

Dictionary of Technical Terms Relating to the Textile Industry.

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- POINT**:—In lace-making, needle-point lace, as Alençon point, Dresden point, etc. A collar of point; used in the plural the term denotes fine lace in general; used freely in connection with the decorative arts (as tapestry of Beauvais point), referring to some peculiar kind of work, and is even applied to bobbin-lace and the like; also denotes vaguely a pattern or a feature of a pattern in works of embroidery, etc., usually in connection with the stitch or the peculiar method of work which produces it; a lace with tags at the end, such laces being about eight inches long, consisting often of three differently colored yarns twisted together and having their ends wrapped with iron, used in the Middle Ages to fasten the clothes together, but giving way to buttons in the 17th century; also made of silk or leather; a fastening resembling a tagged lacing; made with the needle; said of lace, a needle-point.
- POINT A BRIDES**:—The ground of lace when made of brides or bars; lace having a *bride* ground as opposed to that having a *reseau* ground.
- POINT A RESEAU**:—Lace which has a net ground worked together into the pattern, as is the case with Mechlin.
- POINT D'ALENÇON LACE**:—Named after that city in France where it is made. Fine needlepoint lace with the ground of double-twist thread in a seminet effect. Is usually worked with horsehair on the edges to give firmness to the cordonnet.
- POINT D'ANGLETERRE**:—English point; English style of lace work; English lace.
- POINT D'ANGLETERRE LACE**:—Fine Brussels pillow lace, distinguished by a rib of raised and plaited threads worked in the lace. Shown in floral, ornithological and geometrical designs.
- POINT APPLIQUE**:—Point lace in which the design, after having been separately made, has been applied to the net which forms the foundation.
- POINT D'ARABE LACE**:—Coarse bobbin lace made in Belgium and France as well as Arabia. Shows a large, bold pattern cable edged, and is almost invariably in a deep ecru tone. Used for curtains and draperies.
- POINT D'ESPRIT LACE**:—Dotted bobbinet with the dots either singly or in clusters.
- POINT DE GAUZE**:—A very fine needle made ground for lace, generally identified with the finest Brussels lace when made wholly with the needle.
- POINT DE GAZE LACE**:—Flemish point lace resembling point d'Alençon, though much softer, being without horsehair.
- POINT DE GÈNE LACE**:—Openwork embroidery made on a wool ground which is afterwards eaten away by acid (see Plauen Lace).
- POINT D'IRELANDE LACE**:—Coarse machine lace, made in imitation of real Venetian point.
- POINT DE MECHLIN**:—A lace made in one piece upon the pillow, the ground being formed with the pattern, and as both are made of the very finest thread and require much skill to execute, the fabric is exceedingly costly.
- POINT DE MILAN LACE**:—A variety of guipure, having a ground of small meshes, and a pattern consisting of bold, flowing scroll devices.
- POINT DE PARIS LACE**:—A variety of cheap, cotton, machine lace, of simple design.
- POINT DE RACCROC**:—A method of fastening together the different pieces of lace as in Brussels and Bayeux laces; it is not sewing, but is a fresh row of meshes, imitating in part the ground of the lace.
- POINT DE ROSE LACE**:—This lace was formerly made in Italy, but was entirely lost there. The art was revived in Alençon, and has since been revived in Italy, but much of the rose lace now sold in Italy is made in Alençon. It often requires a year's work to produce 1½ yards of point de rose; many of the girls and women instead of using horsehair, on which it is usually worked, use for the sake of economy, their own hair.
- POINT DE VENISE**:—A stitch largely used in guipure lace, with which to fill in the angles of meshes, and in Guipure en Relief to form raised masses; it is also a term for Venetian lace.
- POINT DRAW**:—One of the systems of threading or drawing-in a warp in its harness. It differs from a straight draw in that after drawing a certain number of warp threads successively always on the next harness, this direction of drawing-in is reversed; drawing-in alternately once in one direction then in the other is repeated until the repeat of the drawing-in draft is obtained. The object of the point draw is to reduce the number of harnesses required for a given (point) weave. Point draws are used either by themselves or they may form only a portion of the complete drawing-in draft for a given weave, the balance being either portions of straight, mixed or double draws.
