Double cloth, may contain
cotton. Warm and attractive. Uses: overcoats, child-
ren's coats. Weave—twill (double cloth). Width, 54".

Chiné (pr. she-nay). From French “Chine”, variegated,
mottled. In the technical sense means warp printed.
Used as an adjective in describing fabrics.

Chintz. Originally any printed cotton fabric, the same as
calico. Now a drapery fabric having small, gay figures.
Some chintzes have a glazed surface. See Glazed chintz.  
Weave—plain. Width, 25", 36".

Chlorinated wool. Wool made non-shrinking by treatment with hydrochloric acid. Harsh and stiff. Increased affinity for dyes.

Cinderella. A trade named silk fabric similar to Pussy Willow.*

Circular knit. Fabric or garment made in tubular form on

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Chintz  
Direct print

flat or circular machine. Seamless hose, bathing suits, jersey fabric, tubular belts, etc., made in this way.

Ciré. Brilliant patent leather effect produced on satin (cloth or ribbon) by application of wax, heat and pressure.

Clay worsted. Name derived from an English manufacturer. A heavy cloth of diagonal weave, looser than a serge, used for mens' wear.

Clock. Design on side of ankle in fancy hose. Made by open effect in knitting or by embroidery.

Cochineal. Red dye derived from dried bodies of insects native to Central America.

Coir (pr. kwoor). Brown coarse fibre from the shell of the coconut used in making mats and cordage.

Combing. Preparation of wool or cotton for spinning by separating long from short fibres and arranging in parallel fashion. Follows carding. Finest cotton fabrics made from combed yarns. Worsted yarns require combed fibres.

Composition dot. See Flock dot.

Conditioning. Process which determines the percentage of moisture present in samples of fibres or fabrics.

Corduroy. Derived from the French Corde du Roi, meaning a King's cord. Kind of cotton velvet having ridges or cords in the pile. Made with an extra weft of mercerized yarns which float on the surface at intervals. Floats are cut, making tufts stand up in corded effect. Surface brushed and singed. Piece-dyed or printed. Often cravenetted. Boydroy*, a trade name. Uses: suits, trousers, coats,
FABRIC DEFINITIONS

infant’s wraps, carriage robes and upholstery; excellent for
sports wear. Weave—pile. Width, 27”, 36”.

Cotton Charmeuse. See Charmeuse.

Cotton and wool mixtures. Large class of fabrics, usually in
checks, or plaids, used chiefly for children’s dresses. Warp,
cotton; filling, wool or part wool, yarn-dyed. Better
grades launder well. Weave—twill. Width, 36”, 40”.

Cottonade. See Hickory.

Count. 1. Term indicating the number of ends and picks
per inch, for example, the thread count of a fabric may be
86 x 80. 2. Yarn count—a number given to yarn indicat-
ing its fineness, based upon number of yards per pound,
more correctly called “yarn number”.

Coutil. French “Fil de coutil”, drill (pr. oo-teel). Tough, firm
variety of drilling used for corsets. Made from hard twisted
cotton yarns. Close weave. A variety of effects produced
by weave which varies from twill to many fancy stripes and
figures, usually herringbone twill. Width, 36”, 50”.

Course. In knit goods, the row of stitches across the fabric.
Corresponds to weft in woven goods.

Covert. (pr. like “cover”, taken from a hunting term). 1.
Medium weight suiting of woolen or worsted yarns. Warp
is formed of two-ply yarns, one of which is white (tightly
twisted). This gives a speckled effect in color. The white
is often cotton. Hard or soft finished. Yarn-dyed.
Colors castor, tan, green, gray or drab. Excellent for
wear. Uses: overcoats, riding habits, suits, rain coats.
Weave—twill or satin. Width, 54”. 2. Cotton covert,
seldom sold in department stores by the yard. Usually
gray, either plain or dark stripes. Resembles a wool
suiting. Uses: trousers. Weave—twill. Width, 36”.

Crash. Term applied to several fabrics having coarse, un-
even yarns and rough texture. 1. Dress linen or cotton.
Various weights and colors. Weave—plain. Width, 36”,
Natural or colors. Jute may be combined with linen or
Weave—plain. Width, 36”, 50”. 4. Toweling. Linen,


Cravenetting. Process of rendering fabrics waterproof or moisture repellent. Named for Craven, the inventor. Cravenette* is a trade name for a finish applied to materials rendering them resistant to water.

Crêpe. General term covering many kinds of crinkled or uneven surfaced materials.

1. Japanese. Plain colored cotton material. Crêpiness is due to the right and left hand twist of filling yarns; white and all colors; yarn-dyed stripes; made in Japan. Uses: kimonos, smocks, women’s and children’s dresses, curtains, needlework. Weave—plain. Width, 29”.


4. Plissé. (Fr. plaited, pr. plee-say). Light weight thin cotton fabric with puckered stripes or all over blisterly effect produced by chemicals. Wax deposited on the cloth in stripes; dipped in alkali; the uncovered portions shrink. When the wax is removed puckered stripes result. Durable material, requires no ironing. White, lingerie colors and prints. Use: lingerie. Weave—plain. Width, 29”.
FABRIC DEFINITIONS

5. **Wool crêpe or Crépon.** Rather wiry fabric. Surface effect due to treatment of yarns (difference in the degree of twist, or left and right hand twist in same fabric) or having some warp yarns slackier than others. Good wearing quality. Weave—plain. Width, 36", 40", 50", 54".


**Crêpe-back satin.** Fabric woven in the gum with of satin face and back of tightly twisted yarns, alternating right and left hand twist, which makes a dull, crépy surface when degummed. Width 40", 54".

**Créped or Craped.** From the Latin "crispare," to curl (rendering a fabric crumpy or crépy). Many effects are produced as:

1. Hard twisted yarns in right and left twist, warp or filling, or both which kink up when released from the loom. Examples—geogette, Japanese crêpe.

