

CLOTHS for OFFICERS & GENTLEMEN.

SUPERFINE BROADCLOTH

Superfine is a term which can be applied to any cloth type in order to describe its quality; in historical documents however, it is frequently used without reference to any particular type of cloth. When this is the case the cloth in question is invariably Superfine Broadcloth.

The woollen cloths often sold today as Superfines are normally Superfine Doeskins. Doeskin is a completely different type of cloth, twill woven, lightly milled and incapable of holding a cut edge. It is not as stout as Superfine Broadcloth and has insufficient body for historical tailoring projects.

In common with all Broadcloths, Superfines are stout, heavily milled, plain weave woollens with a carefully raised and cropped nap and capable of holding a cut edge. Superfines were made from the best quality Spanish wool, spun much finer than common broads and more carefully finished, as befitted their better quality.

The technical details for recreating this cloth are taken from the same apprentice book as the Army Broadcloth. It has been compared with details from other weavers' notes from the West Country, the area which was the pre-eminent producer of Superfine Broadcloths up until the last quarter of the 18th Century, when the quality of West Yorkshire goods improved sufficiently to challenge their market.

Because the quality of wool, finesse of spinning and quality of finish was so much more expensive Superfines were dyed using the most expensive dyes available. Again original dye receipts have been recreated and used as the basis for the colours which will be available. Custom colours can be dyed subject to a minimum order of 5 m.

Superfine Broadcloth was used for Officer's and Gentlemen's coats, sometimes for waistcoats and an alternative to Kerseymere and sometimes for breeches, especially in the first three quarters of the 18th C.

Initial development is currently underway and we have received the first samples of this cloth.

Specifications:

Type:	Broadcloth
Fibre:	Woollen Warp and Weft, Superfine wool, Merino fleece.
Weave:	Plain
Finish:	Heavily milled, raised, cropped
Width:	54"
Weight:	14 oz per Yard ²