

Dr. Isabel B. Wingate

Fairchild's
Dictionary
of
Textiles
SIXTH EDITION

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Fairchild's Dictionary of Textiles is a comprehensive dictionary of terms, often used in the textile industry to identify the thousands of different consumer or industrial products and major equipment requiring identification.

The purpose of this *Dictionary* is to provide in all branches of the industry a ready reference of equipment for the various types of personnel, designers, researchers, and courses in professional schools. It will find this volume an essential reference.

The Scope of the Terms

The following outline represents the scope of the terms:

A. Textile Fibers

1. Sources

- a. Animal: silkworm, wool, etc., suitable for fabric
- b. Vegetable: cotton, flax, etc.
- c. Mineral: asbestos
- d. Chemical: synthetic fibers, rayon, etc.

2. Technology of extrusion

- a. Animal
- b. Vegetable
- c. Mineral
- d. Regenerated and synthetic

B. Yarns

1. Carding, combing, etc.

- a. Weaving fabrics
- b. Knitting fabrics
- c. Other fabrics
- d. Thread and cord

2. Standardization

3. Dyeing Yarns

Satin See *Reverse Satin* and *Imperial*.

Twill A general term for fine, tight, plied yarn fabric made with cotton in an even-sided four-harness in which the twill line runs from left to upper right. The number of warp yarns per inch is about twice that of the filling yarns. Egyptian, and other superior grades of cotton are used. Frequently dyed tan or olive and given a water repellent finish. U.S. Army field jackets, raincoat windbreakers. Example: Tweed cloth.

Cylinder Card See *Wyatt, John L. Lewis*.

Flat Card The most widely used type of card, used in the manufacture of cotton yarn or yarns made on the flat system.

Wool See *Reprocessed Wool* and *Used Wool*.

Coarse, homespun, cotton cloth from India, in pieces called "than," 12.80 m long and 24 inches (61 cm) wide. The cloth is printed in Beawar, India.

A strong, lustrous silk or silk cotton fabric made in a twill or some-what weave, interlaced so as to give a definite twill line. Made in medium weight and piece dyed. Uses: dresses, hangings. Also spelled radames.

See *Radzimir*.

Surah A surah with a definite rib or twill line.

India, synonym for ramie, q.v. The term has been applied to *Boehmeria* and *sisima*, whereas the greater quantity of ramie is obtained from *Boehmeria*.

Rhace A tambour and colored silk produced on the island of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea. Cut work and reticella formerly important products.

Acetate filament produced by Poulenc-Textile, France.

A type of rug exported from the Pyrenees to France in the 17th century.

Illna A medieval silk fabric dyed red and yellow.

Rhovyl A trademark of Société Rhovyl S.A., France, for a pure polyvinyl chloride fiber that is impervious to practically all chemical agents and organic solvents. The original fibers were heat-sensitive and shrunk when exposed to heat. A more recent fiber is less heat-sensitive and can be dyed at near boiling temperature without shrinkage.

Rhythm Crepe A plain weave rayon fabric with a seersucker effect running in the direction of the warp.

Riabaul A narrow, coarse cotton fabric made in India.

Rib Usually a straight raised cord or ridge effect extended across the length or width of fabric; may also be diagonal. Generally repeated at close, regular intervals. Produced by employing coarser yarn for the rib than for the ground, by variations of the plain weave, etc. Produced in knitted fabrics by using the rib stitch.

Rib Crepe See *Crepoline*.

Rib Fabrics A general term for knit or woven fabrics made with warp or filling rib, e.g., bedford cord, corduroy, and piqué, in the warp rib group, and grosgrain, poplin, rep, bengaline, ottoman, and faille, in the filling rib group. 1. A woven rib fabric shows the rib effect running crosswise in the fabric parallel to the filling. The rib lines, formed by an interchange of the positions of the filling, show on the face and filling floats on the back of the rib lines. Sometimes, for the purpose of adding firmness or weight to bedford cords, two plain weave ends are woven continuously between the ribs, or one or more stuffer warp threads are employed. Also see *Warp Rib*, *Filling Rib* and *Weaves*. 2. A knitted rib fabric has wales running lengthwise on both sides, and is made with the rib stitch; it is more elastic and thicker than knitted fabric made with the plain stitch. Also see *Rib Knit*.