2. Alternate groups of warp yarns, some wound on separate beam or held slackier than the rest, forming crinkled stripes as in seersucker, *ripplette* or Austrian cloth.

3. Treatment with chemicals to produce blistered or créped surface as Plissé crêpe.

4. Engraved rollers or grooves plus chemicals produce a fabric like Kimono crêpe.

5. Heat and engraved rollers produce mourning or hard crêpes which are woven from hard-spun silk in the gum.

**Crêpe de Chine.** French "de chine" meaning "of China." Silk, crépy fabric woven in the gum of tightly twisted yarns having right and left hand twist. Crêpiness appears after degumming. Heavy Crêpe de Chine is very durable. Washable. If light in weight, yarns "slip" causing open spaces. Piece-dyed or printed. Seldom weighted. Uses: under-

wear, blouses, ties, dresses, trimmings. Weave—plain.

Width, 40".

Crêpe meteor. Replaced by crêpe back satin.

Cretone. Printed drapery fabric of cotton or linen in all variety of weaves and finishes. May include chintz (only difference being size of patterns, which are smaller in chintz).

Uses: hangings, upholstery. Weave—plain or fancy.

Width, 25", 36", 50", 54".


Width, 27".

Crocking. When goods is poorly dyed and excess color rubs off, it is said to "crock".

Crofting. Scotch term for bleaching linen on the grass.

Cross-dyeing. See Dyeing.

Cross-stitch canvas. See Canvas.

Cuprammonium rayon. One of the four processes by which rayon is manufactured.

Cut pile. A fabric in which the loops formed in the process of weaving are cut, as in Wilton carpet; distinguished from uncut pile as in Brussels carpet.


Daisy cloth.* See outing flannel.

Damask. Named for ancient city of Damascus where elaborate floral designs were woven in silk. Damask is flatter than brocade and is reversible. The pattern changes in color on the wrong side or, in table damask the contrast of warp and filling satin reveals the pattern. On the right side of linen damask the background is in warp face satin with the design in filling face satin. On the wrong side the figures are reversed.

1. Drapery and upholstery damask originally made of silk on hand looms. Modern damasks are of wool, silk, rayon, mercerized cotton or combinations of these. See Lampas. Uses: upholstery, hangings.

Weave—Jacquard. Width, 50"

2. Damasks in wool and silk are sometimes fashionable for wraps and dresses.

3. Table Damask.

(a) Linen. Both Jacquard patterns and satin weave are called damask. The best grades are "double damask" because of the fineness and construction of the cloth. The satin weave of which the pattern is formed is an "8-shaft" satin meaning that each yarn passes over seven and binds the eighth. The lower grades with looser weave have "5-shaft" satin construction with every yarn skipping four and binding the fifth. Both are sized, calendered and beetled. Double damask is more compact and may be thinner than single damask. The former is more beautiful and will last longer. It has a firm, leathery feel. Table damask is woven by the yard or in pattern cloths. The latter is in greater demand. Weave—Jacquard. Napkins, 12", 13", 14", 15", 16", 18", 20", 22", 24" square. Cloths,
2, 2 3/4, 3 yards square; by the yard, 60", 64", 72", 90" wide.

(b) Cotton damask is used extensively for tablecloths and napkins, particularly for institutions and commercial dining halls. The background is usually made of filling face satin, the reverse of linen damask. Basco* is a trade name for a special linenized finish on cotton cloths.

Degumming. Process of removing natural gum or sericin from silk. May be done before weaving or afterward as in the case of georgette.

Delaine. French term "de laine" meaning "of wool".
1. Old name for challis.
2. Fine quality wool grown in Ohio.

Denim. From the French town of Nimes, "serges de Nimes". Heavy cotton twill made of coarse yarns.
1. Overall denim is indigo blue or dark brown. Yarn dyed. Indigo superior to other blues. Denim is sold by weight. Eight ounce indicates two yards to the pound. "White back" denim, made with brown or blue warp and white filling "Double and Twist" means yarns are doubled and then twisted. Denim shrinks in washing. Uses: overalls, children's play suits, aprons for workmen. Weave—twill. Width, 28", 29".
2. Drapery denim is finer and has softer finish than overall denim; usually yarn-dyed and woven in small geometric figure. Uses: couch covers, upholstery, hangings, slip covers. Weave—twill or figure. Width, 36", 54".

Denier (pr. de-neer). An old French coin. Unit of measurement for weight of raw silk and of rayon yarns.

Devonshire. See gingham.

Diagonal. General term meaning a broad or conspicuous twill.

Diana.* See Sunfast curtain fabrics.

Diaper. Originally a rich, silk fabric woven in a small diamond shaped pattern. See Birdseye.

Dine. Pattern in table cloth formed of squares in satin or twill weave.

Dimity. Origin from Latin dimitus, of double thread.
1. Light-weight fine cotton fabric with corded stripes or bars. White, printed or dyed. Good quality wears well. Poor grade tends to split on stripe due to uneven strength of warp and filling yarns. Uses: lingerie, infant’s wear, pajamas, dresses. Weave—plain. Width, 30”, 32”.
2. Bedspreads called dimity are like seersucker with puckered stripes. Light-weight, wash well, used in hospitals and other institutions. Also called crinkle spreads. Sizes most used are: 63” by 90”, 81” by 90”, 90” by 100”. Ripplette® is a trade name.

Dip-dyeing. See Dyeing.

Direct printing. The simple method of printing cloth. Woven goods receives color from engraved rolls or blocks in much the same way as paper is printed (distinction from warp printing). See Discharge and Resist Printing.

Discharge Printing. Fabric is piece-dyed, the color afterward removed in certain places by the action of chemicals. Example: blue percale with white dots.

Dobby. Loom on which small figure weaves may be produced.

Doeskin. 1. Heavy twilled cotton fabric napped on one side. Used for backing on artificial leather and for sports coats.

