

POOL TABLE CLOTH

What is pool table cloth? Pool table cloth is a special product made exclusively for covering pool and billiard tables. The product is a woven wool product that comes in several configurations and a multitude of colors as described below.

Types and Attributes:

1. Backed Cloth
2. Un-backed Cloth
3. Directional and Non-directional
4. Simonis Cloth

Color:

1. Our cloth colors are listed by manufacturer under Options on the H.E.A.D.S. homepage.
2. There are numerous colors that we do not have listed yet. If you have a need that is not covered, drop us a note. Most of the time we can match colors as needed.
3. Color in pool table cloth is not an exact science, and we have seen significant variances from bolt to bolt in the same color designation by the same manufacturer.
4. Color of pool table cloth changes with age, usage, and exposure to sunlight.

Weight and Quality:

1. Pool table cloth is characterized by weight. This weight is in ounces going from about 13 ounces for real cheap cloth, to about 22 ounces for the better grades of cloth.
2. Backed cloth comes in 19 ounce and 21 ounce varieties, but the backing material does not effect the cloth weight designation.
3. When looking at a cloth, the weight influences smoothness by virtue of how many little strings are woven together in an area of cloth. The higher the weight, the more strings there are, the smaller the strings are, and the tighter the weave pattern is. This may not be real obvious until you see an imported table with a real cheap cloth on it.....the individual strings are very big and visible in cheap cloth. H.E.A.D.S. INC has never dealt in real cheap cloth.
4. We normally order either 19 ounce or 21 ounce cloth, depending on what is available in the color we are looking for at the time, and whether we are buying a bolt length or a special cut length.
5. H.E.A.D.S. INC. has numerous colors of cloth in inventory. We feel that it is very important to only supply fresh cloth. For those colors that we do not use regularly, we special order cut lengths for special color or weight needs.

Installation:

1. Installation of the cloth on the bed or rails of a table effects how the table will play a lot. How the cloth is installed also effects how long the cloth will last with regular play.
2. A real tight cloth installation will make the balls roll faster leading to people talking about a fast or tight playing table.
3. A loosely installed table cloth on the bed or rails will allow the cloth to last longer, but the balls roll slower. Loose cloth on the rails will affect how the balls bounce off the rails, both in terms of how far they go after rebounding, and in terms of the actual direction they will go after bouncing off the rails. The bounce off a real loosely covered rail can lead to complaints about dead rails, and questions about whether the cushion rubber is any good.

Play:

1. Different cloth types play in considerably different ways. How the table is made, how the cloth is

installed, the quality of the cushions, and how well everything is put together will also influence play, and is sometimes blamed on the cloth.

2. How tight the cloth is pulled on the rails and bed has one of the greatest impacts on play, as discussed above.
3. Speed of play (or how tight the table plays) is influenced by the cloth type. It should be noted that although the professional players like a real tight table, a normal player may find a real tight table to be undesirable for a number of reasons. We recommend a normal un-backed cloth that is pulled in a normal fashion. We have actually been asked to remove super-fast cloth from pool rooms, when the operator was taking a loss on the job.

Ordering cloth / Cutting guide

Notes on Ordering Cloth: Color from one bolt of cloth to another can vary a little / order enough to do the job. This is not something that can always be fixed, if you do not get enough the first time. Age and light can affect the cloth / it is good to check your source to be sure you are getting new high quality cloth. Some shops keep cloth in stock for 20 years, just to increase selection of color, or type. It is good to know who and what you are dealing with. It is always good to order a little extra in case of problems with rails, cutting problems, picks etc. You may also need a little extra for the pocket liner cloth that is glued in the slate pocket holes, to protect the bed cloth and the balls in play. Be careful with tearing cloth. At times the weave does not run true across the bolt. Before starting work, completely inspect the cloth. Most shops will only take back cloth the way it was sold. If you have cut it up for rails etc., you may have a problem if trying to return the material. In checking the cloth look at color, picks in the surface, and weave irregularities. Ordering cloth is tricky. Know what you are doing for sure, before you get started. There are different types and quality as well as colors of cloth. Play can be affected by cloth type and quality. Your decorator will go crazy if you pick the wrong color, and there is a heck of a difference between standard green and dark green! Most cloth has a top and a bottom side, if you don't know top from bottom, get help! One side has a nap, which is the top. It is good to figure this out before cutting starts. To order cloth you need a color, a weight or type, possibly a manufacturer of choice, and a yardage amount. We can also pre-cut the rail cloth and pocket liners if needed, (for a little more).

