

Twill. 1. Or *tweel*. A diagonal appearance given to a fabric by causing the weft-threads to pass over one warp thread, and then under two, and so on; instead of taking the warp-threads in regular succession, one down and one up. The next weft-thread takes a set oblique to the former, throwing up one of the two deposited by the preceding. The diagram will make the plan understood. In some twills it is one and three, or one and four.

The Latin *trilix*, a certain pattern in weaving, became *drillich* in German, and hence our word *drill*.

Twill is derived from *zwillich*, which answers to the Latin *bilix*, and Greek *dimitos*. The latter survives in *dimity*. See also *SAMITE*, derived from *ἑξάμιτος*, six-leaved.

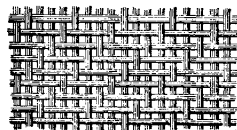
The French *touaille* has also been suggested as the etymological source of the word.

The fabrics thus woven are very numerous, — *satin*, *blanket*, *merino*, *bombazeen*, *kerseymere*, etc. When the threads cross each alternately, in regular order, it is called *plain weaving*; but in *twill*, the same thread of weft is *flushed*, or separated from the warp, while passing over a number of warp-threads, and then passes under a warp-thread. The points where the threads of the warp cross form diagonal lines, parallel to each other, across the face of the cloth. In *blanket twill* every third thread is crossed. In some fabrics 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 threads are crossed. In *full satin twill* there is an interval of 15 threads, the warp (*organzine* silk) being floated over 15 threads of the wool (*tram*), giving the glossy appearance.

Twills require heddles equal in number to the threads that are included in the intervals between the intersections. This disposition of the warps in the heddles is termed *mounting the loom*; and the heddles are termed *leaves*. A twill takes its name from the number of *leaves* employed, as a *three-leaf twill*, a *five-leaf twill*, etc.

Twills are used for the display of color, for strength, variety, thickness, or durability.

Fig. 6829.



Four-Leaved Twilled Weaving.

“The generic difference of twilling, when compared with common cloth, consists in the intersections, although uniform and equidistant, being, at determinate intervals, greater than between the alternate threads. Hence we have specimens of twilled cloths where the intersections take place at the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 16th intervals only. The threads, thus deflecting only at intervals from a straight line, preserve more of their original direction, and a much greater quantity of materials can be combined in an equal space than in the alternate intersection, where the tortuous deflection, at every interval, keeps them more asunder. On this principle, twilled cloths, of 3 and 4 leaves, are woven for facility of combination alone. The coarser species of ornamental cloths, known by the names of *dornock* or *diaper*, usually intersect at the 5th or half-satin interval. The 6th and 7th are rarely used, and the 8th is distinguished by the name of *satin*, in common, and of *damask*, in ornamental, twilling.” — URE. These are varieties known as *broken*, *biassed*, *regular*.

2. The fabric so made.

Twilled cloth has several advantages: —

1. The materials may be put more closely together.
2. Its susceptibility for receiving ornament, being capable of being inverted at pleasure.

For a statement more at length, see “*Ure's Dictionary*,” II. pp. 821 - 826.

3. A quill or spool for winding thread.