

BEETLING (*beetle*, a heavy wooden mallet, from the root *beat*). A mechanical finishing process applied to linen and afterward to cotton shirting, in imitation of linen, to give the cloth a hard and wiry look, by flattening the yarn irregularly in an angled manner, and also in finishing fine linen damask. This is done by upright wooden stamps, placed close together in a row, with their square butts resting on a roller over which the cloth passes, doubled in a particular way, so that the yarn, when struck, acquires an angled appearance. Linen weft yarn for sailcloth is likewise beetled by such a machine, or by hand hammering on a large flat stone with a wooden mallet, to soften the yarn for easiness of working it in weaving. The yarn is also passed between longitudinally grooved rollers for the same purpose.