- POINTED TWILLS**:—A subdivision of the regular twills. In their construction, after arranging the twill for a certain number of warp threads to run in one direction, this direction is reversed; running the twill alternately in one direction and then in the other is continued until the repeat of the weave is obtained.
- POINTILLÉ**:—Dotted.
- POINT KANT LACE**:—Flemish pillow lace, with a net ground, the design running largely to *pot* effects—*pot lace*.
- POINT LACE**:—Lace made by hand with needle and single thread. Needle point the same. It is made in many varieties, as Point d'Alençon, Point de Venise, etc.
- POINT NET**:—Literally, needle made net. For the manufacture of this by machinery, a patent was taken out in 1781. From that time to 1815 point net contributed more than anything else to the prosperity of Nottingham, Eng. Now superseded by the bobbin net manufacture.
- POINT-PAPER**:—The squared designing paper used by the textile designer. Paper ruled off in squares or rectangles, the latter to suit, in connection with figured work, the texture of the fabric under consideration.
- POINT-PLAT**:—In lace making, flowers or sprigs of bobbin-work as distinguished from needle-point work; application lace, in which pillow-made flowers or sprigs are applied to a net-ground.
- POITOU SHEEP**:—A type or face of French sheep, a native of Poitou.

- POINTS:**—Beardless needles which change the loops on the knitting frame.
Lifting needles on the Levers' lace loom.
- POINT-TIE-UP:**—One of the systems of tying up a Jacquard harness, being for Jacquard work what the point draw is for harness work.
Used in Jacquard work in connection with designs which reverse themselves.
- POKER:**—The vertical rod sustaining a bobbin or ring rail.
- POLISHING:**—In this process cotton yarn is automatically stretched in the yarn-polishing machine, and in this stretched position a size of beeswax, starch and other ingredients is applied. The yarn thus finished has a beautiful silk-like gloss, besides having increased both in length (by means of stretching) and in weight (by means of the size applied). Gassing and polishing are two processes, each of which are only used for special yarns; the regular yarns are not subjected to either process.
- POLKA-DOT:**—One of a series of spots of uniform size and spacing on a textile fabric; also a pattern made up of such spots, especially in printed stuffs for women's wear.
- POLKA-GAUZE:**—Gauze presenting polka dots of solid texture.
- POLKA JACKET:**—A style of knit jacket for women's wear.
- POLLOCK:**—A variety of cotton originated in 1890 by W. A. Pollock, Greenville, Miss., by fertilizing some unknown long-stapled variety with pollen from Peerless. A cluster variety maturing a little later than the Peerless, with a staple 1.4 to 1.6 inches.
- POLONAISE:**—A garment for women, consisting of a waist and an overskirt in one piece.
- POLYVOLTINES:**—Silkworms which go through their changes but once a year, yielding in return large cocoons, and are of little trouble to the grower, whereas other breeds go through these changes two, three, four, or more times a year, yielding in turn an equal number of crops of cocoons. These silkworms are classified as polyvoltines, such as yield two crops are known as bivoltines, three crops as trivoltines, etc. The silkworm using the largest number of crops (8) is known as dacey, and is found in Bengal, India.
- POMERANIAN SHEEP:**—A hybrid of the common or zaupel sheep with the Hanoverian sheep, producing a coarse wool. A native of Pomerania, Ger.
- POMPADOUR:**—From Madam Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, who created an epoch in fashion during a portion of that century. Pompadour effects as seen in silks and ribbons are largely floral in character, and are expressed in rich, soft colorings, somewhat of the pastel order. Sometimes applied to a peculiar crimson or pink shade.
- POMPADOUR GROS DE TOUR:**—A high-class gros-grain, with fine ribbed surface and in Pompadour effects.
- PONCEAU:**—Any one of the several coal-tar dyestuffs that yield a red or a reddish brown color on stock, yarns or fabrics.
- PONCHO:**—A blanket with an opening in the middle for the head, worn by Spanish Americans as an outer garment or cloak.
