

# GLOSSARY

**ACETATE**—Synthetic fiber derived from cellulose acetate; formerly called rayon acetate.

**ACRILAN**—Synthetic fiber of the acrylic group; frequently blended with wool and rayon fibers.

**ALPACA**—Soft, lustrous, hair fibers of the alpaca, a member of the llama family, native to South America.

**ANGORA**—Hair from the Angora rabbit; usually blended with wool to make a soft knitting yarn.

**APRON**—Canvas attached to the cloth beam (sometimes to the warp beam) to serve primarily as a warp extension.

**ASBESTOS**—Silky mineral fiber mined from volcanic rock formations found chiefly in Canada. It is the world's oldest fiber and possesses fire-resistant qualities.

**BAST FIBER**—Obtained from the stems of plants: flax, ramie, hemp, and jute.

## BEAMS

*Back beam*—Upper, stationary beam at the back of the loom over which the warp passes from the warp beam.

*Breast beam*—Stationary beams at

front of loom over which the cloth passes as it is woven.

*Cloth beam*—Roller on which the cloth is wound as it comes from the breast beam.

*Knee beam*—Beam located in front of the loom uprights to keep the cloth off the knees of the weaver.

*Sectional beam*—The warp beam is termed a sectional beam if it is divided into 2-inch sections that are separated by pegs.

*Warp beam*—Roller at the back of the loom on which the warp is wound.

**BEATER (OR BATTEN)**—That part of the loom which holds the reed in position for weaving.

**BLEND**—Composition of different fibers blended together to produce a yarn.

**BOBBIN**—Paper quill or spool on which filler yarn is wound before inserting in the shuttle.

**BOUCLÉ**—From the French, meaning “buckle,” and broadly used to describe a type of novelty yarn, usually consisting of 3 yarn elements.

**BROCADE**—Patterned fabric, produced by a variation of weave, that has a raised effect on the right side and floating yarns on the wrong side.

- BUBBLING**—Method of obtaining additional “ease” in the filler yarn when weaving.
- BUTTERFLY**—Miniature skein, made by looping the yarn about the thumb and little finger, describing a figure eight; used in making rug knots.
- CABLE YARN**—see *Yarns*.
- CASHMERE**—Soft silken fiber obtained from the Cashmere goat of India.
- CHAIN**—Warp drawn into continuous interlocking loops as it is removed from the reel, to shorten it and facilitate handling.
- CHENILLE**—From the French, meaning “caterpillar,” and applying to types of novelty yarn that simulate this texture.
- CLOTH BEAM**—see *Beams*.
- COMPLEX YARNS**—see *Yarns*.
- CORKSCREW**—Descriptive of a type of novelty yarn.
- CROSS**—The alternating of warp yarns around the pegs of the warping reel describes a *cross*. The purpose of the cross is to keep the yarns in proper order for threading.
- DACRON**—Synthetic fiber of the polyester group.
- DAMASK**—Patterned fabric produced by a combination of satin and sateen weaves.
- DENIER**—Unit of weight of French origin which indicates the size of a continuous filament, such as silk or any of the synthetic filaments.
- DENT**—Single space in the reed. The size of the reed is designated by the number of spaces or dents per inch.
- DOUP**—Special heddle used for gauze weaving.
- DRAFT**—Diagram showing the threading, tie-up, and treadling for a particular pattern or design.
- DURENE**—Trade name adopted by a group of associated yarn manufacturers to identify the plied mercerized cotton yarns they produce.
- DYNEL**—True synthetic fiber that has strong resistance to combustion; generally combined with other fibers in a blend.
- EASE**—To free the tension that occurs naturally when a weft yarn is thrown through the shed; correction is made either by having the yarn describe an arc or laying it diagonally in the shed.
- ENDS**—Individual warp yarns.
- FIBER**—Smallest unit of a yarn.
- FIBERGLAS**—Trade-mark name for fine filaments of glass spun into yarn.
- FILAMENT**—Any fiber of continuous length, as silk and most synthetics.
- FILLER**—Yarn interwoven with warp yarns to make cloth, also called “weft.”
- FLAKE**—Type of novelty yarn that has pronounced thick and thin areas.
- FLOATS**—Yarns which do not follow the regular sequence of over one and under one, but skip over two or more yarns. There may be warp floats as well as filler floats.
- FLOSSA**—Technique for creating a pile by hand-knotting the filler yarn.
- FRILL**—Small novelty yarn characterized by waviness.
- GAUZE**—Sheer fabric in which the warp yarns, in pairs, have been twisted about each other following a shot of filler; also known as “leno.”
- HARNESS**—Frame to support heddles.
- HEDDLES**—Cord, wire, or flat strips of metal, with eyes in the center through which the warp ends are threaded.
- HEMP**—Bast fiber commonly used for ropes and cordage.