Rib Knit A knit fabric which employs the rib stitch. Lengthwise ribs are formed by wales alternating on both sides. The ribs can be any width; if every other wale alternates between the right and wrong side, it is called 1×1 rib (one-and-one),

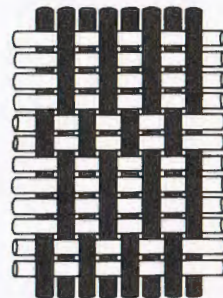
or plain rib. If two wales alternate, it is called 2×2 (two-and-two) or Swiss rib. Rib knitting is more elastic, heavier and durable than plain knitting.

Rib Stitch A knitting stitch characterized by the alternation of wales on the two sides of the fabric. Two rows of needles are employed, one knitting the wales of the face, the other knitting the back wales. Rib stitch is produced on both the flat knitting machine, in which the two rows of needles are parallel, and on the circular knitting machine in which the two rows of needles are concentric. The stitch is employed extensively for knit underwear and sweaters.

Rib Top Vertical rows or wales at the top of a stocking. This rib stitch permits ease of movement of the leg.

Rib Velvet A woven pile fabric with ribs formed lengthwise by cut pile. Called corduroy when made of cotton. May also be made of silk or man-made fibers.

Rib Weave A variation of the plain weave that produces ribs running in the direction of the warp or the filling, by having two or more successive ends or picks weave alike, i.e., ends alternating under and over two or more picks, or picks alternating under and over two or more ends. Ribs are also produced by employing coarser yarn for the rib than for the ground. See *Bengaline*, *Ottoman*, *Faille*, and *Grosgrain*.



Riband An archaic term for ribbon, especially one used as a decoration.

Ribaudeau A wool fabric of unknown construction mentioned in the wardrobe

olina, Georgia and the Barbadoes. Its superiority is due to the strength, luster, fineness, remarkable uniformity and length of the fiber, which averages $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches (4.45 cm) although in some cases it reaches $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches (5.72 cm). It is from light cream to white in color. It contains a large proportion of nep and is therefore difficult to manipulate; it is invariably combed, sometimes twice or three times, and is used only for the very finest of cotton goods and fine count yarns. Sea Island cotton seems to have been brought from the island of Anguilla in the West Indies to the Bahamas, and from there to the coast of Georgia. From St. Simons, an island off the shore of Brunswick, Georgia, the culture extended to the Sea Islands of Charleston, where the finest varieties were grown. Very fine staple was also grown along the coast of East Florida. Sea Island cotton may be cultivated in any region near the sea, the principal requisite being a hot and humid climate, but the results of acclimatization indicate that the humid atmosphere is not entirely necessary if irrigation is employed. It produces a smaller yield per acre than other varieties grown in the U.S., but the greater value of this fiber has partly compensated for the low yield. The development of other types of cottons in the irrigated sections of the Southwest and improvement of some of the Egyptian types have tended to reduce the use of Sea Island cotton.

Sea Island-Peruvian Cotton A variety of cotton ranked below the rough and smooth Peruvian types. Often mixed with wool. See *Peruvian Cotton*.

Sea Silk 1. The strong, lustrous fibers yielded by certain algae. 2. See *Byssus* 2.

Sea Weed See *Algin* and *Alginates Fibers or Yarn*.

Sea Wrack Fiber See *Sea Grass*.

Seal Plush See *Sealskin Cloth*.

Sealed Samples Small amounts of fibers that are taken from American export bales. These samples are sent to worldwide cotton centers. Term also is used for preliminary samples of a textile product against which subsequent shipments are compared.

Sealette A term used in Great Britain for sealskin cloth, q.v.

Sealskin Cloth A pile coating fabric made in imitation of seal fur; commonly woven with cotton ground and mohair pile, though it has also been made with tussah silk or other fibers in the pile. Synonym: Seal plush. Also see *Sealette*.

Seam Two edges of fabric joined by a variety of stitches.

Seam Basting A temporary sewing together of two parts of a garment.

Seam Beading A narrow insertion, embroidery or needlework inserted between two pieces of cloth. See *Beading* and *Insertion*.

Seam Binding A narrow fabric used for binding seams or cut edges of fabric to prevent fraying or raveling. Also see *Slit Fabrics*.

Seam Quality The serviceability and appearance of a seam as governed by the quality of the fabric, the thread used, and the number of stitches to the inch.

Seam Slippage A defect occurring when sewn fabrics pull apart at seams. This may be due to: (1) improper construction or finish, when yarns are not properly bound together and slip. Fabrics made with smooth yarns like silk, filament rayon or nylon are more troubled by seam slippage than those made with rougher yarns; (2) by a stitch which does not have proper "bite" and the seam opens. Laboratory tests can determine seam slippage. In knit fabrics when this occurs it causes a run.