- PONGEE:**—A plain soft, unbleached, washable silk, from the cocoons of the wild silkworm, *Antheraea Pernyi*, also known as the Chinese Tussah silkworm. The fabric is woven in the gum, usually of *singles*, used in that form or boiled-off. The finer kinds are bleached, dyed or printed, and are known in the trade as *China silks*. Said to be a corruption of the Chinese *pun-chi*, signifying home made or home woven. Another suggestion is that the word is a corruption of *pun-shik*, a native or wild silk.
A variety of dress goods woven with a (wild) silk warp and a fine worsted filling.
- POOR MAN'S RELIEF:**—A California variety of cotton, closely resembling Peterkin.
- POPLIN:**—From the French *popeline*—lustre. Said to have been first introduced during the early part of the 16th century at Avignon, then a papal diocese, and to have been so-called in compliment to the reigning pope. The name given to a class of fabrics distinguished by a rib, or cord effect running filling ways in the cloth. Originally it referred to a fabric having a silk warp, and a wool filling heavier than the warp, which imparts to the fabric its characteristic corded effect, resembling that of rep. Poplin manufacture was introduced into Ireland in 1693 by a colony of fugitive French Huguenots, the industry being concentrated at Dublin. Irish poplin is celebrated for its uniformly fine quality, which accounts for the high price it commands in the markets. In its construction, a fine grade of Cape or Australian wool is used for the filling, Chinese organzine being used for the warp.
At present it refers more particularly to a ribbed fabric than to one made from any combination of materials. In connection with cotton poplins the plain weave is used for interlacing warp and filling, the rep effect being obtained either by using a finer count of yarn for the warp compared with that of the filling, or using a high texture for warp as compared with that of the filling; again both characteristics may be used. It is used for ladies' waists, wraps and gowns.
- PEPELIN BROCHEE:**—Brocaded poplin; a popular texture having brocaded or embossed effects.
- PEPELINETTE:**—An extremely light-weight poplin; grenadine.
- PORCUPINE-ROLLER:**—A spiked roller used in the process of French drawing, in worsted spinning, also in rotary drawing in silk waste spinning. The sliver in the process of drawing, is made to pass through the teeth of the porcupine, and in turn the fibres are laid more parallel.
- PORGEE:**—A coarse East Indian silk.
- PORTLAND SHEEP:**—A variety of the Dorest sheep, raised in Portland, England.
- PORT PHILIP WOOL:**—Australian merino wool, suitable for the spinning of worsted as well as woolen yarns. It is of good length, very wavy and serrated, the best of it permitting spinning up to 100 and 120's worsted counts. Cross bred Port Philip wool is the same as Merino crossed with the Leicester sheep, yielding a medium quality fleece, of a good fibre, suitable for spinning from 40's to 52's worsted yarn of a bright appearance.

- PORTER**:—A unit of measurement for reed calculations, used in Scotland to denote 20 splits or dents in the reed, forty warp threads; in England it is known as a beer.
- POSITIVE MOTION SHUTTLE DRIVE**:—A device invented many years ago by James Lyall, of New York, for causing the shuttle to travel through the shed with a positive, uniform motion. In this loom the shuttle travels on a roller carriage drawn by a cord in the shuttle race below the warp threads, said carriage having also a set of upper rollers. The shuttle has a pair of under rollers, one at each end and travels over the lower series of warp threads through the shed, being pushed along by the carriage, while the warp threads are passed between the upper rollers of the carriage and the rollers of the shuttle.
- POTASH**:—Potassium carbonate, formerly obtained from wood ashes, but now made from the chloride by the Leblanc process.
- POTASH SOAP**:—The best wool-scouring material obtained by treating carbonate of potash with caustic potash, or with lime.
- POT EYE**:—In a spinning frame, the glass or metal guide eye through which the roving passes from the rollers to the flyer.
In bleaching, a glass or earthenware guide ring through which the moist cloth passes to prevent it from coming in contact with other objects.
- POTATO STARCH OR FARINA**:—Sizing made of potato flour.