Domet. Old term for a napped fabric similar to outing flannel.

Domestic. Originally goods made in this country. Now, coarse cotton fabrics as ticking, many of which are used for household purposes. Domestics are grouped with l riding.

Double cloth. Cloths woven with two sets of warp and one filling, one warp and two fillings, two fillings and two warps or with a fifth set of binding yarns to unite the two cloths. Example: double-faced coatings, ribbons and Jacquard blankets. Both sides may be alike or show a pattern reversed in color. Weave—twill, satin, Jacquard, combined in various ways with various finishes.

Double damask. See Damask.

Drap. French for cloth.

Dresden. Refers to color effect in designs (usually warp printed) which resemble in delicacy the famous Dresden china.

Dressing. 1. Size made of gum, glue, starch, China clay, etc., used to finish cotton, linen and silk goods. 2. Process of finishing cloth. 3. Weighting of silk.

Drilling. Origin Latin “trilix”, three threads. Stout, twilled cotton material, bleached, unbleached or piece-dyed. Us-

usually unbleached. Light weight drill called Jean or Middy Twill. A khaki-colored drill is called Khaki. Known by weight as 2.50 meaning 2.50 yards in one pound. Other common weights are 2.85 and 3.00. Uses: uniforms, pocket linings, middy blouses. Weave—twill. Width, 28”, 30”.

Drop box. Device on a loom for supplying different colors of filling yarns for stripes or filling yarns of different twist as in Japanese crépe. See Box loom.

Drop-stitch. Striped open effect in knit goods produced by dropping needles out of the work at intervals.

Drugget. Coarse wool rug or floor covering made in India.

Druid’s cloth. Name for a drapery fabric similar to Monk’s cloth only coarser.
Duck or canvas. So called because it sheds water. Heavy, close, cotton fabric. Strongest ducks have double warp yarn. Made to specification for Army and Navy uses. Bleached, unbleached, dyed or printed. Sold by weight as 8 ounce or 10 ounce meaning 1 yard weighs 8 or 10 ounces. For clothing, launders well with starch. Weights: 8, 10, 12, 14 up to 25 ounces. Uses: Heavy grades for tents, awnings, boat sails, tarpaulins, aprons and belts in machinery; lighter weights; outing suits, middles, physicians’ coats, interne’s uniforms, cook’s coats, waiter’s and butcher’s aprons (black and white check for cook’s pants), press cloths used in tailoring.

Duretta.* Trade name for middy twill or jean. Used for nurses and physicians’ uniforms, middies, children’s suits.


Duplex. See Fabric gloves.

Dyeing. The process of coloring materials.

1. Cross-dyeing. Method of dyeing striped or checked fabrics which contain yarns of animal and vegetable fibres. For example, in a cotton and wool mixture, cotton yarns, dyed first, then woven with wool and dipped in a dye for wool which will not take on cotton.


3. Ingrain. Hosiery yarn-dyed before knitting as distinguished from dip-dyed. Contrasting color in stripe at top or closing of heel and toe identifies ingrain hose.


6. **Yarn-dyeing.** Yarns dyed before weaving as for plaids or stripes.

**Ecru** (pr. ay-kroo). Light tan, deeper than cream.

**Ecru silk.** Silk which has only a small amount of natural gum removed.

**Egyptian cotton.** Long staple, fine, strong cotton grown in Egypt. Brownish color. Used extensively in knitted goods, particularly in hosiery.

**Eiderdown.** Name derived from the down of the eider duck. Warm, light, elastic cloth with heavy nap on one or both sides. Made on a cotton knitted foundation. Loose wool yarns or cotton or mixtures are knitted into stockinette by the same machine which constructs the material. Surface is matted to give light, fluffy feel. Yarn- or piece-dyed. White or colors. Uses: infants' wear, bathrobes, and negliges. Weave—knitted structure. Width, double faced (nap on both sides), 27", 36", 45"; single faced (cotton back, wool nap), 36".

**Embossing.** Fabric pressed between engraved rollers with heat to give a raised effect, similar to embossed stationery. Washing or steaming removes the design. Embossed velvet or plush is done by weaving the pile high and shearing it to different levels or by pressing part of the pile flat.

**Embroidery linen.** See Art linen.

**Emerizing.** Kind of fine napping done with an emery-covered cylinder which makes the surface of cloth resemble suede or chamois. *Chamoisette* for gloves is emerized.

**End.** Warp yarn or thread.

**English foot.** Full-fashioned hose with seam on each side of foot made in England for sports hose.

**Eolienne or Aeolian.** From the Greek, *Aeolus*, God of the Winds. Similar to poplin, only lighter in weight. Characterized by heavy filling yarns which produce a cord effect. Usually silk warp with cotton or worsted filling. Piece-dyed. Uses: same as poplin. Weave—plain. Width, 36", 40".

**Epingle.** Fine rib effect running crosswise of cloth. A variety of fabrics are referred to as epingles.

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Étamine (Fr. pr. ay-tah-meen). Smooth, wiry material similar to bunting or voile but more open. Cotton or worsted fabric. Often fancy effects in weave and finish are introduced in étamines. Excellent for wear except as loose threads may pull. Use: dresses. Weave—plain. Width, 36", 42".


Extract. 1. Printing. See Discharge printing. 2. Wool. Fibres recovered from cotton and wool mixtures by carbonizing the cotton in sulphuric acid bath.

Fabric. Cloth, goods or textile material woven or knitted of any textile fibres.

Fabric gloves. Made from warp-knit cotton fabric, lisle or sueded. Chamoisette* and Chamoisuede are trade names. Gloves are made of single fabric or two layers fastened together by a patent process. Silk gloves are made from warp-knit fabric in silk. Wool gloves are usually made from jersey.

Faille (Fr. pr. fy-e, English pr. file). Soft, flat-ribbed silk fabric. Ribs are wider and flatter than grosgrain. Wears well if not too loose in weave or heavily weighted. Use: dresses, trimmings. Weave—variation of plain. Width, 36", 40".

