

# Apparel Glossary of Terms

A guide to the terminology used in the description of various apparel.

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**1x1 Rib** Also 2x2 rib knit trim. The width of each rib is the same as the width between each rib. This helps the garment retain its elasticity.

**2-Way Zipper** A zipper with two zipper pulls so that it can be unzipped from either direction.

**All-Weather Microfiber** 100% Polyester Microfiber with waterproof coating and fully taped seams. 100% waterproof.

**Anti-Pill** A treatment applied to garments primarily to resist the formation of little balls on the fabric's surface due to abrasion during wear.

**Appliqué** Decoration or trimming cut from one fabric piece and stitched to another to add dimension.

**Argyle** Typically a diamond pattern woven into a garment.



Argyle

**Baby Pique** Very small pique knit. See Pique Knit.

**Back Pleats** Tiny folds in the material on the back of a garment that allow for more room and comfort.

**Back Yoke** A piece of fabric that connects the back of a garment to the shoulders. This allows the garment to lay flat and drape nicely.

**Backing** Material used beneath the embroidered fabric to provide stability and support.

**Bartacked** Reinforced stitching; for example, the rivets used on the pockets of jeans.

**Basket Weave** (Hanes 044X) Knit process of weaving yarns back and forth resulting in a two-tone appearance.

**Birdnesting** Thread collection between the fabric and needle plate, resembling a bird's nest.

**Birdseye Jacquard** A small geometric pattern with a center dot knit into the fabric.

**Blanket Stitch** A decorative stitch used to finish an unhemmed blanket. The stitch can be seen on both sides of the blanket.

**Bobbin** Spool or reel that holds the bobbin thread in a sewing/embroidery machine, forms the stitches on the underside. Bobbin held in machine in bobbin case.

**Bonded Fleece** Fleece with multiple layers bonded together to form a higher functioning garment

**Bonding** Permanently joining two fabrics together with a bonding agent, heat sealing.

**Box Pleat** A single, uniform fold in the center back of a garment to allow for more room and comfort.

**Brushed Cotton** Cotton fabric that is brushed to remove all the excess lint and fibers from the fabric, leaving an ultra soft, smooth finish.

**Buckram** Coarse-woven fabric stiffened with glue, used to stabilize items for embroidery. Commonly used in caps.

**Button-Through Sleeve Placket** A small placket located on the sleeve, by the cuff, which contains a single button closure.

**Casual Microfiber** 100% Polyester Microfiber fabric that is water repellent and wind resistant.

**Cavalry Twill** A type of Twill Weave (Pattern of the Twill).

**Chambray** A dressier fabric woven with white threads across colored threads.

**Collarette** The trim around the neck of a t-shirt or sweatshirt.

**Combed Cotton** Cotton yarn that has been combed to remove short fibers and straighten or arrange longer fibers in parallel order.

**Connecting Stitches** Threads that connect short distanced objects in embroidery. Distance of 1/16" is the industry standard for using a connecting stitch.

**Cool Mesh** Similar to a pique knit but with a more open texture for increased breathability. Features a soft hand for better comfort.

**Cord Locks** A stopper or toggle on a drawcord that keeps the cord from retracting into the garment.

**Coverseamed** A finish in which two needles are used to create parallel rows of visible stitching. It is used around the neck, arm holes, waistband, and wrists of garments to create a cleaner, more durable finish.

**Cross Stitch** Two stitches that cross to form an X.

**Denier** A density of the weave in a nylon or polyester product

**Density** Number of stitches per given area.

**Digitizing** Conversion of artwork into a series of commands read by an embroidery machine's computer via a card.

**Disk 1 Tape** Disk containing computerized embroidery designs read by the embroidery machine's computer.

**Double-Needle Stitched** A finish used on a sleeve and/or bottom hem that uses two needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching. It gives the garment a cleaner, more finished look and adds durability.

