

Gerrish's

Technical Dictionary

Technical Terms Simplified

by

HOWARD H. GERRISH

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**SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Dictionary is to clarify definitions and obscure meanings of technical words and phrases that form our vast technical vocabulary.

Many of the words defined are common words, which have been given unusual meanings by industrial craftsmen. Some of the words find their roots in the "slang of the trade," and have become accepted through repeated usage.

After each word, the trade or craft in which the word is used is identified, in the following manner:

TRADE	IDENTIFIED BY
Aero Space Technology	(space)
Air Conditioning	(air cond.)
Architectural Drafting Machine Drafting	(draft.)
Arts and Crafts Ceramics Jewelry	(crafts)
Automation	(automation)
Automotive	(auto.)
Building Trades	(const.)
Cabinet Making Carpentry Woodworking	(wood.)
Electricity Electronics	(elec.)

Introduction

Foundry	
Machine Tools	(metal)
Metal Work, general	
Sheet Metal	
Graphic Arts and Printing	(graphics)
Painting and Decorating	(painting and dec.)
Plumbing and Heating	(plumb.)
Welding	(welding)

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(air cond.)	Air Conditioning
(draft)	Architectural Drafting Machine Drafting
(jewel)	Arts and Crafts Ceramics Jewelry
(automation)	Automation
(auto)	Automotive
(const.)	Building Trades
(wood)	Cabinet Making Carpentry Woodworking
(elec.)	Electricity Electronics

Technical Dictionary

AAA (auto.): American Automobile Association.

AARON'S ROD (const.) aar'on's rod: An architectural ornamentation, consisting of scroll work and leafage representing a rod with a serpent twined about it.

ABACUS (const.) ab'a cus: A slab on the top of a column. It may be curved or square and it supports the architrave.

ABAMPERE (elec.) ab'am pere: A CGS (centimeter-gram-second) electromagnetic unit. It is equal to ten amperes.

A-BATTERY (elec.) a-bat' tery: A battery used to supply the heater voltage for electron tubes.

ABBREVIATION (graphics) ab bre vi'a' tion: Part of a word used as a substitute for the whole word.

ABCOULOMB (elec.) ab cou'l lomb: A CGS electromagnetic unit. It is equal to a charge of ten coulombs.

ABLATION (space) a bla' tion: Melting of nose cone materials during reentry of spacecraft or other vehicles into the earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.

ABOHM (elec.) ab ohm': A unit of resistance in the CGS electromagnetic system. It is equal to 10^{-9} ohms.

ABORT (space) a bort': Failure of an aerospace vehicle to accomplish its purposes.

A-B POWER PACK (elec.) a-b pow' er pack: A compact battery for use in portable radios. Supplies heater and B plate voltages for the electron tubes.

ABRASION (welding) a bra' sion: The wearing away of a surface by rubbing.

ABRASIVE (metal) a bra' sive: Materials used for grinding, polishing and lapping.

ABRASIVE COATING, CLOSED (painting and dec.) a bra' sive coat' ing, closed: In closed coating of paper no adhesive is exposed as surface of paper is completely covered with abrasive. In open coating, surface of backing paper is covered with regulated amount of abrasive exposing the adhesive.

ABRASIVE CUTTING TOOLS (automation: a bra' sive cutting tools: Tools used for grinding, buffing, lapping, honing, super finishing and brushing.

ABRASIVE PAPER (const.) a bra' sive pa' per: Paper or cloth coated with abrasive materials.

ABS (plumb.) ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene-Styrene): Plastic material used in manufacturing drain pipe and fittings.

ABSOLUTE (const.) ab' so lute: Exact; complete.

ABSOLUTE ZERO (air cond.) ab' so lute zero: The temperature at which the molecular motion of a substance ceases; the point at which no heat exists in a substance, -459.69 F (-273.16 C).

ABSORB (paint. and dec.) *ab sorb'*: To assimilate, to swallow up or suck in, like wood absorbing a finishing material such as paint or stain.

ABSORBENT (air cond.) *ab sorb' ent*: A compound or substance that takes up liquid or vapor, and changes physically or chemically during the process.

