

TCS Textile Consultancy Services

Steven Pyott

GOLD INDIAN SHAWL MADRAS LINK - COROMANDEL COLLECTION

The development of severe distortion in this shawl's metallic fabric during dry cleaning due to the lack of serviceability of the fabric's metallic yarn structure to the normal mechanical agitation of the recommended dry cleaning treatment

ENQUIRY

The client submitted an embroidered gold metallic fabric shawl, labelled 'Madras Link/Coromandel Collection', for examination and report. The purpose of the enquiry was to comment on the most likely cause of the development of the severely wrinkled appearance that has become apparent after recent dry cleaning.

The client reported that the shawl was dry cleaned in in-line refrigerated perchlorethylene charged with a proprietary soap product using a 12 minute cleaning cycle in a process that was intended to correspond with the requirements of the 'Dry Clean Only' instructions on the attached care labelling and no other separate stain removal procedures were used on the garment.



Gold thread shawl

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LABELLING

- Designer/Manufacturer: Madras Link/Coromandel Collection – Made in India
- Fibre Content Labelling: Nil
- Care Labelling: Dry Clean Only

EXAMINATION

The shawl was examined under standard lighting conditions and it was apparent that the fabric was constructed with a relatively fine continuous filament yarn in the warp (vertical) direction, which was possibly silk, and much heavier metallic yarns in the weft (horizontal) direction. It was also immediately evident that the whole of the fabric was severely distorted and that it had a wrinkled, wavy appearance due to the extensive disruption of the fabric's woven and yarn structure caused by an effect known as 'yarn slippage'. The effect occurs when the relatively fine continuous filament yarns shifting from their original position by being able to slide easily over the heavier metallic yarns during wear and use but particularly during the course of the normal mechanical agitation of the dry cleaning process.

DISCUSSION

The fabric of the shawl consists of relatively fine continuous filament warp yarns and heavier metallic weft yarns that are relatively loosely woven together, producing a very open and sheer plain weave structure. This type of metallic fabric construction is highly susceptible to the effect of yarn slippage that occurs when the finer continuous filament yarns are able to move easily across the heavier metallic weft yarns while the fabric is under some type of mechanical stress.

This can occur during the normal course of use and wear in conventional garments but it can also occur or be further aggravated by the normal mechanical action of

the dry cleaning process. The garment was labelled 'Dry Clean Only' and the dry cleaning treatment that Coastal Dry Cleaners reported using on the shawl is entirely consistent with these instructions. The dry cleaner has no effective way of predicting how fabrics will react to dry cleaning treatments and is also entitled to assume that the care instructions attached to the garment are correct.

Therefore, the manufacturer must be held responsible for this problem because this fabric is clearly not serviceable to the only method of care specified for it on its attached care labelling. A copy of a technical bulletin, TABS-227, entitled 'Distortion of Metallic Fabric', prepared by the International Fabricare Institute (I.F.I.) in the U.S. was attached to this report for further information and explanation of this common problem.

CONCLUSIONS

The metallic fabric of this shawl has become severely distorted due to yarn slippage caused by the fabric's woven and yarn structure being completely unserviceable to the only method of care specified on its attached care labelling. The respon-

sibility for this problem clearly lies with the manufacturer and the garment should be returned to the original point of purchase, along with a copy of this report, so that customer can receive appropriate redress for her loss.

Steven Pyott
B.Sc., M.Sc., CText A.T.I.,
Grad.Cert.Ed., Adv.Dip.Ed.

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Steven Pyott B.Sc., M.Sc., CText. A.T.I.
Consulting Chartered Textile Technologist

Steve is widely respected in his field and has had 28 years experience
as a higher education/university textile educator.

He has been preparing professional, unbiased and independent
textile analysis reports for the last 23 years

Contact Steve with details of your textile problem so he can send you a
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Tel/Fax (07) 3204 6354 Mobile: 0418 726 885

e-mail: spyott@bigpond.net.au

Postal Address for sending textile/garment items:
P. O. Box 132 Kallangur Qld 4503 Australia