**Dry-Fiber (PING)** A high activity sportswear fabric that absorbs, wicks and dries faster than average golfwear.

**Duck Cloth** Tightly woven fabric that provides wind and snag resistance.

**Dyed-To-Match** Describes buttons or trims that are the same color as the garment onto which they are sewn.

**Embroidery** Decorative stitching on fabric, combining texture, pattern and color.

**Emblem/patch** Embroidered design with a finished edge, stitched independent of garment.

**End-on-End** A 2-ply weave of different color yarns that run parallel against each other so that both colors are visible.

**Enzyme Washed** A laundering process in which a catalytic substance is added to create a chemical change in the fabric resulting in a very soft finish, smoother appearing surface and reduced shrinkage.

**Etched Tone Buttons** A more upscale horn tone button with an etched pattern.

**Extended Tail** When the back portion of the garment is longer than the front. Assists in keeping the garment tucked in during normal activity.

**Eyelets** Small holes or perforations made in a series to allow for breathability. Finished with either stitching or brass grommets.



Eyelets

**Fill Stitch** A series of running stitches commonly used to cover large areas.

**Finishing** Processes done after the embroidery is completed, including trimming loose threads, removing excess facing or backing, and pressing or steaming to remove puckers and hoop marks.

**Flagging** Up and down motion of the fabric under the needle action caused by improper hooping. Results in poor registration, unsatisfactory stitch formation and birdnesting.

**Float** Longer-than-normal satin stitches that lay on top of a design, or the stitches made when the needle is disconnecting from the design; later removed.

**Frame** Holding device for inserting the hoop beneath the needle to maintain stability during the embroidery process.

**Full Cut** Refers to a garment's fit as being generous and roomy.

**Garment Dyed** A dyeing process that occurs after the garment is assembled.

**Garment Washed** A wash process where softeners are added to finished garments to help the cotton fibers relax or bloom. The result is a fabric with a thicker appearance, reduced shrinkage and a softer hand.

**Herringbone** A chevron or zig-zag pattern, knit into fabric.

**High Profile** A cap style with a high slope structured with buckram—a stiff fabric lining. Less fitted to the head.

**Hoop** Wood, plastic or steel device used to tightly grip the fabric and stabilizer between an inner and outer ring. Attaches to machine's frame. Designed to hold fabric taut against the machine bed for embroidery.

**Hooping Board** Device that aids in precise placement and uniformity in hooping subsequent garments or items for embroidery.

**Horn Tone Buttons** Buttons that appear to be manufactured from horn.

**Houndstooth** A medium sized broken check effect that is knit into the fabric.

**Interlock Knit** A fabric that has two plys knit simultaneously to form one thicker and heavier ply. It has more natural stretch than a jersey knit, a soft hand, and the same appearance and feel on both sides.

**Jacquard Knit** A pattern knit directly into the fabric during the manufacturing process. Typically, 2 or more colors are used.

**Jersey Knit** Fabric has a definite smooth side, the outside, and a textured side, the inside.

**Lock Stitch** Formed by three or four consecutive short, tight threads stitched at end of embroidery to prevent raveling.

**Locker Loop** A looped piece of fabric in the neck of a garment for the convenience of hanging the garment on a hook. Can also be located at the center of the back yoke on the inside or outside of a garment.

**Locker Patch** A semi-oval panel sewn into the inside back portion of a garment, just under the collar seam, to reinforce the garment and minimize stretching when hung on a hook. The patch also allows for the garment tag or label to be sewn below the neckline to help prevent irritation.

**Low Profile** A cap style with a low slope that is more closely fitted to the head. Can be either structured or unstructured.

