

## SHANTUNG

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### WHAT IS SHANTUNG?

Shantung is a rough, plain weave (1x1) silk fabric made of uneven yarns to produce a textured effect, resulting in occasional thicker threads in the weft or filling. The name “Shantung” is derived from the province in China where this fabric was originally made.



Above is a typical silk Shantung fabric

Shantung is often – incorrectly – called “raw silk.” Raw silk is silk that has not been degummed and has a less lustrous appearance.

True Shantung is made of silk, but there are also fabrics that mimic the slubbed look of Shantung in other fibers such as polyester and rayon. These synthetic fabrics can sometimes be very difficult to distinguish from the silk version.

### WHAT IS DUPIONI?

Unlike Shantung, the term “Dupioni” is used to refer exclusively to fabrics made of silk. Dupioni or Duppioni, which means, “double,” is silk that is reeled from a double cocoon. Dupioni, like Shantung, is characterized by irregular slub yarns running in the filling direction.

As you can see from the two samples on this page, the differences between Shantung and Dupioni are subtle, at best. Shantung is often described as having smaller slubs and a slightly higher luster than Dupioni. The terms (and the fabrics), however, have become virtually interchangeable.

Shantung is often used to refer to a product that originates in China, Japan or Italy and Dupioni for the same type of thing from India.



Above is a typical silk Dupioni fabric.

## **AS WITH OTHER SILKS...**

Shantung is susceptible to the same types of problems as other silk fabrics (see TT-6). Among the most important characteristics is the tendency for silks to undergo color changes. These fabrics will fade quite readily in sunlight. Also, white colors will tend to gradually yellow over time. We know of no treatment that can prevent these color changes.

Ringling, though less of a problem with Shantung than with silk taffeta can be a problem when spot cleaning is needed. Careful feathering of spot cleaned areas can help prevent rings by minimizing the "hard edge" at the perimeter of a stain.

## **CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

Again, Shantung is no different from other silks in terms of maintenance. The vast majority of these fabrics are cleanable

using water-based methods. Alkaline cleaning agents should be avoided and all chemicals and procedures should be carefully pre-tested.

## **ON THE BRIGHT SIDE**

The Fiber-Seal Fabric Care System can benefit Shantung and all types of interior fabrics by reducing absorbency, helping to resist permanent staining, and ultimately increasing the useful life of the fabric.

**ALWAYS TEST CHEMICALS AND/OR PROCEDURES FIRST IN AN INCONSPICUOUS AREA OF THE FABRIC.**