

Fairchild's Dictionary of Textiles

7th Edition

Novel

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creasing, resulting in durable crease and satisfactory shape retention for the garment. See DURABLE PRESS.

flat duck A light- to mediumweight cotton duck with single warp yarns woven in pairs, and single or plied filling yarns, known as *single filling flat duck* or *double filling flat duck*. The weight ranges from 6 to 15 oz. (170 to 425 g) per yd., based on a width of 29 in. (74 cm). The fabric is made with many more ends per inch than picks, in several weights and constructions.

flat fabric (flat goods) 1. In outerwear, a fabric that is produced on a flat knitting machine. 2. See FLAT KNIT 2. 3. Woven goods, such as TWILL and TAFFETA, that contain only the manufacturer's twist in both warp and filling yarns, in contrast to cloth that are made with high-twist yarns. 4. Fabric without any pile.

flat fold A method of preparing cloth for storage or transport in which the fabric is rolled without any folds in the lengthwise direction. An alternative kind of fold is the BOOK FOLD.

flat goods See FLAT FABRIC.

flat knit 1. A knit fabric made on a flat knitting machine, as distinguished from tubular fabrics made on a circular knitting machine. While milanese and tricot warp knit fabrics are knit flat, the trade uses the term flat knit to refer only to weft knit fabrics made on a flat machine. Also see MILANESE 1., TRICOT 1., WEFT KNIT FABRIC. 2. In the underwear trade, plain stitch fabrics made on a circular knitting machine. These fabrics have a flat surface and often are called flat knit to differentiate them from rib knit or SWISS RIB fabrics. In this case, it refers to the texture of the fabrics and not the type of machine on which it was knit.

flat knitting machine A weft knitting machine with needles arranged in straight lines in one or two flat plates called beds. The yarn travels alternately back and forth, and the fabric may be shaped or varied in width, as desired, during the knitting process. Lengthwise edges are selvages. Flat knitting machines may be divided into three types: (1) *latch needle machines* for such items as sweaters and scarfs; (2) *fine spring needle machines* for full fashioned hosiery; (3) *V-bed flat machines* for making such fabrics as rib knit collars and cuffs. Type (1) and (2) machines can be used to make PURL FABRICS. The principle of the flat knitting machine was invented in 1864 by William Cotton of Loughborough, England. See WEFT KNIT FABRIC.

flat milan See MILAN LACE.

†**flat plate printing** See COPPER PLATE PRINTING.

flat point Synonym for POINT PLAT.

flat rib machine knitting See RIB KNIT, RIB STITCH, V-BED FLAT MACHINE.

flat rope A rope used in hoisting, it is made of strands of wire wound alternately clockwise and counterclockwise, and sewn together usually with soft wire.

flats See FLAT 1., 3.

flat satin stitch See SATIN STITCH.

flat screen printing See SCREEN PRINTING.

flat seizing See SEIZING.

flatspotting Tire cord problem, particularly acute with nylon cord, in which tires give a bumpy ride for a short time after they have been at rest.

flat stitch Synonym for plain knit stitch. See FLAT KNIT 2.

flat strips Fiber-containing waste removed from the flats of a REVOLVING FLAT CARD.

flattened strand rope A wire rope in which the wires in each strand are constructed so as to form flat surfaces on the strands, thus increasing the wearing surface.

flatwork Household textiles, tablecloths, napkins, bed linens, handkerchiefs, and other textile articles that can be pressed on a mangle. See PAD 3.

flat yarn (flat filament yarn) Fully drawn but untextured filament yarn with little or no twist; the filaments are essentially straight.

flauk A Scottish term for plaid or tartan.

flavin A dye obtained from QUERCITRON.

flax A slender annual plant, *Linum usitatissimum*, the bast fiber of which also is called linen. The soft fiber bundles are obtained from the stalks by HACKLING, RETTING, and SCUTCHING; they are from 12 to 40 in. (30 to 102 cm) long, capable of fine subdivision, flexible, and very strong. Flax fiber has a pronounced luster but is lacking in elasticity. The color of the best varieties of flax is pale, yellowish-white. Other colors are silver gray, bluish-green, brown. Flax is the oldest textile fiber known and currently is produced mainly in the former Soviet Republics, Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, France, and Egypt. Sometimes called *straw*. Yarn and fabric made of flax are known as LINEN. Also see FLAX PLANT.

flax combings Short fibers removed by combing from scutched flax and later made into tow yarn. See SCUTCHING.

†**flax cotton** See AFRICAN HAIR.

flax count See LEA 1., YARN NUMBER.

flax damask A British term used for an all linen damask.

flax fiber See FLAX, FIBER, LINEN.

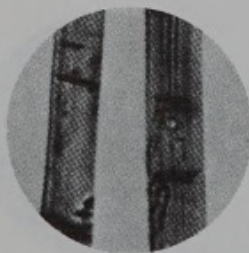
flax lily See PHORMIUM.

flax, line See LINE 1., 2., 3., LINE YARN.

flaxon A plain weave, lightweight cotton fabric similar to dimity, ORGANDY, or VOILE.



flax fibers



flax fiber, microscopic view