**Matte Taslan** See Taslan but with a dull finish.

**Melange** A mix of different colors of yarns knit together to create a heathered effect.



Melange

**Mercerized** A product that has gone through a process to produce a smooth, lustrous hand.

**Mesh** Similar to a pique knit, but with a more open texture for increased breathability. Larger knit than Cool Weave.

**Micro-Stripe** An ultra-fine stripe that is knit into the fabric.

**Microfiber** Fabric that is tightly woven from a very fine poly thread and has a sueded finish for a luxurious, soft feel. Microfiber fabric is naturally water repellent due to its construction process and when specially treated, can also be waterproof.

**Mid Profile** A cap with a slope height in between that of a High Profile and Low Profile. It is most often structured with buckram.

**Monogram** Embroidered design composed of one or more letters, usually one's initials.

**Mother of Pearl** Logo Buttons Buttons made from Mother of Pearl, with a logo inscribed on them.

**Nail Head Design** A jacquard knitting pattern in which the jacquard forms a design similar to small nail heads.

**Nublend™** The combination of a knitting and spinning process developed by JERZEES® for their blended fleece that helps prevent pilling.

**Overdyed** A process in which yarn dyed fabrics or piece dyed garments are put through an additional dye color to create unique colors.

**Oxford** A type of fabric where the fibers are either cotton or blended man-made fibers.

**Patch Pocket** A pocket attached to the outside of a garment.

**Pearlized Buttons** Buttons that have a pearl-colored hue.

**Pewter and Horn Tone Buttons** Buttons that incorporate pewter and horn tone, usually one encompasses the other.

**Pewter Buttons** Buttons that have a dull, metallic hue.

**Pigment Dyed** A type of dye used to create a distressed or washed look.

**Pill Free®** A process developed by Lee® to help prevent pilling on fleece garments.

**Pique Knit** A knitting method that creates a fine textured surface that appears similar to a bird's nest or waffle weave.

**Placket** The part of a shirt or jacket where the garment fastens together.

**Poly-fill** A warm polyester lining found in the body or sleeves of outerwear garments. It has more loft than a regular nylon lining.

**Polynosic** Features similar characteristics to cotton and silk, has excellent luster and very little shrink-age.

**Popcorn Pique (PING)** Alternating rows of 2 different pique knits; one knit is a baby pique, while the other is a larger pique that resembles small circles knit closely together.

**Poplin** A tightly woven, durable, medium weight cotton or cotton blend fabric made using a rib variation of the plain weave which creates a slight ridge effect.

**Print Pro™** A knitting process developed by Hanes® for their fleece garments that creates a tighter knit for a better printing surface.

**Puckering** Result of fabric being gathered by the stitches. Possible causes include loose hooping, lack of or improper backing, incorrect tension or a dull needle.

**Puff Embroidery** Stitching a dense motif over embroidery/craft foam to create a three-dimensional effect.

**PVC** A polyurethane coating that is added to make garments water resistant.

**R-Tek™ Fleece** 100% polyester fleece with an anti-pill finish which prevents the formation of little balls on the surface of the fabric.

**Raglan Sleeves** Sleeves set with a diagonal seam from the neck to the armpit.

**Resizing** The ability to scale a design to different sizes. May cause density problems unless stitch count can be altered.

**Reverse Placket** See Placket, but reversed for women's garments.

**Rib Knit** A textured knit that has the appearance of vertical lines. It is highly elastic and retains "memory".

**Ring Spun Yarn** Yarn made by continuously twisting and thinning a rope of cotton fibers. The twisting makes the short hairs of cotton stand out, resulting in a stronger yarn with a significantly softer hand.

**Running Stitch** A stitch that is spaced equally, with the underside stitching being half the length of the external side.

**Sandwashed** A washing process in which the fabric is washed with very fine lava rocks or rubber/silicon balls resulting in a softer fabric with a relaxed look and reduced shrinkage.

