

**DAMASK**, in the manufacture of cloth, a tweeled fabric of silk, linen, or cotton. It is supposed to have derived its name from its being originally brought from Damascus in Syria. Silk damask was formerly manufactured to considerable extent on the continent, and it is probable the art was brought over to England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the Dutch and Flemish weavers, who fled from the persecutions of the Duke of Alva. The use of silk damask is now almost entirely exploded in Great Britain, and the manufacture confined to the fabrication of table linen of great variety of patterns, either of linen or cotton. The tweeling of the more common kinds of damask is generally performed with five leaves of front mounting, exclusive of the harness of the draw loom. The finest and most extensively ornamented damasks are woven with eight leaves, from patterns drawn upon paper, lined into small squares to direct the weaver in mounting his loom, so as to produce the design required.