Fashioned. Hose permanently shaped in the knitting process as distinguished from seamless hose. No seam is necessary but a mock seam is often used to imitate full-fashioned. Manufacturer required to add his name or qualifying statement to word “fashioned” so as to distinguish the product from “full-fashioned” which is more expensive.

Fast color fabrics. Many brands of dress and drapery fabrics in cotton and linen guaranteed not to fade in sun or washing or both. Everfast*, Pamico*, Polly Prim*, Peter Pan*, Year round*, Indian Head* and Diana cloth* are examples

of trade names for guaranteed fabrics. Weave—plain. Width, 36″.

Fastness of dye. Property of dye to retain its color when cloth is exposed to sun or washing. The term fastness is a comparative one as a dye may be extremely fast to washing and only moderately fast to light. Remarkable progress is being made in the dyeing of fast color cottons and rayon.

Felt. 1. Process. Wool fibres tend to tangle and mat when moisture, heat and friction are applied. It is now believed that the interlocking of the minute, epidermal scales on the fibres does not fully explain felting.* Shrinking, the same as fulling or milling, is merely an early stage of the felting process.

2. Felt for hats is produced by steam and pressure applied to fibres. Rabbit fur is most commonly used. Low grade felt hats are made from wool, the best felt contains beaver fur.

3. Wool felt may be woven and shrunken or made by pressing (similar to felt hats). Thickness, weight and texture vary according to use. May be strong and compact or thin and porous; may be hard and board-like or spongy and elastic. Uses: billiard table covers, pennants, hats, counter mats, chair pads, insoles, ink pads; polishers for finishing furniture, automobiles and marble; parts of pianos, sewing machines, laundry machinery, vacuum cleaners, artificial limbs, blackboard erasers, corn plasters. Weave—plain, twill or pressed fibres. Width, 54″, 72″.

4. Cotton felt is not related to felt. See Table Felt or padding.

Fibre rug. Twisted paper used as yarn, woven with cotton, or cotton and wool in a Jacquard pattern. Reversible.

Fibre silk. See Rayon.

Filament. Single natural strand of silk. The silk worm produces two filaments which are glued together with sericin. See degumming.

Filet. Developed from fishermen's nets. Found in early handmade lace having knotted square mesh; also in hair nets. Filet net See Net.

FABRICS AND HOW TO KNOW THEM

Filling. 1. Same as weft or woof. Yarn for the shuttle. Each crosswise yarn is called a “pick”. 2. Refers to finishing materials on cotton, as starch, China clay, also weighting of silk. See Weighting.

Finishing. All the processes through which cloth is passed after leaving the loom in preparation for the market.

Fire-proof fabrics. See Asbestos, Non-flam.

Flannel. Light weight, washable, soft, woolen fabric with napped surface.


2. Dress flannel—when in vogue, many interesting colors and finishes are offered. Weave—twill. Width 27”.


Fibre rug

Note twisted paper filling woven with cotton warp

Flannelette. Cotton fabric, napped on one side. Plain, striped or printed. See Kimono flannel.

Flaxon.* Trade name for a group of fabrics including dimity, India linen, batiste, voile, organdy. White, piece-dyed or printed. Name Flaxon stamped on the selvage. Materials attractive, durable and launder well. Made from fine, combed cotton yarns, gassed and more or less mercerized. Sherette*, a similar fabric. Uses: infants' wear, blouses, lingerie, dresses. Weave—plain. Widths vary.

Flat crêpe. Silk dress fabric, alike on both sides, of texture similar to crêpe back satin. Heavier and richer looking than Crêpe de Chine. Widths, 40", 54".

Flat Knit. See Plain knit.

Fleece. 1. Entire coat of wool as sheared from the animal. 2. Fleece wool means clipped, not "pulled wool".

Fleeced. Means matted.

Flexible net, elastic net or J. C. cloth (Jockey Club). A closely woven millinery fabric of cotton, pliable and soft, yet with a wiry appearance. Less stiff than duck cloth but similar weave. White or cream. Use: foundation for soft rolled brim on hats. Weave—leno. Width, 40".

Floats. Warp or filling yarns which lie free on the surface of the cloth. Yarns not bound or woven for some distance, as in coarse damask.

Flock dot. Same as composition or paste dot. Dots or figures on Swiss or voile when not woven or embroidered but applied chemically. Dots are usually permanent and washable.

Flocks. Very short wool fibres resulting from different processes in woolen and worsted manufacture. Used to increase weight of low grade woolens. May be blown in after weaving and fulled to make a solid fabric.

Fold. 1. Same as plie in yarn. 2. Refers to layers of cloth on the bolt. Flat fold means goods rolled without doubling. Bookfolds for narrow fabrics are folded once lengthwise

Flock Dot
Called composition or paste dot

Friar's cloth
Basket weave 2 and 4. Monk's cloth is 2 and 2
and twice crosswise in such a way that they open bookwise from the centre. Observe damask napkins.

**Footing.** Nets are made in narrow widths for ruffling. 3½" to 6".

**Forestry cloth.** Originally made for U. S. Government Forestry Service. Used for outing shirts and suits. Kind of flannel in "winterfield shade" or olive drab.

**Fortuny print.** Art fabric made in Venice. Secret printing process originated by Fortuny gives to cotton cloth the effect of antique brocades. Historic patterns used and adapted. Rare color effects obtained. Uses: wall hangings, screens, curtains, table covers. Weave/plain or twill. Width, 30".


**French foot.** Hose with one seam in middle of sole. A full-fashioned hose.

**French serge.** See Serge.

**Friar’s cloth.** Drapery fabric of coarse texture in basket weave. Resembles Monk’s cloth and Druid’s cloth.

**Frieze (pr. freez).** Originated in Ireland. Heavy woolen overcoating having a nap on the face. Similar to Chinchilla cloth, but a lower grade fabric. Yarn- or piece-dyed. Uses: overcoats, mackinaws. Weave—double cloth with twill construction. Width, 54".

