UNDERSTANDING BASIC WEAVES AND THEIR USES

PLAIN weave is the most basic weave pattern. It can be sheer and fragile or heavy and sturdy depending on the fiber used and the tightness of the weave. It is used in sportswear, blouses, shirts, sleepwear, dresses, skirts, housecoats, jackets, coats and household textiles.

Some of the fabric names that are used often that have a plain weave are: seersucker, broadcloth, sailcloth, gingham, chambray, poplin, oxford cloth, duck, organdy, shantung and percale.

TWILL weave has a diagonal line in the weave pattern. It is a very strong and durable weave. Because it is so durable, it is used in jeans, jackets, sportswear, dresses, skirts, and slacks.

Fabric names that feature twill weave are denim, gabardine, ticking and serge.

SATIN weave is smooth, sometimes shiny in appearance. It is often very lustrous. Due to a weave pattern that "floats" the threads a long distance, it does snag easy and is not durable. It will not withstand wear as well as a plain or a twill weave will. Due to the luster of the weave, it is used in bridal gowns, evening wear, dresses blouses and shirts.