ABSORPTION SYSTEM (air cond.) *ab-sorp'tion sys'tem*: A refrigeration system in which the refrigerant gas from the evaporator is absorbed and released in a generator when heat is applied.

ABSORPTION WAVEMETER (elec.) *ab-sorp'tion wave'me ter*: An electronic device used to measure frequency and wave length by the tuning of a resonant circuit until maximum energy is absorbed from the circuit being measured.

ABUT (const.) *a but'*: One timber touching or meeting another.

ABUTTALS (const.) *a but'tals*: The boundaries of a parcel of land to other lands, streets, rivers, etc.

ABVOLT (elec.) *ab' volt*: A unit of voltage measurement in the CGS electromagnetic system; it is equal to 10^{-8} volt.

AC (elec.) *ac*: Alternating current.

A-C (elec.) *a-c*: Alternating current, used as an adjective.

ACANTHUS (const.) *a can't thus*: A decorative carved molding.

ACCELERATE (auto.) *ac cel' er ate*: To increase speed or velocity.

ACCELERATING ELECTRODE (elec.) *ac cel' er a ting e lec'trode*: An electrode in a cathode-ray tube used to

increase the velocity of the electrons in the beam.

ACCELERATING JET (auto.) *ac cel' er a ting jet*: A jet in the carburetor that supplies additional fuel to the incoming air stream during acceleration.

ACCELERATION (auto.) *ac cel' er a tion*: The rate of increase of velocity or speed.

ACCELERATOR (auto.) *ac cel' er a tor*: A foot pedal in an automobile that controls the speed of the engine.

ACCELERATOR (const.) *ac cel' er a tor*: Any substance added to plaster or Portland cement during mixing, which will speed up its setting time.

ACCELERATOR-PUMP SYSTEM (auto.) *ac cel' er a tor-pump sys'tem*: A pump in the carburetor that (momentarily) enriches the air-fuel mixture to the engine and causes a rapid gain of speed.

ACCELEROMETER (elec.) *ac cel' er om'e ter*: An instrument used to measure acceleration.

ACCENT (graphics) *ac' cent*: A mark designating the letter or symbol upon which accent is placed in pronunciation.

ACCEPTOR CIRCUIT (elec.) *ac cep'tor cir'cuit*: A series tuned circuit at resonance; accepts signals at resonant frequency.

ACCEPTOR IMPURITY (elec.) *ac cep'tor im pu'ri ty*: An impurity added to a semiconductor material that creates holes for current carriers.

ACCESS TIME (elec.) *ac'cess time*: The time required to obtain a word from the memory section of a computer.

accumulator

7

acid number

ACCUMULATOR (air cond.) ac cu' mu- la' tor: A storage chamber for the low-side liquid refrigerant.

ACCUMULATOR (elec.) ac cu' mu la' tor: A storage battery (British): The section of a computer, consisting of a modified binary counter with input terminals, in which the stored count is increased to a new total each time a pulse is applied to the counter.

AC-DC (elec.) ac-dc: Referring to a device which will operate on either ac or dc current.

ACETATE CELLULOSE (elec.) ac' e- tate cel' lu lose: A plastic base used in the manufacturing of magnetic recording tape.

ACETIC ACID (paint. and dec.) a ce' tic ac' id: A sour, colorless compound. (Vinegar contains 4 to 12 percent acetic acid.)

ACETONE (paint. and dec.) ac' e tone: A water-white volatile solvent with ether-like odor, Acetone is made by destructive distillation of hardwood, fermentation of butyl alcohol and from petroleum sources. Used extensively in making paint removers.

ACETYLENE (welding) a cet' y lene: Gas composed of two parts of carbon and two parts of hydrogen. When burned in an atmosphere of oxygen, it produces one of the highest flame temperatures obtainable.

ACETYLENE CYLINDER (welding) a- cet' y lene cyl' in der: Specially built container manufactured according to I.C.C. standards. Used to store and ship acetylene, it is occasionally called "tank" or "bottle."