**Frié.** From the Latin “crispare (crispus, frié)” to curl. Pile fabric (usually mohair) of uncut loops. Designs may be produced by contrast of cut and uncut loops, by different colored yarns or by printing the surface. Friésette® is a trade name. Use: upholstery. Weave—pile. Width, 27", 28".

**Fulling.** See Felt.

**Full-fashioned.** Hose or other garments shaped in the knitting. Selvages joined in seams. Hose require a second machine to complete the foot. Costs more, holds its shape, and fits better than seamless hose.

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Frieze
Design made by cut and uncut loops
FABRIC DEFINITIONS

Fur Fabrics. Large class of pile fabrics of spun silk or mohair which imitate fur. By dyeing and special finishes the texture of various furs is obtained, as Hudson seal, beaver, moleskin, astrachan, etc. Wild silk is often employed in silk plushes. Mohair is most commonly used. Weave—pile. Width, 50". See Plush, Mohair.


twill. Width, 36". 2. Firm, worsted material, same as cotton gabardine. May have smooth, hard surface or soft dull one. Piece-dyed. Uses: dresses, suits, uniforms, riding habits. Weave—twill. Width, 34¾".


Gassing. Protruding fibres on cotton yarns or cloth are singed over gas flames, making a smooth surface.

Gauge. Applies to closeness of meshes or wires which determine the fineness of a knitted fabric.

Gauze. 1. Former name for a kind of weave now called "leno" in which the warp yarns instead of lying parallel are
arranged in pairs which twist between the filling yarns making an open lacy effect as in marquisette. 2. Thin curtain fabrics in plain or leno weave often called gauze. 3. Cheese cloth of all kinds called gauze in the trade. Customers know the names, surgeon’s gauze and hospital gauze.


Gigging. Operation of raising nap on woolens.

Gingham. Yarn-dyed fabric woven in checks, plaids or stripes, or may be plain color. Washes well and usually holds dye. Thin, coarse ginghams tend to shrink. Uses: dresses, shirts, aprons, children’s clothes. Weave—plain or fancy. Width, 36” to 40”.
2. Chambray. Plain colored gingham, often having white filling. Width, 27”, 32”.
4. Nurses’ or Red Cross gingham. Heavy blue and white striped, closely woven. Uses: nurses’ uniforms, house dresses. Width, 32”.
5. Scotch ginghams are those made in Scotland. Fine quality, beautiful colors and plaids.
6. Tissues are thinner than ordinary ginghams. Often have heavy cord in stripe or check or embroidered design. St. Gall tissues from Switzerland are famous for their beauty.

The following are trade named fabrics related to gingham. Heavier and closer than gingham. Devonshire, Kiddie Cloth, Surf cloth, Kindergarten cloth, Romper cloth. Uses: children’s clothes, dresses. Weave—plain. Width, 32”.

Glacé (Pr. pr. glah-say). Glistening, smooth, resembling ice. Applies to some two-toned silks. Warp and filling of different colors. Also applies to a special finish.

Glass toweling. Plain, smooth fabric having stripes or checks of blue or red on a white ground. Linen glass toweling does not become linty. Name indicates purpose—wiping glassware. Used for all dishes. A loose weave allows greater absorption, but does not wear so well. Colored stripes, mercerized cotton, should be fast to washing. May be all linen, union, or cotton. Weave—plain. Width, 15", 16", 17", 18".

Glazed chintz. Both chintz and plain color fabrics are treated with paraffin and calendered. Used for curtains, lamp-shades, slip covers and upholstery. Better qualities may be washed like oilcloth.


Glossing. Stretching and moistening silk yarns to impart lustre.

Glove silk. Knit fabric originally used for gloves; now for undergarments, gloves and cut hose. See Milanese, Tricot, Warp knit, and Italian silk.*


Golf cloth. Fine woolen material well milled and finished smooth. In plain colors, preferably red or green. Used for sports wear.


Grass bleaching. Exposing cloth to air, light and moisture by spreading on grass. Slower than chemical bleaching but does not weaken fabric. Method used extensively in Ireland and Scotland. Called "grassing" or "crofting".

Grass cloth. See Canton linen.

Grass rug. There are many rugs on the market woven of native grass and cotton warp. Crex is a well known trade

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name. Plain natural color or printed. By the yard or in standard size rugs.

**Grenadine.** Related to marquisette. Both made with leno (gauze) weave. Sometimes two warp yarns are twisted about one filling yarn or two warp yarns are twisted between two filling yarns also twisted about each other. 1. Usually silk or wool for dress goods. 2. Cotton curtain fabric of leno construction with swivel dots or figures in white or color. Resembles curtain madras.

**Gros de Londres** (Fr. pr. gro-de-londr). Cross-ribbed dress silk with heavy and fine ribs alternating or ribs of different colors. Texture resembles taffeta. Use: dresses. Weave—plain. Width, 40”.

**Grosgrain** (pr. gro-grän, French, coarse grain). Firm, stiff, closely woven, corded fabric. Ribs vary from 50 to 70 per inch. Filling may be of cotton, but usually weighted silk. Cords are heavier and closer than those in poplin, more round than those in faille. Wears well if not too heavily weighted. Uses: dresses, ribbons, coats. Weave—plain (corded). Width, 27”, 36”.

**Habutae or habutai** (pr. ha-bu-ta). Japanese meaning “soft as down”. Light-weight Japanese silk originally woven, on hand looms, of silk in the gum, afterward boiled off.
Similar to China silk, but heavier and more durable. Sold by momme weight. White or dyed. Washes and wears well. Uses: undergarments, blouses, shirts, draperies, lamp shades. Weave—plain. Width, 27”, 30”, 36”.