Seam Tape See *Seam Binding*.

Seaming 1. A type of lace insertion formerly employed to join two lengths of linen where a seam would occur. 2. A lace, gimp or braid used for edging and for ornamenting seams in upholstery and similar articles.

Seamless Bag A tubular article made by a double plain weave construction or by adjusting the selvage ends to produce the desired effect.

Seamless Hosiery Stockings knitted on a special circular hosiery knitting machine necessitating no seam such as used to join hose knitted on the flat (full-fashioned) knitting machine.

Seamless Tubing

Seamless Tubing Fabric woven in form of a tube rather than a flat fabric. Some types are used for pillow cases, others for bags and industrial materials.

Seamloc A treatment with a special binder on the back of woven carpet to prevent the fabric from raveling. The edges are joined with special tape and the joining material to make an almost invisible seam. Because the joinings produce a better seam, the carpet wears better. The treatment may also be introduced by cutting the fabric and inserting different colored carpet pieces of the desired shape and color into the background.

Sear Cloth See *Ceré Cloth*.

Seat-Cover Fabrics A general term for a unlimited variety of sturdy upholstery fabrics employed for covering seats, used for covering doors and other upholstered surfaces in automobiles and other vehicles. May be a plastic, leather imitation leather, cotton, man-made fabric, a coated or uncoated fabric, in plain or fancy patterns and some employing metal threads.

Seating An obsolete, British term for a made in a satin weave. Uses: upholstery seats.

Sebastopol A fine, twilled woolen fabric with very narrow colored stripes.

Sebenia A cloth made in Fez, Morocco with orange and black stripes; made of native silk. Used locally for head coverings by women, especially the young women.

Secant Modulus On a stress-strain diagram, the ratio of change in stress to change in strain between two points, especially the points of zero stress and breaking stress.

Secco Cocnie A type of salampote made in Great Britain, especially for Kaffirs in South Africa.

Second Combing Wool obtained from the back across the loins to the neck of sheep.

Second Cut Fleece with a double cut made because of carelessness in shearing when already cut fleece receives another cut resulting in short fibers that are

Steam-Stretched

ered a durable finish because it with-
nds many launderings. See *Finishing*.
el A cotton of $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches (2.70 cm)
ple length; has excellent fineness and
% more strength than other varieties
U.S. cotton. It was developed at Loui-
na State University by crossing Delta-
ne and Lone Star 65.
ed Wool Lots See *Star Lots*.
c Eliminator Chemical compounds
ich when applied to a fabric, reduce or
minate the accumulation of static elec-
city. (1) The manufacturer may add
e anti-static agent to the fiber lubricant
to yarn during spinning, by spraying,
a final rinse, or in pad dyeing. (2) The
nsumer, in laundering, may either
ply a fabric softener that also inhibits
ing or directly to colorfast fabrics
without washing or drying. Fabric soft-
ers with static inhibitors include
owny and *Bounce* by Procter & Gam-
e and *Cling Free* by Calgon Consumer
roducts Co., *Static Guard* by Alberto-
lver Co. represents the spray non-
ash type.
ute Galloon A narrow braid made of
otton or silk in Great Britain. Was used
bind edges on flannel underwear.
ute Lace A term used in England in
e 17th century for lace made according
the law governing width and material
mployed.
racin A Byzantine silk fabric figured
ith small crosses.
e A British term for harness, q.v.
A striped tape, used in Great Britain
bind edges in tailoring. See *Stay Bind-*
ing and *Stay Tape*.
Binding A tape used for lacing cor-
ets. See *Stay* and *Stay Tape*.
Tape A narrow cotton or linen tape
sed to reinforce seams and edges. See
Stay and *Stay Binding*.
um Filature See *Filature*.
um-Shrunk A sponging and shrinking
eatment performed by passing the fab-
c through perforated steam cylinders.
lot to be confused with London-shrunk,
v.
um-Stretched Skeins of silk that have
een stretched under steam pressure to
crease their sheen.