ACETYLENE GAS (metal) a cet' y lene gas: An illuminating gas made by treat-

ing calcium carbide with water. Used in oxyacetylene welding.

ACETYLENE GENERATOR (metal) a- cet' y lene gen' er a' tor: A tank type generator in which calcium carbide and water are mixed to provide acetylene gas at a constant pressure.

ACETYLENE HOSE (welding) a cet' y- lene hose: See HOSE.

ACETYLENE REGULATOR (welding) a cet' y lene reg' u la' tor: An automatic valve used to reduce acetylene cylinder pressures to torch pressures and to keep the pressures constant.

AC GENERATOR (elec.) ac gen' er a- tor: A generator using slip rings and brushes to connect armature to external circuit. It produces an alternating current.

ACHROMATIC (crafts) ach ro mat' ic: A lens that refracts light of all colors equally; a lens designed to minimize chromatic aberration.

ACHROMATIC (paint. and dec.) ach- ro mat' ic: Colorless; without color.

ACID (metal) ac' id: A substance which dissolves in water with the formation of hydrogen ions; a substance containing hydrogen that may be chemically replaced with metals to form salts.

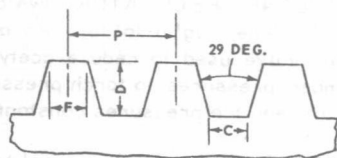
ACID BATH (metal) ac' id bath: An acid mixture, called a pickling bath for removing oxidation and cleaning metal parts in preparation for electroplating.

ACID NUMBER (paint. and dec.) ac' id num' ber: A designation of the amount of free acid in oils, fats, waxes and resins, expressed as the number of milligrams of potassium hydroxide required to neutralize one gram of the

material being tested. Also called acid value.

ACLINIC LINE (elec.) a clin'ic line: An imaginary line around the earth, approximately at the equator, where all points have a zero magnetic inclination.

ACME THREAD (metal) ac'me thread: A thread system used extensively for feed mechanisms. It is between a



$D = .5 \times P$ (MINIMUM DEPTH)
 $F = .3707 \times P$
 $C = F$ (MINIMUM DEPTH)

square thread and a V thread with a 29 deg. included angle.

ACORN TUBE (elec.) a'corn tube: A small acorn shaped electron tube without a base. Connections to elements are made through pins extending radially from the tube. It is used in high frequency applications.

ACOUSTICAL FEEDBACK (elec.) a-cous'ti cal feed' back: The reflection of, and return of, a part of a sound wave to the input of an amplifier in phase with original sound input so that the amplification of the system is increased.

ACOUSTICAL PLASTER (const.) a-cous'ti cal plas'ter: A finishing type of plaster used with certain aggregate materials that absorb sound waves.

ACOUSTICS (elec.) a cous'tics: The science of sound and hearing; the qualities of a room or device as it affects the reception and/or transmission of sound.

ACOUSTIC TILE (const.) a cous'tic tile:

Tile made of sound absorbing materials.

AC PLATE RESISTANCE, Symbol r_p (elec.) ac plate re sist' ance: A variational characteristic of a vacuum tube representing the ratio of a change of plate voltage to a change in plate current, while the grid voltage is constant.

ACROSS (const.) a cross': A term used to describe cutting across the grain of a board, usually at a right angle.

ACRYLIC RESINS (painting and dec.) a cry' lic res' ins: A group of transparent thermoplastic resins made by polymerization of esters of acrylic acid. It is used in emulsion and solvent based paints.

ACTINIC (space) ac tin'ic: Pertaining to electromagnetic radiation capable of initiating photochemical reactions.

ACTIVATED ALUMINA (air cond.) ac-ti vated a lu'mi na: Aluminum oxide used as an absorbent.

ACTUAL THROAT (welding) ac'tu al throat: Distance from face of a weld to the root of the weld.

ACTUATION (automation) ac'tu a'tion: Directing energy; put into action.

ACUTE ANGLE (metal) a cute' an' gle: An angle less than 90 deg.

AD (graphics) ad: An abbreviation for advertisement.

AD COPY (graphics) ad cop'y: Copy or content of an advertisement.