**Satin Stitch** Formed by closely arranged zigzag stitches. Can be stitched at any angle and with varying lengths.

**Sculpted Hem** A hem that is softly rounded for fashion detail.

**Self-fabric Collar** A collar that is constructed from the same material as the body of the garment.

**Self-fabric Sweatband** Refers to headwear where the sweatband is constructed with the same fabric as the crown.



**Pearlized  
Buttons**

**Serge Stitch** An overcasting technique done on the cut edge of the fabric to prevent unraveling.

**Side Vents** Slits found at the bottom of side seams. They are fashion details that allow for comfort and ease of movement.

**Singles** A term used to indicate the diameter of a yarn; the smaller the number, the thicker the yarn.

**Slash Pockets** A pocket that has to be entered through a slash on the outside of the garment. The pocket pouch is suspended from and attached to the slash.

**Specialty Fill** Fill stitch capability that produces a design in relief.

**Specialty Threads** Threads designed for effects such as shine, glitter, iridescence or thickness. The threads often are made from synthetic materials including rayon, mercerized cotton, metallics and textured nylon.

**Stonewashed** A washing process in which the fabric or garment is heavily washed with lavarocks or rubber/silicon balls. The result is a softer fabric with a distressed or weathered look and reduced shrinkage.

**Storm Flap** A strip of fabric sewn under or over the front zip or snap closure of an outerwear garment to protect against wind and moisture.



Storm Flap

**Structured** A cap style with a lined front consisting of buckram, a stiff fabric, that controls the slope of the cap.

**Sueded Cotton** A fabric that goes through a brushing process to raise the nap and give the garment a soft hand.

**Sueded Nylon** See Sueded Cotton.

**Taped Seams** A strip of fabric sewn to the seam of a garment to prevent distortion. In outerwear, taped seams aid in waterproofing.

**Taslan** Refers to how the fibers are woven and the resulting texture. Used mainly in outerwear garments, Taslan is a durable and water repellent nylon fabric with a slightly shiny surface.

**Teklon** A rugged, stronger Taslan nylon that is water repellent.

**Tension** Thread tautness.

**Thread** Fine cord of natural or synthetic twisted fiber used for stitching. Machine embroidery threads come in rayon (high sheen), cotton (duller finish), polyester (strong and colorfast), metallics (synthetic core wrapped with metal foil or thin slivers of metal foil) and acrylic (sheen similar to rayon).

**Terra-Tek™** A durable and water repellent Taslan with a matte finish.

**Terry Velour** A type of material with uncut loops on both sides. It has a soft, plush feel and is water absorbent.

**Topping** Material hooped or placed on top of fabric to hold the embroidery stitches above it.

**Tricot Lining** A very lightweight nylon lining often used in shorts.

**Triple-Needle Stitched** See Double-Needle Stitched but with 3 stitches.

**Tubular Collar** Collar which is knit in a tube form so it has no seams.

**Tuck-In Tails** A shirt constructed so the back hem is longer than the front. This aids in keeping the shirt tucked-in during strenuous activities.

**Twill** A fabric characterized by micro diagonal ribs producing a soft, smooth finish.

**Twill Tape Placket Lining** Twill tape is attached to the inside of the placket for a fashion effect.

**Underarm Grommets** Small holes in the armpit area to allow breathability and air circulation.

**Unstructured** A low profile cap style with a natural low sloping crown. No buckram has been added to the crown.

**V Patch** A section of material in a V shape that is sewn onto a garment directly under the collarete. Can provide support against stretching the neck opening and is also a style component.



V-Patch

**Vents, Front & Back** Allow for breathability and may aid in ease of decoration, allowing the garment to be hooped and embroidered with no show-through on the inside of the garment. Some vents are tacked down and are for fashion purposes only.

**Waffle Weave/Knit** A waffle, or square pattern, knit or woven into a garment.

**Welt Collar and/or Cuffs** A single ply fabric with a finished edge that is used for collars and cuffs on sportshirts and short sleeve garments.

**Wood Tone Buttons** Buttons that simulate a wood appearance.

**Yarn Dyed** Yarn that has been dyed prior to the weaving or knitting of the garment.