- HUE—Color of a pigment.
- INLAY—Extra filler yarn that is used to delineate a motif.
- INTENSITY—The brightness or dullness of a color.
- JACK TYPE—see *Looms*.
- JUTE—Coarse, brown, bast fiber from the plant bearing the same name.
- KILIM—Type of weave common in Poland and Central Europe. The technique is similar to that used by the Navajo Indians.
- KNOP—Decorative yarn having different colored specks of fiber interspersed throughout the yarn.
- LAMS—Horizontal bars that are connected one to each harness and attached in turn to the treadles.
- LEASE (OR LEASH)—see *Cross*.
- LEASE (OR LEASH) STICKS—Sticks inserted in the openings made by the cross; their function is to keep yarns in order while winding on the warp beam and while threading the loom.
- LENO—see *Gauze*.
- LINEN—Yarn made of fibers from the flax plant.
- LOOM—Any device for holding the warp in place while weaving.  
*Counterbalanced loom*—A type in which harnesses are operated in pairs.  
*Jack-type loom*—Each harness can be operated individually.  
*Jacquard loom*—Power loom in which individual warp yarns are controlled mechanically by perforated cards.
- LOOP YARN—Novelty yarn, usually of wool, formed in a series of loops.
- MANDREL—see *Spindle*.
- MOHAIR—Long, silky fiber from the Angora goat, now raised extensively in southwestern United States.
- NOIL—Short fibers that are combed from wool or silk.
- NOVELTY YARNS—see *Yarns*.
- NUB—A form of novelty yarn having intermittent knobs or knops.
- NYLON—Fiber produced synthetically from coal, air, and water, known as a polyamide fiber. Outstanding for strength, elasticity, and resistance to abrasion.
- ORLON—Synthetic fiber of the acrylic group; notably resistant to heat, sunlight, and gases.
- OVERSHOT—A weave in which filler yarns pass over, or float over, several warp ends at the same time.
- PADDLE—An accessory that facilitates the winding of a multiple number of warp ends at the same time.
- PEARL (OR PERLE)—Soft, twisted mercerized yarn.
- PICK—One throw of the shuttle, or one filler yarn; also called “shot.”
- PIMA—Fine, long-staple cotton grown in Arizona.
- PLAIN WEAVE—The simplest of all weaves in which the filling yarn passes over and under successive warp yarns; also known as “tabby.”
- PLY YARN—Two or more yarns twisted together.
- RAFFIA—Fiber from the leaves of a species of palm tree.
- RAMIE—Bast fiber resembling the flax fiber.
- RATINÉ—An undulating type of novelty yarn, usually made from 2 yarn elements.
- RAW SILK—Continuous silk filaments in their natural state, before degumming.
- RAYON—Synthetic fiber made from the cellulose of wood pulp or cotton linters that have been chemically treated.