ADDENDUM (metal) ad den'dum: The distance from pitch line to outside diameter of a gear.

ADDENDUM CIRCLE (draft.) ad den'-dum cir'cle: The outer circumference of a gear.

ADDER (elec.) ad' der: Circuit in electronic computer that registers the sum of two or more numbers or quantities.

ADDITION (const.) ad di' tion: A change in the structure of a building in which the exterior dimensions are increased.

ADDITIVES (auto.) ad' di tives: Chemicals added to lubricating oils to produce desired characteristics.

ADDRESS (automation) ad dress': A number identifying a location.

ADHERENCE (const.) ad her' ence: The property of materials or substances causing them to stick together.

ADHESIVE (const.) ad he' sive: A cement; glue; any substance that causes bodies to stick together.

ADIABATIC (air cond.) ad i a bat' ic: A change in volume or pressure without a change in heat.

ADIABATIC PROCESS (air cond.) ad i a bat' ic proc' ess: A process in which a change in pressure or volume occurs without gain or loss of heat.

ADJACENT ANGLE (draft.) ad ja' cent an' gle: One angle is adjacent to another angle if one leg is common to both angles.

ADJACENT-CHANNEL INTERFERENCE (elec.) ad ja' cent chan' nel inter fer' ence: Interference from a signal originating in an authorized adjacent channel, such as in TV.

ADJUSTABLE WRENCH (const.) ad just' able wrench: An open end wrench with an adjustable jaw.

ADMITTANCE, (Symbol Y), (elec.) admit' tance: The reciprocal of impedance.

ADOBE (const.) a do' be: Clay; aluminous earth; brick made by mixing earth and straw and baking in the sun.

ADOBE CONSTRUCTION (const.) a do' be con struc' tion: A building which has exterior walls made of adobe brick. These bricks are made of soil and straw and baked in the sun.

ADSORBENT (air cond.) ad sorb' ent: A substance which has the ability to cause liquid vapor or gas to adhere to its surfaces without a chemical or physical change during the process.

ADVANCE (auto.) ad vance': A term used in automotive electricity to indicate that ignition occurs before piston reaches top dead center; to adjust ignition to fire earlier.

ADVANCING COLORS (paint, and dec.) ad vanc' ing col' ors: Colors that give illusion of being closer to the observer. Warm colors in which red-orange predominates are advancing colors.

ADZ (const.) aaz: An ax-like tool used for rough-shaping a wood timber.

ADZ BLOCK (const.) adz block: The head which holds the cutting blades in a wood planer machine.

ADZ HAMMER (const.) adz ham' mer: A hammer with an extended claw and eye which gives a greater bearing on the handle.

AERATION (air cond.) aer a' tion: A process of cooling or mixing by air circulation or ventilation.

AERIAL (elec.) aer' i al: An antenna.

AEROBALLISTIC MISSILE (space) aer o bal lis' tic mis' sile: A wingless vehicle employing the boostglide and con-

tinuous roll technique for flight at hypersonic speeds within the earth's atmosphere.

AERODYNAMICS (space) aer o dy nam'ics: That field of dynamics which considers the motion of bodies relative to the air and the forces that act upon the bodies, especially as these forces relate to flight through the air.

AEROELASTICITY (space) aer o e las'ti'i ty: The effect of aerodynamic forces on elastic bodies.

AEROSOL (air cond.) aer o sol: Small particles suspended in air. Example: dust, fog, smoke.

AEROSPACE (space) aer o space': An operationally indivisible medium consisting of the total expanse beyond the earth's surface.

AEROSPACE FORCES (space) aer o space' forces: Includes all vehicles, their equipment and, where applicable, weapons and crews that operate in aerospace for military purposes. This includes aircraft, missiles, aerospacecraft and spacecraft.

AEROSPACE VEHICLE (space) aer o space've' hi cle: Specifically, an aerospace vehicle is one that functions both in the sensible atmosphere and in the space equivalent or space environment. In its general sense, any vehicle manned or unmanned that operates in the aerospace environment.

AF (elec.) af: Abbreviation for audio frequency.

AFC (elec.): Abbreviation of Automatic Frequency Control.

