

Textile Glossary

Astrakhan fabric: knitted or woven fabric that imitates the looped surface of newborn karakul lambs

Armscye: armhole

Batiste: the softest of the lightweight opaque fabrics. It is made of cotton, wool, polyester, or a blend.

Bertha collar: A wide, flat, round collar, often of lace or sheer fabric, worn with a low neckline in the Victorian era and resurrected in the 1940s

Bishop sleeves: A long sleeve, fuller at the bottom than the top, and gathered into a cuff

Box pleats: back-to-back knife pleats

Brocade: richly decorative woven fabric often made with colored silk

Broken twill weave: the diagonal weave of the twill is intentionally reversed at every two warp ends to form a random design

Buckram: stiff loosely woven fabric

Cambric: a fine thin white linen fabric

Cap sleeves: A very short sleeve covering only the shoulder, not extending below armpit level.

Cartridge pleat: formed by evenly gathering fabric using two or more lengths of basting stitches, and the top of each pleat is whipstitched onto the waistband or armscye.

Chambray fabric: a lightweight clothing fabric with colored (often light blue) warp and white weft yarns

Changeable fabric: warp and weft are different colors, when viewed from different angles looks more one color than the other

Chemisette: an article of women's clothing worn to fill in the front and neckline of any garment

Chiffon: lightweight, balanced plain-woven sheer fabric woven of alternate S- and Z-twist crepe (high-twist) yarns producing fabric with a little stretch and slightly rough texture

Couched embroidery: technique in which yarn or other materials are laid across the surface of the ground fabric and fastened in place with small stitches of the same or a different yarn

Crepe fabric: a light soft thin fabric of silk, cotton, wool, or another fiber, with a crinkled surface

Crinoline: petticoat made from stiff fabric

Cut work embroidery: the foundation fabric is deformed or cut away to create holes that are then embellished with embroidery, often with thread in the same color as the foundation fabric

Cutaway coat: a man's formal daytime coat having the front portion of the skirt cut away from the waist so as to curve or slope to the tails at the back

Damask: a reversible figured fabric of silk, wool, linen, cotton, or synthetic fibres, with a

pattern formed by weaving

Dimity: a lightweight, sheer cotton fabric having at least two warp threads thrown into relief to form fine cords

Discontinuous weft: wefts do not travel from edge to edge, but only in small areas where they are needed for the design (tapestry or inlay design)

Dobby stripe: a dobby stripe is a "textured" weave creating a striped pattern.

Dolman sleeves: A long sleeve that is very wide at the top and narrow at the wrist.

Double breasted coat: has overlapping front flaps and two parallel columns of buttons or snaps

Double weave: kind of woven textile in which two or more sets of warps and one or more sets of weft or filling yarns are interconnected to form a two-layered cloth

Empire waist: a style in women's clothing in which the dress has a fitted bodice ending just below the bust, giving a high-waisted appearance, and a gathered skirt which is long and loosely fitting but skims the body rather than being supported by voluminous petticoats

Entredoux lace: a decorative trim used as an insertion between two small round holes in leather or cloth for threading a lace, string, or rope through

Epaulet: a type of ornamental shoulder piece or decoration used as insignia of rank by armed forces and other organizations

Eyelet: a small hole or slit in cloth for threading a lace, string, or ribbon through

Fagoting: a method of joining hemmed edges by crisscrossing thread over an open seam.

Farthingale: any of several structures used under Western European women's clothing in the late 15th and 16th centuries to support the skirts into the desired shape

Faille: a soft, light-woven fabric having a ribbed texture and originally made of silk

Filet lace: a needle lace created by darning on a ground of knotted net or netting

Figure weave: extra warp or weft yarn introduced in fabric to produce designs at regular intervals. Between 2 motifs, extra yarn floats across back of fabric

Frock coat: a man's coat characterized by knee-length skirts all around the base

Godet: an extra piece of fabric in the shape of a circular sector which is set into a garment

Gore: a triangular panel of fabric

Hardanger: a form of embroidery traditionally worked with white thread on white evenweave cloth, using counted thread and drawn thread work techniques

