

SWGFAST

Glossary - Classification

ARCHIVED

APPENDAGE

An attachment or connection within friction ridges.

ARCH - PLAIN

A fingerprint pattern in which the ridges enter on one side of the impression, and flow, or tend to flow, out the other with a rise or wave in the center.

ARCH - TENTED

A type of fingerprint pattern that possesses either an angle, an upthrust, or two of the three basic characteristics of the loop.

ALIAS (AKA)

1. A false name. 2. Another name an individual has used. (Also Known As)

BRIDGE

A connecting friction ridge between and at generally right angles to parallel running ridges.

CLASSIFICATION

Alpha/numeric formula of finger and palm print patterns used as a guide for filing and searching.

CORE

The approximate center of a pattern.

DELTA

That point on a ridge at or nearest to the point of divergence of two type lines, and located at or directly in front of the point of divergence.

DIVERGENCE

The separation of two friction ridges that have been running parallel or nearly parallel.

FINAL

A numerical value that is derived from the ridge count of a little finger, usually the right.

FOCAL POINTS

Those areas that are enclosed within the pattern area of loops and whorls. They are also known as the core and the delta.

HENRY CLASSIFICATION

A system of fingerprint classification named for Sir Edward Richard Henry (1850 - 1931).

INKED PRINT (FINGER, PALM, FOOT)

A recording of the friction ridges with black ink on a suitable contrasting background.

INNER TERMINUS

See *Core*.

KEY

A numerical value derived from the ridge count of the first loop beginning with the right thumb exclusive of the little fingers.

LOOP - ULNAR

A type of pattern in which one or more ridges enter upon either side, recurve, touch or pass an imaginary line between delta and core and pass out, or tend to pass out, on the same side the ridges entered. The flow of the pattern runs in the direction of the ulna bone of the forearm (toward the little finger).

LOOP - RADIAL

A type of pattern in which one or more ridges enter upon either side, recurve, touch or pass an imaginary line between delta and core and pass out, or tend to pass out, on the same side the ridges entered. The flow of the pattern runs in the direction of the radius bone of the forearm (toward the thumb).

MAJOR

A value derived from the pattern types of the thumbs.

NCIC

National Crime Information Center

NCIC CLASSIFICATION

An alpha/numeric system of fingerprint classification.

OUTER TERMINUS

See *Delta*.

PATTERNS

The designation of friction ridge skin into basic categories of general shapes.

PATTERN AREA (CLASSIFICATION)

In the distal phalange of the fingers, the configuration of friction ridges that are utilized in classification.

PRIMARY

A numerical formula derived from the presence of any whorl pattern as they appear on the fingers.

RIDGE FLOW

The direction of a series of adjacent friction ridges. See *Level 1 Detail*.

RIDGE PATH

The course of a single friction ridge. See *Level 2 Detail*.

SECONDARY

An alpha expression derived from the pattern type of the index fingers.

SUB-SECONDARY

An alpha expression derived from the index, middle and ring fingers of both hands.

SUFFICIENT RECURVE

The space between the shoulders of a loop, free of any appendages that abut upon the recurve at a right angle on the outside.

TYPE LINES

The two innermost ridges associated with a delta that are parallel, diverge, and surround or tend to surround the pattern area.

WHORL - ACCIDENTAL

A fingerprint pattern consisting of two different types of patterns, with the exception of the plain arch, with two or more deltas; or a pattern which possesses some of the requirements for two or more different types; or a pattern which conforms to none of the definitions.

WHORL - CENTRAL POCKET LOOP

A type of fingerprint pattern which has two deltas and at least one ridge which makes, or tends to make, one complete circuit, which may be spiral, oval, circular, or any variant of a circle. An imaginary line drawn between the two deltas must not touch or cross any recurving ridges within the inner pattern area.

WHORL - DOUBLE LOOP

A type of fingerprint pattern that consists of two separate loop formations with two separate and distinct sets of shoulders and two deltas.

WHORL - PLAIN

A type of fingerprint pattern which consists of one or more ridges which make, or tend to make, a complete circuit, with two deltas, between which, when an imaginary line is drawn, at least one recurving ridge within the inner pattern area is cut or touched.

Note: Many of the classification terms within this glossary are based upon the FBI's modified Henry classification definitions.