AFTER IMAGE (crafts) af ter im' age: An impression of a visual image which

remains on the retina of the eye momentarily after the stimulus is removed.

AGAINST THE GRAIN (graphics) a- gainst' the grain: Opposite to the direction to which fibers run in a sheet of paper.

AGATE (crafts) ag' ate: A semiprecious stone; variegated quartz in which colors are in bands.

AGATE (graphics) ag' ate: A size of type now called 5 1/2 point. Agate is composed 14 lines to the inch. It is the basis for newspaper and magazine advertising space sold by the line.

AGC (elec.): Abbreviation for AUTOMATIC GAIN CONTROL. A circuit employed to vary the gain of an amplifier in proportion to the input signal strength so that its output remains at a constant level.

AGGREGATE (const.) ag' gre gate: Materials such as sand, rock and gravel used in making concrete.

AGING (const.) ag' ing: A process used to make materials or surfaces appear old or antique.

AGING (metal) ag' ing: The change in the structure of a metal or alloy that takes place slowly at room temperature.

AGITATOR (air cond.) ag' i ta tor: A mechanical device to produce turbulence in a liquid storage tank.

AGONIC LINE (elec.) a gon' ic line: An imaginary line around the earth's surface in a north-south direction, on which all points have a zero declination.

AGRAVIC (space) a grav' ic: A condition of no gravity; weightlessness.

AGRICULTURAL VARNISHES (painting)

and dec.) ag ri cul' tur al var' nish-
es: Varnishes designed to protect and
beautify farm implements and machin-
ery.

AIEE (elec.): American Institute of Elec-
trical Engineers.

AIR BLAST (air cond.) air blast: Forced
air.

AIR BLEED (auto.) air bleed: A device
to permit additional air to enter the
main nozzle of the carburetor to balance
the air-fuel ratio at higher speeds.

AIR BOUND (metal) air bound: A term
used to describe a condition when air
pressure prevents a machine from
operating properly.

AIR BREAKUP (space) air break' up:
The breakup of a body after reentry
into the atmosphere.

AIR BREATHER (space) air breath' er:
A missile or vehicle propelled by fuel
oxidized by intake from the atmosphere.

AIR BRUSH (painting and dec.) air brush:
A device used to spray paint by means
of compressed air.

AIR CAPACITOR (elec.) air ca pac' i-
tor: A capacitor employing air as a
dielectric.

AIR CHAMBER (plumb.) air cham' ber:
A chamber installed on the discharge
end of a piston pump to minimize the
pulsating discharge.

AIR CHANGES (air cond.) air chang' es:
An expression used to denote the change
of air in a building in terms of building
or room volumes.

AIR CLEANER (const.) air clean' er: A
device to remove impurities, such as

smoke, dust, cinders, fumes, etc., from
the air.

AIR CLEANER (auto.) air clean' er: See
INTAKE SILENCER.

AIR CONDITIONING (air cond.) air con-
di' tion ing: The control of the temper-
ature, humidity, motion, dust and distri-
bution of the atmosphere in a building.

AIR-COOLED ENGINE (auto.) air-cooled
en' gine: An internal combustion engine
cooled by forced air; an engine with
individual cylinders cooled by a series
of fins around the head. Air is blown
through and around the cooling fins.

AIR COOLER, Types of (air cond.) air
cool' er:

CONVECTION: Similar to the dry
type cooler but depending upon the
natural circulation of air.

DRY TYPE: A cooler using forced
air circulation without liquid spray.

PRESSURE TYPE: A cooler depend-
ing upon air resistance.

SPRAY TYPE: A forced air circu-
lation cooler using a liquid spray in
addition to cooling coils.

AIR-CORE INDUCTOR (elec.) air-core
in duc' tor: An inductor wound on an
insulated form without a metallic core.
A self-supporting coil without a core.

AIR DRIED (const.) air dried: Lumber
dried naturally in stacks in lumber
storage yards.

AIR DRY (painting and dec.) air dry: To
dry a coating at ordinary room con-
ditions.

AIR DUCT (const.) air duct: See DUCT.