Hemstitching: a decorative drawn thread work or openwork hand-sewing technique for embellishing the hem of clothing or household linens

Ikat: a dyeing technique used to pattern textiles that employs a resist dyeing process similar to tie-dye on either the warp or weft yarns prior to dyeing

Jabot: a decorative clothing accessory consisting of lace or other fabric falling from the throat, suspended from or attached to a neckband or collar; or simply pinned at the throat

Jodhpurs: snug-fitting trousers only from just below the knee to the ankle and were flared at the hip

Johnny collar: a style with an open, short V-neck and a flat, often knit collar

Jumper: A sleeveless dress worn over a blouse or sweater

Leg of mutton sleeves: A sleeve that is extremely wide over the upper arm and narrow from the elbow to the wrist.

Lingerie dress: a style of dress adorned with embroidery, lace, pin tucks, ruffles and

ribbons which was inspired by the chemise gown, as part of an eighteenth century revival

Moiré: a fabric with a wavy (watered) appearance produced mainly from silk, but also wool, cotton and rayon

Organdy: is the sheerest and crispest cotton cloth made

Organza: a thin, plain weave, sheer fabric traditionally made from silk

Pagoda sleeves: A wide, bell-shaped sleeve popular in the 1860s, worn over an engageante or false undersleeve.

Pelerine: a woman's cape of lace or silk with pointed ends at the center front, popular in the 19th century

Peplum: a short overskirt that is usually attached to a fitted jacket, blouse or dress

Pile weave: a textile with extra wefts or warps that are formed into loops then cut

Pouter pigeon front/silhouette: considerably elongated woman's silhouette with full puffed out shape over the chest with a narrow waist

Placket: an opening at the neck or sleeve or in the upper part of trousers or skirts of a garment

Pintucking: very narrow tucks often clustered

Princess seams: long rounded seams sewn into women's blouses or shirts to add shaping or a tailored fit to closely follow a woman's shape. They are sewn into the front and/or back of a shirt, and extend from the waist up to the arms

Half basket weave: weave structure with two warps woven with one weft

Raglan sleeves: A sleeve that extends to the neckline

Romper: one-piece garment worn by children and sometimes women

Ruching: a pleated or gathered section of fabric sometimes used for trimming

Sateen: a fabric made using a satin weave structure with the float yarns in the weft and made with cotton yarns instead of silk

Sailor collar: A collar with a deep V-neck in front, no stand, and a square back, based on traditional sailor's uniforms

Satin: a weave structure with irregular yarn floats in the warp that typically has a glossy surface and a dull back made from silk or synthetic fibers

Seersucker fabric: a thin, puckered, all-cotton fabric, commonly striped or chequered, used to make clothing for spring and summer wear

Self fabric: made from the same fabric as the body of the garment

Shirtwaist: a common term for the bodice of a dress or for a blouse or woman's shirt from the early 19th century through the Edwardian period

Slash pockets: a pocket set into a garment, to which easy access is provided by an exterior slit

Spats: a contraction of spatterdashes, are a type of classic footwear accessory for outdoor wear, covering the instep and the ankle

Spot weave: small motifs woven into the fabric with extra warps or wefts

Stays: bone, metal or other stiff materials inserted into pockets in women's garments.

Swiss dot fabric: a sheer cotton fabric that is embellished with small dots

Taffeta: a crisp, smooth, plain woven fabric made from silk or synthetic fibers

Trapunto: a method of quilting that is also called "stuffed technique"

Trench coat: a raincoat made of waterproof heavy-duty cotton gabardine drill or poplin, or leather

Tulle: a lightweight, very fine netting, which is often starched.

Twill weave: a type of textile weave with a pattern of diagonal parallel ribs (in contrast with a satin and plain weave)

Unbalanced weave: a weave structure where more than 50% of the warp or weft dominates the right or front side of the fabric

Warp: the set of lengthwise yarns that are held in tension on a frame or loom

Weft: term for the thread or yarn which is drawn through the warp yarns to create cloth

Wool melton; a thick to medium thick tightly woven wool with heavily brushed nap giving the fabric a smooth finish.