Steam Style

Steam Style Textile prints in which color
is developed or set with steam after prin-
ting.
Steam Twill A low grade cotton fabric
made with two up, two down twill and
heavily fulled. Made in several qualities.
Principally used for linings.
Steam Waste A widely used silk waste
obtained from reeling mills in China, es-
pecially from Canton. It is a lustrous,
good grade of waste.
Steamer Rug See *Rug Blankets*.
Steaming 1. A finishing process which
partially shrinks and conditions the fab-
ric when applied to woollens after drying.
After the cloth has been decated, this
process takes off unsightly glaze. The
steam is passed through the cloth by run-
ning it over a steam box with a perforated
copper cover. Silk and spun rayons may
be steamed. Steaming accompanies the
final pressing process in finishing wool-
ens and worsteds. 2. A process in print-
ing to stabilize the colors.
Stearn Silk An early term for what later
became known as rayon. It was an early
form of viscose rayon and was named for
Charles H. Stearn, who was one of the
first British developers of this type of
yarn.
Steekhaar See *Ronderib Afrikander*.
Steel Clad Rope A hoisting rope in which
the strands have received an additional
external layer of flat strip steel to provide
extra wearing surface without sacrificing
flexibility.
Steep Twills A group of twill weaves
which produce a twill line running at an
angle greater than 45°. Steep twills are
found in gabardine, tricotine, cavalry
twill, etc.
Steeping 1. Soaking material without agi-
tation in a liquid bath or in a wet state for
some time. 2. Treating wood pulp sheets
in caustic soda. A step in rayon produc-
tion.
Steinflachs A German name for asbestos.
The term means stone flax.
Steinhager Linen A fine, well bleached,
linen dress fabric made with a plain
weave. Formerly produced in Germany.
Steinkirke Cotton handkerchiefs for-
merly made in India.

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Stitch-O-Meter

Stem Fiber Synonym for bast fiber, q.v.
Stencil Printing A method in which the
design is cut in cardboard, metal or other
material, and painted on fabric with
thickened dye solutions or pastes by
brushes or sprays.
Stenter 1. A term used in Great Britain
for fine book muslin. 2. See *Tenter*
Frame.
Stephanie Lace A handmade lace made
in imitation of point de Venise.
Stevens Utica® Registered trademark of
J. P. Stevens & Co., Inc. for sheets and
pillowcases.
Stevetex A trademark of J. P. Stevens for:
(1) yarns composed of natural or syn-
thetic fibers or blends; (2) textile fabrics
of synthetic fibers.
Stickerei 1. German for embroidery. 2. A
braid of even weave, having a scalloped,
embroidered or matched edge. See *Braid*.
Sticks See *Lace Sticks*.
Stiffening See *Starches*.
Stiffness Tester See *Flexing Test*.
Stinging Nettle See *Nettle Fiber*.
Stipple Print A method of engraving
printing rollers so that the effect is pro-
duced by small dots instead of lines. The
shading effect is obtained by the size of
the dot.
Stirling Serge A fine worsted serge pro-
duced in Stirling, Scotland, in the 17th
century.
Stirling Tartan A fine tartan formerly
made at Stirling, Scotland; the predomi-
nating color is scarlet.
Stirrup Net A term used in Great Britain
for handmade net made with loops held
in position by knots. The work is done on
a pillow.
Stitch 1. Basic unit of construction in
knitted fabric, consisting of the loop of
yarn formed by the knitting needle.
2. The basic operation of sewing, embroi-
dery. Types of stitches include back-
stitch, basting, blanket, blind hem, cross,
feather, overhanding or overcasting, run-
ning, slanting or padding, slip, hemming,
q.q.v.
Stitch Bonded See *Needle Loom*.
Stitch-O-Meter A patented device that
measures the speed at which a yarn en-
ters the circular knitting machine.

Streaker 15® Registered trademark of Crompton Co. Inc. for its corduroy in the piece, made of all cotton and cotton/polyester blend.

Streaks A defect in yarn dyed, solid-colored material consisting of shaded streaks. Caused by imperfect dyeing.

Stream Retting See *Retting*.

Strength Loss by Light A degradation of fabric caused by light. See *Tendering*.

Strepsikeros Wool A long, coarse wool produced in Crete.

Stress-Strain Curve See *Load-Deformation Curve*.

Stretch 1. Elongation of fiber, yarn or fabric by tension. 2. To extend in length or width by tension, e.g., to stretch piece goods in tentering.

Stretch-Ever A trademark of International Latex Corp., Playtex Division, for spandex fiber and yarn used in foundation garments. Sold by a subsidiary, Strong, Inc. These yarns are claimed to be impervious to bleach, body oils, detergents, discoloration, to have an elastic quality that remains unchanged through repeated washings.

