

## **WOOL TEXTILE TERMS**

### **Handout for the WRSW Wool Panel Discussion**

*Over the years, the wool industry has attempted to standardize wool textile terminology. The following is list of such terms listed in “Twills, Tweeds and All-Wool Fabrics” by Harriet C. Douglas. Public Domain on arizona.edu.*

**Broken Twill** – are twills in which one or more shafts are omitted in the threading, but the weaving is regular. Dornik is an example.

**Cheviot Tweeds** – originally from the Cheviot Hills of Scotland. Made from the rough, coarse wool of the Cheviot wool in plain weave or in 2/2 twill, with warp and weft of the same color. Often pieced dyed rather than skein dyed.

**Combined Twills** – are Fancy twills woven in small patterns with broken diagonals and irregular warp and weft skips.

**Corkscrew Twills** – are warp and weft rib twills produced on an uneven number of shafts, by weaving semi-opposites. One of the few twills which is not a balanced weave.

**Curved Twills** – are Fancy twills in which the twill lines have a waved or curved nature.

**District Checks** – is the general name applied to the Scotch Tweed checks developed during the rein of Queen Victoria for hunting and sport wear. They are characterized by a certain boldness of small figures, but “protective coloration”. They include such checks as the Glens, The Glen Urquharts and the Shepherd check, woven on two, three or four colors.

**Donegal Tweed** – has two types. One is a herringbone weave on a white warp with a dark weft; the other, a plain weave fabric woven with a weft which has colored nubs.

**Dornik** – is a broken Herringbone, woven like a straight 2/2 twill.

**Entwining Twills** – are Fancy twills with twill lines running to both left and right.

**Glen Plaid or Check** – has a two color warp, usually light and dark, arranged 4 and 4 and 2 and 2, woven in a 2/2 twill with the same color arrangement.

**Glen Urquhart Plaid or Check** – is basically arranged like the Glen Plaid but with an added over-plaid or narrow stripes in a third color.

**Glengarry Tweed** – is woven in either home spun or twill, of coarse, hit or miss yarns which often utilize was materials.

**Granite Weaves** – are small indistinct twill patterns produced on dark and light yarns. They are sometimes produced by weaving regular twills in satin order.

**Gun Club Check** – is similar to the Gun Club Plaid but is of American origin. It is a three-color check with ½ white ground and 2 dark colored checks. The arrangement for men’s clothing is usually 6-6-6-6, and for women’s clothing 12-12-12-12. Directly derived from Shepherd’s Check.

**Harris Tweed** – is a name which has been standardized by the Federal Trade Commission and the British Board of Trade and refers only to the hand woven tweeds produced in the Outer Hebrides. Traditionally these were handspun and dyed with vegetable dyes over a peat fire, which gave the characteristic peat-smoke odor to the yarn. Now most Harris Tweed is machine spun, but hand woven. Hand weavers may sometimes purchase Harris yarn, but their tweeds cannot legally be called Harris Tweeds. Harris Tweed always carries a trademark.

**Herringbone** – is a point twill produced by reversing the direction of the warp threading at specified intervals. Dornik herringbone breaks the threading by skipping one shaft at the reverse point to main the 2/2 arrangement of weaving.

**Hopsacking** – the name given to a rough Homespun fabric, is sometimes woven in a basket weave.

**Homespun** – is the name applied to a rough, tweed fabric, woven in plain weave.

**Hound's Tooth** – seems to have several interpretations. Commonly, it is a two-color, four-thread check woven so that the third and fourth shafts are raised at the start of each check. The name is sometimes applied to the small, four-thread, broken twill woven on a warp of one color with a weft of another color. The same break is produced by the weft on a regular threading, by breaking the treading order.

**Irish Tweed** – is produced in a 2/2 twill on a white warp with a dark weft, usually blue, grey, brown or black. Traditionally woven of Irish handspun yarn.

**Normal Twill** – is the normal 2/2 twill produced on four shafts with two threads up, two down, progressing one thread to the left or right each shot to form a 45 degree twill angle.

**Overplaid or Overcheck** – is a balanced warp and weft figure made by introducing a few threads of a strong color on a neutral, two-color base.

**Scotch Tweed** – is a rough, heavy material woven in a 2/2 twill or irregular yarn. Woven on a white warp with a bright colored weft or the reverse. Traditionally of handspun Scotch yarn.

**Shepherd's Check** – is a small, two-color check, set with six ends of light and six of dark and woven the same, in a 2/2 twill. It may have four ends of each color.

**Tartans** – are the characteristic, stylized, plaid fabrics of the various Scottish clans, standardized by the regiments. They are woven in 2/2 twill, of rather fine yarn, using bold plaids in the characteristic Tartan colors which are chiefly moss green, dark brilliant blue, bright yellow, bright red, black and white. The word "Plaid" formerly meant the scarf, which as part of the Highland dress, but it has come to mean the pattern made by the color arrangement of warp and weft yarns.

**Tweed** – is the general name applied to rough, heavy, woolen fabrics woven in 2/2 twill.

**Unbalanced Twills** – are twills which have either the warp or the weft dominant. The corkscrews are an example.