



Collecting Terms

The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

A: Arrowhead-shaped patch.

B: See Bullion.

Badge: An international term for a patch or pin.

Box-worn: Describes a patch that is otherwise mint, but it has become soiled or limp through repeated handling over time.

Bullion: A style of patch sewn with thin wire or metallic thread on felt. Typically worn on a blazer jacket and held in place with pin clasps.

BWS: Blue & white strip, worn on the blue uniform by Sea Scouts to identify their community. See also RWS.

C: See Chenille.

Chang: Refers to a patch that was originally manufactured in China or Taiwan that has since been remanufactured with the original pattern and sold to the public at greatly reduced prices without the council's or lodge's permission.

Chenille: A rug-like patch style commonly used for high school block letters for athletes and also used for some OA patches.

Cloth back: (also **CB**) Describes the backside of a patch, usually with a gauze type backing for stiffness. In contrast, see plastic back.

Computer design: (also **CD**) Refers to a patch manufactured using a computerized embroidery machine where the stitching lies relatively flat across the surface of the patch. In contrast, see Swiss embroidery.

CP: Council Patch. Refers to a patch that is round, square, diamond any many other shapes, but not designed to be worn on the shoulder, that gives the council name only—no event or camp names.

CSP: Council Shoulder Patch.

Cut edge: The patch edge does not have any border covering the cut edge of the material, also “ce” or “c/e”. In contrast, see rolled edge.

Dupe: (also **dup**) Duplicate, extra item for trade or sale.

F: A lodge flap that is not solidly embroidered. Some of the cloth material shows through.

Fake: An item made to deceive others into believing that it is legitimate. See also
Reproduction.

FOS: Friends of Scouting, from the annual council fund raising campaign.

Geer shape: A flap manufactured by the Geer Company, recognized by its distinctive
shape.

Ghost patch: A patch sewn all in one color so the design is visible only by viewing the
different direction of the stitching.

ISCA: International Scout Collectors Association.

J: A jacket patch.

JSP: Jamboree Shoulder Patch.

Junk patches: Common patches with little trading value.

KRS: Khaki & red strip, worn on the shoulder to identify the community. See also RWS.

Lion Brothers shape: A flap manufactured by the Lion Brothers company, recognized by
its distinctive shape.

Mint: In perfect, unwashed, unsewn, unused condition.

Moritz shape: A flap manufactured by the Moritz Company, recognized by its distinctive
shape.

Mylar: A metallic thread, usually gold or silver, although other colors are sometimes used,
often used for patch borders.

N: A neckerchief, also “n/c.”

Need: Collectible item that one desires.

NOAC: National Order of the Arrow Conference.

Overrun: Extra patches produced by a manufacturer to meet minimum order
specifications. These are sometimes destroyed, sold, or given away as samples.

Photochromatic: Thread that appears white while indoors but changes color when
exposed to sunlight.

Pie: A pie-slice-shaped patch designed to be worn on a neckerchief.

Plastic back: (also **PB**) Describes the backside of a patch with a plastic overlay for
stiffness. In contrast, see cloth back.

Pre-CSP: A council shoulder patch manufactured before 1970, with a design like a
modern CSP, but not a RWS or BWS.

Private Issue: A patch produced by an individual that does not duplicate another patch but in some ways looks official (often flap or CSP-shaped). Private issues are usually unauthorized and are most often made purely for profit by the maker. They are sometimes referred to as a fake.

R: A round patch usually less than five inches in diameter.

Reproduction: An item made to copy a legitimate collectible, but without the intent to deceive, for example **FAKE** or **REPRO** may be stamped on the back. See also Fake.

Reserve price: A price set by the seller at an auction, below which they will not sell the item.

Rocker: An arc-shaped patch (the shape of the bottom of a rocking chair), such as a community strip, state strip, or segment designed to be worn around a round patch.

Rolled edge: The patch edge has a narrow border sewn onto the perimeter. In contrast, see cut edge.

RWS: Red & white strip, worn on the shoulder to identify council or city. May be distinguished as “full size” (usually for a council/state designation), ½ strip (community strip size), or ¼ strip (state size). See also BWS.

S: A solidly embroidered lodge flap or CSP where no cloth shows through.

SAP: Shoulder activity patch. A CSP for a specific event.

Snipe: To submit a bid within the last few seconds of an auction, in hopes of beating out the high bidder before they can respond.

Spoof: An unofficial patch created for profit and entertainment purposes.

Swap: British term for “to trade” (when used as a verb) or “dupe” (when used as a noun).

Swiss embroidery: Refers to a style of embroidery where the stitching has some physical depth and some threads may be sewn over others of a different color. In contrast, see computer design.

T: A twill CSP that is not solidly-embroidered. Some of the cloth material shows through.

Tag: A thread that connects two elements of a (usually twill) patch such as a thread that connects two letters or a letter and the border.

Trade-O-Ree: (also **TOR**), a meeting for trading, buying, selling of Scouting memorabilia.

Twill Left: When a nonsolidly embroidered patch is viewed, the grain of twill of the patch appears to go up diagonally to the left.

Twill Right: When a nonsolidly embroidered patch is viewed, the grain of twill of the patch appears to go up diagonally to the right.

Two-piece: A matching OA flap and pocket patch that form a common design when displayed together.

W: See Woven.

Wants: An international term for needs.

WBS: White & blue strip, worn on the white uniform by Sea Scouts to identify their community. See also RWS.

Woven: A flat, silken patch style commonly used by international Scouting associations.

X: An odd-shaped patch (not flap shaped, round, arrowhead-shaped, pie-shaped, and so on).

Z: See Fake.

-- David Miura and Warren F. Kuhfeld