Hair cloth. Stiff, wiry fabric made of cotton, worsted or linen warp (usually cotton) and filling of horsehair. Fabric as wide as the length of a hair (horse’s mane). One pick of the filling formed by a single hair. Black, white or gray. Uses: stiffening interlining, upholstering. Weave—plain or twill (herringbone). Width, 15”, 18”, 30”.

Hair line stripe. Men’s or women’s suitings in black or dark blue with stripe of a single white warp yarn.

Handkerchief linen. Linen lawn used for women’s handkerchiefs. Also for lingerie, infants’ wear and neckwear. White, colored and barred.

Hardanger cloth. Soft, mercerized cotton cloth of basket weave similar in appearance to Oxford suitting. Used for Norwegian needlework called Hardanger embroidery. White and ecru. Weave—basket. Width, 40”.

Harness. Warp, treads and tie-up of treads on loom.

Hatter’s plush. Silk plush with long, scanty pile which is pressed flat or panned. Uses: millinery. Width, 21”, 40”.

Heddle. Device on a loom which controls the opening of space between warp yarns to receive the filling.

Heatherbloom. Trade name for fabric similar to pearlyine. Name stamped on selvage. Found now only in ready to wear garments.

Heather mixture. Any combination of colored wool fibres blended in yarns for knit goods and tweeds. Originally suggested color of heather field in Scotland.

Hemp. Fibres obtained from stalk of hemp plant used chiefly in ropes and cordage.


Herringbone twill. Zigzag effect produced by alternating the direction of the twill. Resembles the backbone of a herring.
Hickory shirt. Heavy twilled striped cotton shirt. Resembles ticking, lighter weight, softer feel. Similar to cottonade which is used for trousering. Yarn-dyed, Blue, or brown and white. Weave—twill. Width, 28”.

Holland Shade cloth. Plain woven linen, finished with a sizing of oil and starch which renders it opaque. Most shade cloth now made of fine cotton and finished to look like linen. Uses: window shades, lamp shades.


Honeycomb. Name of weave used in toweling and occasionally for cotton or wool suiting. Marked ridges and hollows suggest surface of a honeycomb. Desirable in toweling because it exposes more surface for absorption than a plain weave. One variety of this weave, called “wafflecloth”.

Hospital Gauze. See Cheesecloth.

Huck or Huckaback. Word derived from huckster and back. The huckster in England was a man who carried his wares on his back. Toweling of linen, cotton or union having a small design, recognized as huck. Often woven in towel lengths with border on either end. Colored designs or name of hotel or firm may be woven in. Half bleached or white. Wears well and is very absorbent. Weave—figure. Width, 13”, 16”, 18”, 20”, 22”, 24”.

Hygroscopic or moisture-retaining property. Common to silk and wool. Wool retains the greatest percentage of moisture without appearing to be wet. This accounts for the added weight in overcoats worn in damp weather. Hence the need for the crumpled process.

Illusion. Term used for tulle or maline. Refers to very thin, transparent, silk net. See Tulle and Maline.

Imperial Valley Cotton. Incorrectly referred to as a species of cotton. See Pima cotton.

Imported fabrics. Materials made in foreign countries. Usually superior to domestic manufacture either in color, design or fineness of yarns.
Honeycomb
Sometimes called waffle cloth

Huck or huckaback
Indian Head.* Trade marked cotton fabric, first made heavy and coarse like Butcher's linen. Modern permanent finish makes a smoother, lighter weight cloth suited to a variety of purposes. Name stamped on selvage. Unbleached, white and colored. Latter has guaranteed dye. Similar materials in white bear other trade names. Uses: uniforms, aprons, napkins, tablecloths, towels, shirts, bibs, children's play clothes, middies, and many household uses, colors for suiting and curtains. Weave—plain. Width, white, 36", 54", 63"; colors, 36".


Ingrain. 1. See dyeing. 2. Kind of carpet, seldom seen now, woven flat, Jacquard design, reversible. Cotton and wool or all wool.

In the grease. Wool as it leaves the sheep's back before scouring.

In the gray. Unbleached or undyed cotton or linen cloth.

In the gum. Silk in its raw or natural state, before degumming. It contains sericin or silk gum which makes it stiff and dull.

Italian silk.* Trade name for warp knit fabric used in gloves, and undergarments.

Jacquard (Fr. pr. zha-car, English pr. jak-ard). 1. Damasks, tapestries, brocades and all cloths with elaborate figures require the Jacquard loom. The most complicated picture may be reproduced in Jacquard weaving. 2. Knit fabrics with novelty pattern in stitch or colors, as fancy golf hose.

Japanese crépe. See Crêpe.

Japanese silk. See Habutae.

Java Canvas. See Ada Canvas.

Jean. Heavy, twilled cotton fabric like drilling only a little finer and bleached; also called middy twill. White, plain colors or stripes. Duratta*, a trade name for Jean. Uses: heavy grades, suiting and corsets; lighter grades, linings, underwear, children's clothes. Weave—twill. Width, 36".

JERSEY. 1. Plain knitting, not ribbed. 2. Jersey cloth usually wool. May be silk, cotton or rayon. Cotton Jersey is called stockinette. Wool Jersey may be smooth or napped; light weight fabric tends to stretch and sag. Uses: dresses, coats, suits. Knitted in tubular form any width. 3. Jersey silk. See Milancese.

Jusi (pr. hoo-see). Delicate fabric for dresses made in the Philippine Islands either from pure silk (in the gum) or silk with abaca or pineapple fibre. The yarns (of vegetable fibres) are tied end to end instead of being spun.

Jute. Coarse, brown fibre obtained from the stalk of a plant in India. Used in burlap, cordage and the backing for low grade rugs and carpets.

Kapok.* Trade name for fast color drapery fabrics.


