

FUR TERMINOLOGY & TECHNIQUES

Glossary & Resource File



Anatomy of a fur

Road map for pelts...Understanding skins

Fur Terminology



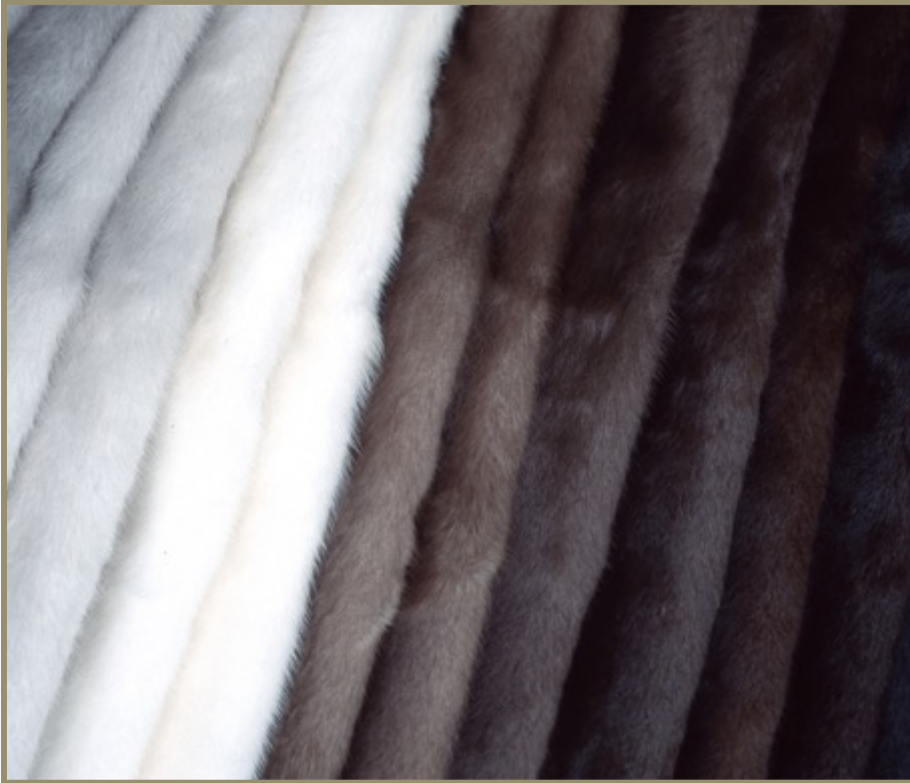
Fur Terminology- cross section



SKINS

Minks, Foxes, Coyotes, Beavers & many more

Minks...



- Farmed
- Male- 15"-18"
- Female- 12"-14"
- Uses: both long haired & sheared
- Classic colours:
 - Pastel
 - Demi-buff
 - Mahogany
 - Dark Ranch
 - Natural Black
 - Sapphire
 - Blue Iris
 - Pearl
 - White

Silver Fox...



- Farmed- main
- Size range: 28"- over 49"
- North American:
 - Soft, shorter hair, loose, dense
- European:
 - Longer, courser hair
- Colour: range from almost all black to very pale

Red Fox...



- Wild
- Size: Under 28" - over 34"
- North American:
 - Eastern: rich golden brassy colour
 - Thinner, shorter hair & silkier coat
 - Western: rich gingery red colour
 - Denser, thicker, longer hair & silky coat
- European: Brassy red colour,
 - Longer, thinner & looser hair

Grey Fox...



- Wild
- Size: 28" and up
- North American:
 - Eastern: paler salt & pepper colouring
 - Thinner, shorter hair & silkier coat
 - Western: darker salt & pepper colours
 - Denser, thicker, longer hair & silky coat

Seal...



- Wild
- Water based
- Harp or Ring
- Size: 36" - 48" L x 24" - 36" W
- Skin markings vary
- Colour: light silvery & tan- dyed colours or dark colours to hide spotting

Beaver...



