

## Dictionary of Technical Terms Relating to the Textile Industry.

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**PILE**:—The fibres or threads which issue from and form the surface of fabrics such as velvets, Turkish towels, Brussels, Wilton and Axminster carpets, etc. There are two kinds of pile fabrics, *viz*: velvet (cut) and terry (loop or uncut) pile. They are mostly used alone; sometimes both are used in one fabric structure; again piles of one kind, but of two different heights, may be combined for the purpose of figuring, and what is then known as *pile upon pile*. The longest pile of any textile fabric is perhaps that of certain Oriental carpets, which, when of fine goat's hair, has a beautiful gloss. Terry pile is produced by the warp, velvet pile either by the warp or filling.

**PILE FILLING**:—The filling woven into velveteens and similar fabrics with a pronounced floating, for the purpose of being cut in the finishing process to form a surface pile.

**PILE WARP**:—The warp which produces the cut or uncut raised face of plush or terry pile woven fabrics, such as velvets, Wilton and Brussels carpets, Turkish towels, etc.

**PILE-WEAVING**:—The second great division of woven fabric structure, *viz*: ordinary, pile and gauze weaving.

A method of weaving in which there are two or 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 (forming a velvet pile) by this procedure, as for example in Wilton carpets, or left uncut (forming a terry pile) as in Brussels carpets.

A method of weaving where 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.

Floating the filling, and cutting said floats by a specially constructed knife, either by hand or machine, as in velveteens.

**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the warp in weaving, and over which the pile-warp threads are formed into loops when they are again automatically withdrawn from the fabric structure. There are two types of these wires, one with a smooth end, and which is used in the formation of a terry, *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 or groups 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**:—A 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, these being inserted at cross lines of the design where desired. Three effects are produced, woven, gauze and embroidered; the woven, because there

are the regular warp 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 by pilots for peajackets.

An indigo blue woolen cloth for overcoats and seamen's wear.

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

**PINA OR PINEAPPLE FIBRE**:—A fibre prepared from the leaf of the pineapple plant, sometimes known as Ananas flax. 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 Philippine Islands, parts of Africa, Mexico and Central America. Their use has not been extensive on account of high cost of production. The leaves are gathered just before the ripening fruit, and the prickly edges being cut off, the leaves are beaten upon a wooden block with a mallet until a silky-looking mass of fibres are obtained, which, after being washed and dried, are ready for spinning.

**PIN COP**:—A filling cop, to fit a shuttle.

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

**PINKING OR POUNCING**:—Ornamenting silk and other fabrics, used for dress or upholstery purposes with a pinking iron, or of punching a scalloped pattern along the margin of a fabric.

**PINK SALTS**:—A name given to the double chloride of tin and ammonia. It was formerly employed instead of the other salts of tin, in the wood-pinks; it is now very seldom met with in commerce.

**PIN-RIB**:—A delicate cord or rib woven in fine muslin.

**PINWORK**:—In needle-point lace, small and fine raised parts of a design.

In flax spinning, to work (flax-yarn) on a wooden pin in a manner to increase its suppleness when making the yarn up into bundles for packing.

**PIQUÉ**:—A variety of cotton cloth, plain and figured effects, whose surface has a ridged or waled appearance in the direction of the filling. The ridged effect is produced by using two warps for making the cloth, one tight, the other slack, the slack warp making a plain face, the tight warp being interwoven with the plain face, owing to the difference in tension draws down the face at the point of interlacing, and thus forms ridges. The number of loose weaving warp threads is more than that of tight weaving warp threads, and they are generally of a finer count. To heighten the raised appearance of the ridges on the face in connection with

the heavier and better grades, stuffer or wadding picks are often inserted. In the lightest and cheapest grades neither any wadding nor back picks are used. In this case the warp back threads float on the back of the fabric except when raising over the face picks to form the cord. In the figured piqué the binding of the back warp threads into the face cloth is not done in straight lines as in plain piqué, but the binding points are introduced so as to form figures. Piqués are usually brought into the market bleached. The goods are used for such purposes as ladies' so-called tailor-made suits, vestings, shirt fronts, cravats, etc. This cloth gradually merges into *quiltings*, which are an extension of this principle of weave.

**PIRN**:—A quill or reel; the bobbin of a spinning wheel.

**PITA FIBRE OR SILK GRASS**:—The pita plant grows wild in Brazil in the vicinity of rivers and lagoons, and on the highlands below an altitude of 1500 feet. The fibres run through the entire length of the stem or leaves, and have been used for thread for sewing boots, nets, fish-lines, halters, and some of the best kinds of cordage. The most beautiful hammocks have also been made of pita, some of which have sold for as much as \$50. Samples of this fibre have been sent to the United States and to Europe, where it has been manufactured into a variety of articles. It can be purchased of the Indians in the backwoods, nicely prepared in rolls of about 12 ounces each, for 25 cents per roll. In the cities and towns of the interior it is sold in small quantities to shoemakers and others for \$1 per pound. The cost of preparing it for market by the native system is too great, and the quantities prepared too small, for it to become an article of export.

**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.

**PITTACAL**:—A blue compound obtained among the oxidation products of wood-tar oil 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.

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. It is the dress of the Highlands, also forming part of the uniform of certain infantry regiments in the British army.

**PLAIN WEAVE**:—The first of the foundation system of weaves; the plainest possible method of interlacing threads, both systems interlacing alternately with each other. Called also *cotton weave*.

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

**PLAITING OR HARDENING**:—In hat manufacturing, the felting of the hair by means of pressure, motion, moisture and heat so as to form the body.

**PLANTING**:—Placing additional colors of pile warp yarns in the frames of Brussels and Wilton carpets so as to improve their general appearance as to coloring without increasing the frames, *i. e.*, the weight of the pile warp used. In some instances, the frames may be slightly increased.

**PLAQUAGE**:—Printing of calico by means of padding.

**PLATED OR PLAITED HOSIERY**:—A term applied to designate hosiery that has been knit 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 from still another yarn. The effect is the same as if two or more separate fabrics were laid together, with the difference that the separate webs are so interlooped 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 a variety of textile fibres in one piece, the socks or stockings so made being thicker and heavier than plain knit hosiery and 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 for the face of the fabric and a cheaper yarn for the inside.

**PLATINA**:—An iron plate for glazing fabrics.

**PLAUN LACE**:—Applied to all laces emanating from Plaun, Saxony, the centre of the German Lace Industry, and includes imitations of nearly all point laces, which are embroidered on a wool ground, this being afterwards dissolved in acid, leaving the cotton or silk design intact.

**PLEXUS**:—A tangled mass of fibre.

**PLISSÉ**:—A pleated effect that may be applied to almost any material, including velvets. May be done by machinery, or, as in case of ribbons, by use of draw strings.

**PLOUGH**:—The velveteen cutter.

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

**PLUSH**:—A long pile, velvet like structure, made in cotton, silk, wool, mohair, camel's hair; from *Peluche*, the French for shaggy. The use of plush dates back to the sixteenth century.

**PLUSH-VELVET**:—Plush having a shorter nap than is common, and thus resembling velvet.

**PLUSH-VELVETEEN**:—Cotton velvet plush, closely imitating silk plush.

**PLY**:—A thickness or layer of fabric—thus, two-ply, three-ply, refer to double or triple cloth.

One of the minor threads in 2, 3, or more ply yarn.

**POIL**:—The German for pile; poil thread—pile thread.

**POIL 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 designs being in checks, stripes, 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.