Covering Rails: The average cloth needed for a rail is 6 inches in width and enough length for the cushion length plus about 4 inches. Rail cloth is cut or torn from the cloth ordered (in total yardage) for a table job. It is a real good idea to be very careful of weave direction if you are tearing, and to be especially careful of any knick in your rip direction, if you are ordering cloth with the rails already cut, it is important that your supplier cuts his rail cloth from the same bolt as the bed cloth. Some suppliers pre-cut rail cloth, and the rail cloth does not come from the same bolt as the bed; which creates serious shade and texture problems. To cover the rails when using what is called backed cloth, you will have to remove the backing material to cover the rails. This material can usually be pulled loose. Backed cloth is normally only used on commercial and antique tables to extend the life, or to mask slate problems. We do not recommend backed cloth due to play problems (it normally plays slow). Be very careful removing the old cloth due to problems with rail and cushion damage, as well as broken feather strips. If this is your first time, and you do not know what you are doing, you should dig through this site for other areas pertaining to rail covering and table construction. All we are covering here is cloth. Be sure to get the proper side up before starting work. This is a major problem for some people. Covering rails is not work for an amateur. How your table plays is very seriously impacted by how the rails are covered, the type and quality of the cloth, and how the rails are attached. This area of pool table work is the most difficult of all the areas of pool table maintenance. Covering the Table; be sure your bed cloth and your rail cloth come off the same bolt so that they will match. It is important to have enough cloth to do this job properly. We usually try to have at least 4 inches of cloth overhang all the way around the slate in order to make pulling the cloth easier during attachment. Insufficient overhang is a major problem area when someone needs to put a previously used cloth back on the same table.....not to mention rips, tears, spot alignment, pocket problems, etc. There are different types of cloth, and there are different attachment materials. Each of these needs to be considered in ordering and sizing your cloth, as well as installing it. Some cloth stretches more or less than other cloth when you are working with it. If you are using staples or tacks, you will need more overhang than when you are gluing a cloth on a table. Be sure you have the nap side up before you get too far. This is a major problem for some people. Be sure your table construction is perfect

before starting with the bed cloth. Recheck everything regarding the slate before starting work. The cracks should be filled, any holes or imperfections in the slate should be repaired, the slate must be both level and flat (a possible major problem), any screw holes that are not under the cushion area must be filled and flat, and be especially careful that the entire surface is absolutely clean before starting. Balls bouncing when rolling across the table comes from dirt under the cloth, cracks and holes improperly filled, or a surface that is not flat. Check both sides of the cloth for dirt, weaving imperfections, stains etc. before starting. This is a major problem area for even the best pool table mechanics. Be sure your pocket liner cloth matches the color of your bed cloth before starting. The pocket liner is a small strip of cloth glued into the pocket hole in the slate that protects the bed cloth from wear, and protects the balls when hitting the slate inside the pocket. Replacement of the pocket liners can be a problem if you do not have the proper spray glue. In replacing the liner strip if needed, be very careful that none of the liner strip is allowed to get above the slate surface, or it will interfere with the ball roll in the pocket area. Know what you are doing before starting a table covering job. This job is not tough to do, but it is very easy to mess up, especially around pocket openings. If you mess the job up, we will be glad to sell you more cloth.

Specifications: Pool table cloth is sometimes called felt. Pool table cloth is not felt, felt is a non-woven material used for Christmas decorations. Pool table cloth is a woven wool product that has a surface that has been specially prepared for pool play, with a nap surface on one side. Felt is cheap; pool table cloth will cost you through the nose. As with all other aspects of pool table construction, the Billiard Congress of America (BCA) sets all the rules that pertain to cloth used on a pool or billiard table. Cloth color does not affect play, and each of the various manufacturers has a distinct set of color selections that do not necessarily match or interchange. For currently available color selections see our options section on the homepage. The standard green color was used for years because it is easy on the eyes, and because the various ball colors stand out well, even the green 4 ball.

Simonis Cloth Colors: The chart below shows colors available on our delivered tables. We keep #860 Standard Green in stock, but we can order any of the other colors. All Simonis cloth is \$95.00 per yard. If price is listed, it is the "last available" price and is subject to change without notice. Please e-mail HEADS, Inc. or call for additional information on availability, pricing, shipping, colors, weights, etc.

We do not accept online orders. If you would like to place an order, please do so with one of our sales representatives by calling 1-800-275-4520 between the hours of 10am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and 10am to 12:30pm on Saturdays. Do not under any circumstances send any credit card information through e-mail.

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