TECHNICAL TUESDAYS

METALLIC YARN – PART I

REF: TT/ JULY 2018 / WK 5

Introduction

Metallic yarn is a synthetic yarn having a metallic appearance. It contains certain metal elements, which gives it the gloss, stability and tension.

These yarns are manufactured of metal, plastic-coated metal, metal-coated plastic, or a core completely covered by metal. Gold and silver have been used since long for fabric decoration.
These are light in weight and do not tarnish. Those using polyester films are the strongest, can be stretched to a considerable extent, and are elastic. Metallic fibres are light in weight and do not tarnish. Those using polyester films are the strongest, can be stretched to a considerable extent, and are elastic and resilient.
Foil types are made with a metal foil that is coated with a plain or coloured plastic film and then cut into strips. Metallized types employ such films as Mylar, a polyester treated with vaporized metal that is bonded between layers of clear film. Colour pigment may be added with the film.

Lurex is the registered brand name of The Lurex Company, Ltd. for a type of yarn with a metallic appearance. The yarn is made from synthetic film, onto which a metallic aluminum, silver, or gold layer has been vaporized. "Lurex" may also refer to cloth created with the yarn. Trademarked names include Chrome flex, Lurex, and Melora.

Metallic fibres are usually washable, requiring low temperatures when ironed, and can be dry-cleaned with most of the common cleaning solvents. They are resistant to attack by insects and microorganisms.

Metallic fibres are usually combined with others for decorative effect. Such combinations are used for knitting yarns, trimmings, and ribbons. In such apparel as knitwear, evening gowns, swimsuits, and neckties and in such home furnishings as curtains, upholstery, and tablecloths. Industrial applications include automotive upholstery, theatre curtains, and grilles for radio and television sets.

To be continued…

Wishing you a great week ahead!

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