AIRFOIL (space) air' foil: Any aero-
dynamic surface designed to obtain a
reaction from the air through which it
moves.

AIRFRAME (space) air' frame: The assembled structural and aerodynamic components of an aircraft or missile that support the different systems and subsystems integral to the missile or aircraft.

AIR-FUEL RATIO (auto.) air-fuel ra'tio: The ratio of the weight of air to the weight of fuel, as used in internal combustion engines.

AIR GAP (auto.) air gap: The air space between spark plug electrodes; the space between the armature and coil of a relay.

AIR GAP (elec.) air gap: The space between magnetic poles; the space between the contact points of a relay; space between rotating and stationary assemblies in a motor or generator.

AIR GAP (plumb.) air gap: The vertical distance through free atmosphere between the lowest opening of a water supply system and the flood level of the receptacle.

AIR GUN (const.) air gun: A device designed to apply adhesive materials to a surface by means of air pressure.

AIR-HARDENING (metal) air-har' dening: A process of hardening steel by heating and cooling rapidly in a blast of air.

AIR HORN (auto.) air horn: The air entrance to the carburetor.

AIR INDUCTOR (elec.) air in duc'tor: An inductor without a magnetic core.

AIR LOCK (plumb.) air lock: Air, gas or vapor trapped in a pipe supplying a liquid.

AIR LOCKING (const.) air lock' ing: Weather stripping; any materials used to make a building airtight.

AIR POCKET (const.) air pock' et: An air space; a space in a concrete wall resulting from improper pouring.

AIR RESISTANCE (auto.) air re sist-ance: The resistance to the movement of a vehicle through air.

AIR SEASONED (const.) air sea' soned: See AIR DRIED.

AIR SHOWER (space) air show' er: A group of cosmic ray particles observed in the atmosphere.

AIR SLAKING (const.) air slak' ing: The exposure of quicklime to air for gradual absorption of moisture.

AIR SPACE (const.) air space: The space between the inner and outer walls of a building.

AIR STANDARD (air cond.) air stan'-dard: Air weighing .075 lb. per cu. ft. at 68 deg. F. dry bulb and containing 50 percent humidity at barometric pressure of 29.92 in. of mercury. Dry air at 70 deg. F. and the same pressure.

AIR TUNNEL (air cond.) air tun' nel: A refrigerated tunnel with forced air circulation for rapid cooling and freezing of products passed through it.

AIR WASHER (air cond.) air wash' er: A water spray system for washing and humidifying the air.

AISLE (const.) aisle: A passageway or walk between seats in a theater or a church.

ALABASTER (const.) al' a bas ter: A fine-grained white gypsum material.

ALBANY SAND (metal) al' ba ny sand: A sand used for molding.

ALBEDO (space) al be' do: A numer-

ical ratio expressing the amount of electromagnetic radiation reflected by the body to the amount falling upon it.

ALBERTITE (const.) al'bert ite: A black asphalt found in Nova Scotia.

ALBUMEN PLATE (graphics) al bu'-men plate: A plate sensitized with bichromated egg solution used in lithography.

ALCOHOL (crafts) al'co hol: Ethyl hydroxide made from grain; C_2H_5OH .

ALCOHOL RESISTING (painting and dec.) al'co hol re sist'ing: Showing no damage when in contact with alcohol.

ALCOVE (const.) al'cove: A recess opening off a room.

ALGAE (air cond.) al'gae: Minute fresh water plant growth.

ALIGNMENT (auto.) a lign'ment: The mechanical adjustment to bring parts in line; the adjustment of the front wheel suspension system to conform to certain specifications.

ALIGNMENT (elec.) a lign'ment: The adjustment of tuned circuits in amplifier and/or oscillator circuits so that they will produce a specified response at a given frequency.

ALIGNMENT (graphics) a lign'ment: When different size types are so justified that their faces all line up at the bottom.

ALIGNMENT CHART (draft.) A lign'-ment chart: See **NOMOGRAPH**.

ALIGNMENT TOOL (elec.) a lign'ment tool: A special non-conductive screw-driver-type tool for adjusting cores and capacitors during alignment of tuned circuits.