- POULT DE SOIE**:—A corded silk dress material of rich, strong quality.
- POUNCE**:—In hat making, to raise a nap on a felt hat.
A term used for rubbing down the outside of a (felt) hat with a piece of pumice stone, sand paper or emery paper.
- POUNCING**:—Ornamenting or punching a series of small holes in a fabric on the lines of a design; pinking.
- PREPARING GILL-BOX**:—This consists of a pair of back rollers, gills or fallers riding on screws, and front rollers, with feed sheet and lap, balling-head or can delivery. The action on the wool may be either a combing action or principally a drawing action. For example, when wool is much matted, the fallers, working quicker than the back rollers, comb out the fibres and deliver them to the front rollers, which should be set to the fallers. But when the material has been much worked and is fairly straight, the faller-pins simply slip through the fibres and consequently can only act as supports between back and front rollers; in other words, the operation becomes largely a drawing operation. The distance apart of drawing rollers, size of rollers, etc., with reference to cotton must be very carefully considered. With wool the ratch or distance between back rollers and fallers or back rollers and front rollers is equally important, but as the wool fibre is so much longer than the cotton fibre, the size of the rollers need only be taken into account from a wear and tear and possibly from the grip and weighting points of view.
- PRESS CLOTH**:—A kind of bagging used by chemists, and oil manufacturers in hydraulic presses for filtering purposes, pressing out oil, etc.
- PRESSER**:—In speeder or fly frames the spring arm or finger of the flyer which presses against the bobbin to regulate the tension in winding the slubbing or roving, as it runs on the bobbin.
- PRESSER BAR**:—In a knitting machine, a bar forcing the needle's barb into the groove of the shank, to form the yarn into a loop.
- PRESSER OR COMPOUND HARNESSES**:—The arrangement of a set of specially constructed and independently operated harnesses, placed in front of the comber board in a Jacquard loom, by which arrangement elaborate designs, in single cloth fabric structures, are produced. It consists in applying two separate systems of harnesses in the loom. The warp-threads, after having passed through the Jacquard harness, are then passed through the compound harness placed in front. Each system of harnesses performs a special duty, although they are both operating the same warp. The Jacquard harness is used for forming the general design on a large scale; the presser or compound harness, in turn, divides this pattern into detail, (twills, satins, or any other desired weave). As a rule, four warp threads are threaded to each harness cord of the Jacquard, the presser harness interlacing said four warp threads individually by the weave required. This explains that in this instance the compass of the Jacquard machine is increased four fold, *i. e.*, 600 needles of the Jacquard machine on a straight through tie-up operate ($600 \times 4 =$) 2400 warp threads.
- PRESSING**:—Finishing cloths by putting them under pressure, either on the hydraulic or rotary press, in order to produce smoothness and lustre to the fabric.
Finishing hoisery and underwear by boarding and pressing with the hydraulic or screw press.
- PRESSER WHEEL**:—A device, on a knitting machine, which controls the opening and closing of the beards of spring beard needles. They are made with removable blades, which can be set so as to produce a great variety of stitches or changes in the operation of the needles.
- PRIME**:—One of the grades made in sorting a fleece for woolen spinning, next to Picklock.
- PRIMARY COLORS**:—Red, blue and yellow; so called because it was supposed that all other colors could be made from them.
- PRIMULINE**:—A direct color which was discovered in 1888. It is sometimes called carnotin, polychromin, and aureotin. Thiochromogen is claimed to be a very pure form of primuline. Primuline is a yellow powder, readily soluble in hot water, less soluble in cold. Like congo, it can be salted out of solution by sodium sulphate, sodium chloride, or other salts. The direct dyeings of primuline are of little interest. It is usually converted into other dyes by a process called diazotizing and developing. It is an important member of a group of direct cotton colors which are diazotized and developed to produce colors highly fast to washing.
- PRINCESS CASHMERE**:—A cotton dress fabric with a warm-looking nap on the wrong side, imitating woolen goods or cashmere.
- PRINT CLOTH**:—Cotton cloth woven and finished suitably for printing.