- REED—Comblike device used to hold warp ends in place which, when drawn forward with the beater, pushes the filler yarn ahead making the web. The name is derived from the early ones which were made of reed.
- REED HOOK—Accessory used to pull warp ends through the reed.
- REEL—Revolving frame used to wind the warp.
- ROVING—A strand of loose fibers, preliminary to being drawn out and twisted into yarn.
- RYA—Knot technique used in weaving rugs.
- SARAN—Synthetic fiber resistant to moisture and especially suitable for outdoor use.
- SATIN WEAVE—Warp and filler yarns interlaced irregularly to produce a smooth surface.
- SEA ISLAND—A species of long-staple cotton.
- SECTIONAL BEAM—see *Beam*.
- SELVAGE—Warpwise edge of the cloth, sometimes reinforced with extra yarns, formed in the process of weaving.
- SHED—The V-shaped opening formed in the warp yarns allowing the shuttle to pass through.
- SHOT—see *Pick*.
- SHUTTLE—Device that passes the filler yarn back and forth through the warp shed.
- SILK—Filaments obtained from the silkworm.
- SILK GRASS—Fiber from the leaves of various plants of the pineapple and similar families.
- SIMPLE YARNS—Yarns of single, ply, or cable twist.
- SINGLES—One strand of twisted yarn.
- SISAL—Tough fiber from the leaves of a tropical plant.
- SKEIN—Yarn packaged in the form of a loose coil.
- SLEYING—Drawing the ends of the warp through the reed.
- SLUB—Yarn having intervals of untwisted fibers.
- SPINDLE—Extended shaft from a motor or hand winder on which bobbins or spools are wound.
- SPINNING—Twisting together of fibers to form yarn.
- SPREADER—Comblike accessory divided in intervals of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, or more inches. It is used to spread out the warp in preparation for winding it on the warp beam.
- SPUN SILK—Yarn spun from natural silk waste and pierced cocoons.
- STAPLE—Fibers of indefinite lengths, classified as *long* or *short* according to recognized standards.
- SWIFT—Adjustable equipment for holding skeins so they may be unwound easily.
- TABBY—see *Plain Weave*.
- TAPESTRY—Decorative fabric in which each area of color is woven separately with individual bobbins; the shuttle is not passed from selvage to selvage as in other fabrics.
- THREAD—Smooth yarn with a special finish used by the sewing trade.
- TIE-UP—The selective order in which treadles are attached to the lams.
- TOW—Yarn made of short combings or broken fibers.
- TREADLES—Foot pedals that operate the harnesses.
- TWILL—Weave that produces parallel lines in echelon formation.
- VALUE—Lightness or darkness of a color.

VICARA—Synthetic protein fiber made from corn and having qualities somewhat like wool.

VINYON—Fiber from vinyl resins which are derived chemically from air, water, and natural gas.

VISCOSE RAYON—A rayon made of regenerated cellulose—see *Rayon*.

WARP—Series of yarns extending from front to back of the loom; these form the firm foundation of woven fabrics.

WARP REEL—see *Reel*.

WEB—The woven fabric.

WEFT—see *Filler*.

WHORL—Circle of clay, bone, or ivory attached to the lower part of a spindle, which acts as a flywheel causing the spindle to rotate.

WOOL—Strictly speaking, the fiber from sheep; generally applicable to the hair of the Angora or Cashmere goat and the specialty fibers from the camel, alpaca, llama, and vicuna.

WOOL COUNT—System of grading the coarseness or fineness of the wool

fiber which determines its spinning limits; average range starts approximately with 44's for the coarsest and runs to 70's for a fine grade.

WOOLEN—Yarn made from *carded* wool fibers.

WORSTED—Yarn made from *combed* wool fibers.

YARN—Fibers or filaments twisted to form a continuous strand.

*Cable*—Yarn constructed of two or more ply yarns.

*Complex*—Term that includes all of the novelty yarns.

*Metal*—Yarns made predominately of metal.

*Novelty*—Yarns that have been twisted in an unusual manner to give unique surface qualities.

*Ply*—Yarn composed of two or more singles twisted together.

*Simple*—Singles, ply, and cable yarns having similar components.

*Singles*—Yarn in which the fibers have been carded and given sufficient twist to form a strand.

*Synthetic*—Any filament that can be produced chemically.