Kasha*. Type of flannel dress goods introduced by Rodier Freres, Paris, who claim exclusive right to name. Similar cloths, bearing various trade names, made by American manufacturers. Weave—twill. Width, 54".

Kemp. Dead or diseased wool fibres which do not take the dye are called "kempy wool".

Kersey. Thick woolen cloth similar to melton but finished differently. May contain cotton warp with wool filling or have cotton mixed with wool in yarn. Felted, napped and polished. Much like a heavy broadcloth, shorter nap. Uses: uniforms, overcoats. Weave—twill. Width, 54".


Khaki Kool.* Trade name for a sports silk of rough, crépey texture.

Kiddie Kloth.* See Gingham.


Kimono Crépe. See Crépe.

Kimono flannel. Soft, napped cotton fabric usually printed, nap on one side only. Also called flannelette. Uses: kimonos and dressing sacques. Weave—plain. Width, 27", 30".

Kimono silk. Light-weight printed spun silk. Uses: kimonos, linings, curtains. Weave—plain or satin. Width, 32".

Kindergarten cloth.* See Gingham.

Klearflax.* Trade name for rugs made entirely of linen fibres. American product.

Knit. Not woven of warp and filling but produced by interlacing of loops.


Ladies cloth. Obsolete. Light, eight broadcloth or flannel with nap.

Laine. French for wool.


Lampas. Drapery fabric similar to brocade. Originally an East Indian printed silk. Jacquard weave with rep ground having satin-like figures formed by warp yarns and contrasting figures of the weft yarns.


Lanasatoscopia. Instrument, made in Italy, for identifying animal and vegetable fibres in cloth, by electrical contact.

Lappet. Kind of weaving by which designs are embroidered on a fabric.

Latch needle. Type of needle most universally used on knitting machines.

Lawn. Name from Laon, France, where it originally was made of linen. Light, thin, cotton material, usually sized and highly polished. May have soft or stiff finish. Coarse grade called "lining lawn". White, dyed or printed. Uses: dresses, waists, curtains, linings. Weave—plain. Width, 24", 27", 36", 45". See India linen.

Leno. Weave, incorrectly called Gauze, in which warp yarns are arranged in pairs twisting around one another between picks of filling yarn, as in marquisette.

Knit fabric as in jersey
Detail showing structure

Lene weave as in marquisette
Detail showing selvage
**Liberty.** Name given by Liberty, London and Paris to their products. Exclusive designs in silk, noted for beauty of color and texture

**Linen.** Long flax fibres as distinguished from the short ones called "tow".

**Linen cambric.** See Cambric.

**Linen canvas.** See Canvas.

**Linen Mesh.** Open mesh knit fabric used for infants' shirts and men's underwear. Mixtures of linen and cotton often used. Advantages are ventilation, cleanliness, absorbency and strength. Width, 30", 54".

**Linenized.** See Basco.

**Linen finish suitings.** Large class of fabrics many of which bear trade names. Mercerized cotton yarns and calendering processes are used to give linen-like finish. These fabrics vary in weight and finish. Usually launder and wear well. Uses: skirts, uniforms, middles, aprons. Weave—plain. Width, 36", 45". Some of the trade names are *Linno Cloth*, *Indian Head*, *Linette*.

**Linnette.* See Linen finish suitings.

**Lingette.* Registered trade name for soft, mercerized sateen of beautiful texture. Woven in stripes of self color by using yarns of right and left hand twist for warp. Uses: linings, pajamas, bloomers, slips. Weave—satin. Width, 36". *Buy Chine* is another trade name fabric of similar construction.

**Lino cloth*. See Linen finish suitings.

**Lingerie fabrics** (pr. lan-zh-re). Originally linen undergarments for women. Many textures in cotton used for underwear. Also silk or rayon. May be plain or satin weave, white or tinted, mercerized or unmercerized cotton.

**Linters.** Short cotton fibres which adhere to the seed after the first ginning. Useful for upholstery or manufacture of rayon; sometimes in low grade fabrics.

**Lisle.** Originally a fine, hard linen thread made in Lisle, France. Now a fine, smooth cotton yarn, two-ply, for knitting purposes made from long staple cotton, tightly spun and gassed. Used in lisle gloves, hosiery and underwear.

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Lissu.* Trade name for fine mercerized cotton handkerchiefs made in England. Colored borders are guaranteed.

List. Old term meaning selvage.

Llama. Smooth, long, brown hair from South American animal, the llama, similar to a goat.

Loading. See Weighting.


Long staple. See Staple.


Lustering. Finishing process which produces a lustre on yarns or cloth by heat and pressure.


Lustron. Trade name for a brand of rayon fibre made by the acetate process. See Rayon.

Mackinaw. Heavy woolen fabric, napped. Two sides may differ in color and design. Usually contains large percentage of reclaimed wool. May have cotton warp or cotton mixed in yarns. Stock-dyed. Usually plaids or dark colors. May be cravenetted. Very durable. Uses: lumberman's jackets, overcoats. Weave—twill or double construction. Width, 34\textquoteleft, 36\textquoteleft.

Maco. See Egyptian cotton.

Madras. First made in Madras, India for sailors' headdresses.

1. Soft, cotton fabric for shirts. May be white, yarn-dyed or printed. Usually mercerized. May contain rayon. Many fancy effects in weaving as cording stripe or small figure. Uses: shirts, blouses, pajamas. Weave—plain or fancy. Width, 27\textquoteleft, 32\textquoteleft. 2. Thin drapery fabric of cotton or rayon woven with figures on a leno foundation. Long floats between figures are sheared away. Shaggy effect produced by ends of floating yarn. White, piece-dyed or

Madras (shirting)
Typical corded effect. Many variations

Madras (curtain)
Note shaggy effect where float yarns are cut
colored figures. Use: curtains. Weave—leno with Jacquard pattern. Width, 36", 50".