- Wild
- Water based
- Sizes: Under 42" - over 70"
- North American:
 - Eastern- Dense, dark colour guard hair- thick underfur, good for shearing
 - Western- Thinner, lighter coloured guard hair- thinner underfur
- European:
 - Nutria- Spanish or Argentinean Beaver
 - Small in size
 - Thinner underfur & much courser guard hair
- Uses: both long haired & sheared

Muskrat...



- Wild
- Water Base
- “Water Rat” or “poor man's mink”
- Size: under 10” - over 17”
- Skin sizes tend to be small
- Colour: rich dark chestnut brown to rich caramel colour
- Uses: both long hair & sheared

Coyote...



- Wild
- Sizes: under 36" - over 46"
- Grotzen is wilder & spikier
- North American:
 - Eastern- Dense, pale greyish colour guard hair
 - Western- Thinner, lighter, reddish caramel coloured guard hair
- Uses: garments & mainly trimming

Raccoon...



- Wild
- Sizes: Under 20"- over 41"
- Colours: pale gold to dark rich brown w/silver tips & dark grotzen
- Corse & shorter silky guard hair w/short underfur

Fisher...



- Wild
- Wild cousin of sable
- Sizes: M- 35"- 47" (including tail)
F- 30"-37" (including tail)
- Darker & rich golden brown
- Coarse & silky guard hair with soft short underfur

Sable or Marten...



- Wild
- Sizes: M- 15"- 22" (w/o tail)
F- 14"-20" (w/o tail)
- North American: marten
 - Colour ranges from deep caramel brown to pale golden
- European: Barguzin
 - Darker & rich golden-brown w/silver tipped hairs
- Long, loose, silky guard hair with soft short underfur

Chinchilla...



- Farmed
- Sizes: 14.5" - 16"
- Delicate skin
- Colours from pale beige to extra dark black and Black Velvet
- Short, dense silky guard hair with deep, soft, short underfur

Lynx...



- Wild
- Sizes: under 31" - over 39"
- Colour- Darker & rich tawny spotted grotzen and pale white to creamy light spotted belly
- Corse & silky long, guard hair with long, luxurious soft belly, short rich underfur
- Lynx cat - creamy belly w/faint spotted belly
- Bobcat- darker creamy belly w/dark spots

FUR TECHNIQUES

Building blocks to design...

Fur Techniques

- Skin on Skin
 - *Colour blocking*
- Let Out
- Leathering
- Long & Short Hair
- Fish scale
- Spiral
- Wave
- Checkerboard
- Feathering
- Houndstooth
- Intarsia
- Air Galloon or Galloon
 - *Galloon & Intarsia*
- Knitted Fur
- Stripping
- Smocking

Skin on Skin



Variation: Split Skin- Flank to Belly

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Let Out



Variations: Two Tone Herringbone or Chevrons



Leathering



Variation: Leathering using fabric



Leathering- plaid



Variation: Leathering w/Let Out



Variation: Combining Leathering, Let Out & Swapping



Hi- Low (long & short hair)



Fish Scales



Flank to Grotzen and reversed w/leathering



Spiral shifting & leathering



Wave- $\frac{1}{2}$ shifting & alternating rows



Checkerboard



Feathering



Feathering variations

Feathering- long & sheared OR Leather

Variation: Chevron Feathering



Houndstooth



Intarsia



Intarsia- appliqué



Intarsia Variations

Intarsia:
Swapping



Intarsia:
Inverting

Galloon or Air Gallon



Variation- intarsia w/galloon

*Altuzarra FW13



Knitting



Stripping



Smocking



- Photos:
 - Technical Work- Studio NAFA
 - Galloon, Colour Blocking- SAGA Studio
 - Fish Scale- Farley Chatto/ WMCFW- George Pimentel/Getty Image
 - Alturzarra- FW13
- Resources:
 - Truthaboutfur.com
 - NAFA.ca
 - SAGA.com
 - Sealandsealing.net
 - Bearsden.com
 - Fursource.com
 - GettyImage.com

Sources

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