ALIPHATIC (painting and dec.) al i-phat'ic: Fatty; a class of organic compounds used as solvents.

ALIVE (graphics) a live': A printing term describing a form of type after it has been set and until it is ready to be distributed.

ALIZARIN (painting and dec.) a liz'a-rin: Pigment that is bright red with blue undertone, made by complicated chemical process.

ALIZARIN LAKE (painting and dec.) a liz'a rin lake: A red pigment made from the organic coal tar dyestuff, alizarin. The color is dark bluish-red. Some purple pigments are also marketed under this name.

ALKALINE BATTERY (elec.) al'ka line bat'ter y: A battery known as the Edison Cell that uses sodium or potassium hydroxide as an electrolyte and active plates of nickel-oxide flakes and powdered iron.

ALKYD (paint, and dec.) al'kyd: Resins made from phthalic acid or phthalic anhydride and glycerol. These resins are used in paints.

ALLEN SCREWS (metal) Al'len screws: Cap screws and setscrews with a hexagonal socket in the head. They are tightened with an Allen wrench or hexagonal key.

ALLEN WRENCH (auto.) Al'len wrench: A special wrench used for setscrews with a hexagonal recessed hole in the head.

ALLEY (const.) al'ley: A narrow passageway between two buildings.

ALLEY (graphics) al'ley: A walking or working space between facing type cabinets or case racks in the composing room.

ALLIGATOR CLIP (elec.) al' li ga tor clip: A spring activated clip for temporary wire connections. It resembles a miniature alligator's jaws.

ALLIGATORING (paint, and dec.) al' li ga tor ing: Condition of paint film in which the surface is cracked and develops an appearance somewhat similar to skin on the back of an alligator.

ALLIGATOR WRENCH (metal) al' li ga tor wrench: A wrench with toothed V-shaped jaws.

ALLOTROPIC (metal) al lo trop' ic: The phenomena of an element existing in two or more different forms.

ALLOWANCE (metal) al low' ance: An intentional difference in dimensions between mating parts.

ALLOY (metal) al' loy: A mixture of two or more metals; white metal; babbitt.

ALLOY STEEL (metal) al' loy steel: A steel alloyed with a small percentage of another metal such as manganese, nickel, tungsten vanadium, chromium, etc.

ALL-ROWLOCK WALL (const.) all-row' lock wall: A brick wall built with two courses entirely of stretchers on edge alternating with one course of headers on edge.

ALLUVIAL (const.) al lu' vi al: Sand and clay deposited by flowing water.

ALMANDITE (metal) al' man dite: Mineral garnet used as an abrasive.

ALNICO (elec.) al' ni co: A special alloy used to make small permanent magnets.

ALPHA (elec.) al' pha: Greek letter α , represents the current gain of a tran-

sistor. It is equal to the change in collector current caused by a change in emitter current for a constant collector voltage.

ALPHABET OF LINES (draft.) al' pha bet of lines: The type and weight of lines used in drafting.

ALPHA CUT-OFF FREQUENCY (elec.) al' pha cut-off fre' quen cy: The frequency at which the current gain drops to .707 of its maximum gain.

ALPHA PARTICLE (elec.) al' pha par' ti cle: The emission from a nuclear reaction consisting of two protons and two neutrons that is essentially a free helium nucleus.

ALPHA PARTICLE (space) al' pha par' ti cle: A positively charged particle emitted from the nuclei of certain atoms during radioactive disintegration.

ALTERATION (const.) al ter a' tion: Any changes in the structural parts of a building without an increase in the cubical content of the building.

ALTERNATE POSITION (draft) al' ter-nate po si' tion: A drawing made of a moving part of an object to show the limits of movement. Outline of objects in alternate position is drawn with broken lines.

ALTERNATING CURRENT (elec.) al' ter nat ing cur' rent (ac): A current of electrons that moves first in one direction and then in the other.

ALTERNATOR (elec.) al' ter na tor: An a-c generator.

ALTIMETER (space) al tim' e ter: An instrument that indicates altitudes by means of atmospheric pressure.