Stretch Fabrics Cloths that have properties of elongation and recovery. These properties result from the use of: (1) stretch nylon or polyester yarns; (2) rubber yarns or threads (3) bare (uncovered) or covered spandex and core-spun spandex yarns; (4) chemical and mechanical treatments. See *Slack Mercerization*, *Plux-X* and *Ristora*.

Stretch Growth See *Secondary Creep*.

Stretch Knit A fabric constructed of stretch yarns by knitting.

Stretch Recovery Ability of a stretch fabric or yarn to recover its original configuration after it has been stretched.

Stretch Spinning Process in the manufacture of rayon yarn in which the filaments, after leaving the spinneret, are drawn out to the required fineness while immersed in a bath which coagulates the filaments. This stretching, which probably is a molecular orientation tends to give the yarns increased tensile strength.

Stretch Woven Fabrics Cloths made with stretch nylon and polyester yarns, e.g.,

"conventional" Helanca stretch nylon yarn, Superloft. Ensures give for body comfort. May be made of natural fibered yarn, man-made fibered yarn, or a blend of the two. End uses: domestics, home furnishings, industrial and military. See *Power Stretch* and *Comfort Stretch*.

Stretch Yarns While this term might be applied to elastic yarns also, it is used principally to describe continuous filament synthetic yarns, such as nylon, polyester and acrylic fiber which have been subjected to special treatments. Several methods are employed such as giving torque or false twist to the yarns or by deforming them into a spring-like character. Merits of stretch yarns are: (1) rapid and near complete recovery, (2) improved holding power when used in foundation and surgical garments. Various brand names are used to identify them. See *Helanca*, *Agilon*, *Lycra*, *Core-spun Stretch Yarn*, *Non-torque Yarn*, *Elastomeric*, *Coil*, *Crimp*, *Curl* and *Textured Yarns*.

Strialine® Registered trademark of American Enka Corp. for its polyester with thick and thin striated effects.

Striations Bands or streak in fibers or fabrics.

Stricot An obsolete, French fabric made with thick ply yarns of wool and cotton in the warp and fine, single worsted yarn in the filling, and fulled in finishing.

Strié A narrow streak or stripe effect almost the same shade as the ground. Can occur by design but strié effects are often defects in fabrics.

Strike Term used to describe the fast, initial absorption of dye by fiber, yarn or fabric, usually unevenly.

Strike Off A short, test length of fabric specially printed in order to check the pattern register and the matching of shade in the design. See *Fents 3*.

String 1. A small cord, larger than thread and smaller than rope, e.g., a shoestring, lacing, etc. Uses: tying or fastening objects. 2. A unit of measure equal to 10 feet (3.05 m). Used in the British trade for measuring warp lengths.

String Rug The string rug became popu-

Stringy Selvage

lar about 1947 when string mats were imported from Puerto Rico. Woven cotton sack backings, they were about 18 inches (76.20 cm) square; were sewn together to make a string rug of any desired size. These mats had been made to throw over a horse's back under the saddle. String rugs today are generally braided rugs. Also see *Tufted Rug*.

Stringy Selvage See *Slack Selvage*.

Stringy Wool See *Wool*, *Stringy*.

Strip Dyeing A term used to denote dyeing of sweater sections before sewing them into a finished garment.

Strip Test A method of determining tensile strength of a fabric. A strip of the same width as the clamps is broken in a tensile testing machine. Another test is the grab test, q.v.

Stripe (textile) A design consisting of bands or straight lines against a plain background.

Stripe Braid A braid made by interlacing vari-colored stripes or materials.

Striped Dimity See *Dimity* and *Dimity Stripe*.

Stripping Printing of stripes warpwise on the cloth.

Stripped Ends One of the plies in a ply yarn which has snapped or broken, resulting in a loop of yarn or a bunch of fibers. See *Ends Out*.

Strippiness Streaks running vertically in a tricot fabric.

Stripping 1. A process for removing color from dyed cloth by chemical means. This is done generally when the fabric is to be dyed another color, especially when for some reason the original color was unsatisfactory. 2. Another term for degreasing, q.v. Also used with reference to the removal of grease from wool by scouring.

Strong Acetate High-tenacity acetate yarns. See *High-Tenacity Staple Yarn*.

Strong Wool 1. A term often applied to the British luster wools. 2. An Australian term for crossbred sheep. 3. Coarse, extra-long staple wool from any wool clip.

Strophanthus Fiber Vegetable silk fibers which grow in a brush-like fashion on the