**Maline** (pr. mah-leen). Originally spelled malines. Similar to bobbinet net only thinner and very stiff. Made of silk. Some of it is treated chemically to withstand moisture. Unless so treated it becomes gummy when wet due to stiffening used. White and colors. Uses: veils, millinery, dress trimming. Weave—net. Width, 24", 27".

![Marquisette](image)

**Marquisette**

Leno or gauze construction

**Manila hemp.** Fibrous strips from long fleshy leaves of plant. Used in cordage and for millinery braid called Tagal.

**Marquisette.** Open loose fabric of leno construction. Often incorrectly applied to scrim and voile which have plain weave. Marquisettes may be woven from cotton usually mercerized, silk, rayon, wool. White, piece-dyed and printed. Use: curtains. Weave—leno. Width, 36", 50".

**Marseilles** (Fr. pr. mar-sales). Originally made in Marseilles, France. Heavy, double-faced white cotton cloth with a
raised woven pattern. Formerly used for men's vests, dresses, etc. Now seen only in bedspreads.

Mattassé (pr. mat-las-say). French, meaning to cushion or pad, hence a quilted surface produced on the loom. A figured or brocaded cloth having a raised pattern as if quilted or wadded.

Mechanical fabrics. Manufactured for use as an intermediate product in the making of some mechanically constructed article, as rubber belt, duck, tire cord fabric, hose duck.


Mercerizing. Chemical process which renders cotton permanently more lustrous, stronger and more susceptible to dye. Named for its originator, John Mercer, an English calico printer. Cotton, yarn or cloth, held in a state of tension to prevent shrinking and treated with caustic soda.

Mercerized dyed fabrics. Two-toned effects produced by weaving mercerized cotton yarns of one color with warp of another color. Often called "sunsfast" or "sunproof" because they have been advertised as "fadeproof". Use: hangings. Weave—plain or leno. Width, 50'. Some of the trade names are as follows: Sunfast, Stafford, Diana,* Orinoko*. Many of these fabrics carry a guarantee from the manufacturer.

Mercerized lisle. Lisle yarns when mercerized are smooth and lustrous. It is incorrect to say "silk lisle".

Merino. 1. Name of a breed of sheep. 2. Name of a fabric, no longer made. 3. In knit goods, term may refer only to all wool. Ruling of Federal Trade Commission.

Merveilleux (pr. mer-vay-low). Lining fabric used principally in men's coats and overcoats. All silk, or silk and cotton. Weave—twill. Width, 32", 36".


**Fabric Definitions**

**Messaline.** Named after Messalina, wife of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Light-weight satin, yarn or piece-dyed. Wears well if pure silk yarns are used and if relation of warp to filling is suitable. Uses: dresses, blouses, trimmings. Weave—satin. Width, 36".

**Metal cloth.** Decorative fabric used for trimmings and millinery. Made of cotton warp and metal filling yarns. These yarns are produced by winding a strip of tinsel around a cotton yarn. All colors and figured effects, woven and printed. When metal cloth becomes creased or wrinkled the creases can not be removed. Weave—plain or satin. Width, 24", 36".

**Metalline.** An imitation of metal cloth. Warp of silk in gum and filling yarns of slightly twisted rayon which reflects light as if they were metallic. White and colors. Weave—plain. Width, 36".

**Middy twill.** White twilled fabric of cotton or mercerized cotton, similar to drilling or jean. Softer than denim, wears and launders well. See Duretta.* Uses: middies, children's clothes. Weave—twill. Width, 36".


**Mill ends.** Remnants or short lengths from the mill.

**Milled.** Same as fulled or felted.

**Mirror velvet.** See velvet.

**Mock seam.** Hose knitted in tubular form but seamed up the back to imitate full-fashioned garment. Fashion marks are often added at the back to make resemblance greater.

**Mohair.** 1. Hair of the Angora goat, long and silky; when manufactured, called mohair. 2. Fabric, practically the same as brillantine. Also called alpaca. 3. Pile fabric with back of cotton or wool and pile of mohair. Cut and uncut loops. See Frisé. Two-toned effects due to pile of one color, back of another. Embossed effect by different depths of pile or pressing. Printed patterns. Most durable and re-

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Milanese
Note the diagonal lines on the wrong side

Moiré or watered silk

Moiré (pr. mwar-ay). French meaning watered. Finish on silk or cotton cloth. Engraved rollers, heat and pressure applied to cored silk or taffeta flatten the surface at intervals, leaving the original roundness in other places. Moiré antique was originally produced by folding the cloth lengthwise, face in and pressing with moisture and heat. This gave a natural watered effect in a design which repeated on either side of the centre. Now, engraved rollers imitate the pattern by a quicker process. Moiré finish is not permanent. Steaming or wetting will destroy the pattern. Uses: coats, suits, trimmings. Width, 22", 40".

Moleskin. Heavy cotton, napped fabric used for foundation for some artificial leather and for lined sports coats.

Momme. Japanese unit of weight. Quality of pongee and habutae is estimated on this basis. Twelve momme represents average pongee. Above fourteen is extra heavy.

Monk's cloth. Rough canvas-like drapery material, made of heavy cotton yarns often containing some flax, jute, hemp. Wears well. Uses: hangings, couch covers, upholstering. Weave—basket. 2 by 2, Friar's 4 by 4. Druid's is coarser, 6 or 8 yarns in each square. Width, 50".

Moquette. Originally a French hand loom pile carpet. Moderate power loom Moquette has deep pile. Resembles Axminster.

Mordant. Certain chemicals, example, copper sulphate, which cause dyes to be fixed with fibres otherwise unresponsive to those dyes.

Mosquito netting or mosquito bar. Coarse cotton net, heavily sized, plain or barred. Uses: canopies for beds or baby carriages, particularly in the South; also to screen windows. Described by number of mesh to the inch—as twelve or fourteen, the larger number being desirable. White, green, black. Weave—leno. Width, 36", 63", 72".

Mourning crêpe. See Crêpe.