

Fragrance & Perfume Glossary A - E

A

ABELMOSK : It is known as Musk Mallow, and cultivated for its seeds, which are usually referred to as ambrette.

ABSINTHE : A strong herbal liqueur distilled with herbs like anise, licorice , hyssop, veronica, fennel, lemon balm, angelica and wormwood. .

ABSOLUTE : It is known as an essence, this is the material extracted from a plant or flower using one of various solvents.

ABSINTHE : A strong herbal liqueur distilled with herbs like anise licorice,, hyssop, veronica, fennel, lemon balm, angelica and wormwood .

ABSOLUTE (1) : A concentrated fragrance material of a natural product, such as a flower (jasmine or rose). Processed by means of enfleurage, alcohol extraction or steam distillation.

ABSOLUTE (2) : Also known as an essence, this is the material extracted from a plant or flower using one of various solvents.

ACCORD (1) : A perfume accord is a balanced blend of notes which lose their individual identity to create a completely new, unified odor impression.

ACCORD (2) : A combination of raw materials blended together to find the proper balance and effect a perfumer desires when creating a fragrance . When the materials are properly mixed, they are said to be in accordance with each other.

ACCORD (3) : A balanced complex of 3 or 4 notes that lose their individual identity to create a completely new unified odor impression. Analogous to the musical terminology where several notes are combined to create a single tone that is part of a complete composition.

ACETAL CD : Floral, green, honey and rosy. (Givaudan)

ACETATE PA: Fruity, pineapple, fresh, green notes..

ADOXAL : Fresh, floral, rose marine notes. (Givaudan)

AGAR WOOD : It is from the Aquilaria tree, and also called oud or Aloes wood. The tree, when attacked by a common fungus, produces an aromatic resin that has long been used in the Middle East as a source of incense and perfume. Now considered endangered in the wild due to over harvesting, and modern oud fragrances frequently use synthetic substitutes.

ALDEHYDE C-11: Aldehydic, floral-green notes.

ALDEHYDE C-14 : Fruity, peach, lactonic and oily notes .

ALDEHYDIC : This is often referred to as the "modern" group since at one time the various aliphatic aldehydes used to create this group were actually "modern" in the time sense of the word. Basically, an aldehydic fragrance may be one to which aldehydes have been added.

ALLYL CAPROATE (HEXANOATE) FCC : A fruity , fatty, pineapple odor with rum nuances. A good fruity top note for citrus complexes, particularly orange. (Bedoukian).

ALPHA AMYL CINNAMIC ALDEHYDE EXTRA : Floral, jasmine, waxy.

ALPHA DAMASCONE : Unique and sophisticated floral, fruity note with a delicate and natural rose character. It is a Complex note of apple, mint and blackcurrant with special plum undertones. For use in fine perfume compositions, especially rose perfumes , to which impart naturalness and body. Alpha Damascone is best used and appreciated in a 10% solution. Unique results are obtained with herbal , woody , floral and amber notes.

ALPHA – IONOL : Elegant violet, vetiver note for mellow ionone effect with woody odor. Lends a violet / berry note to fragrances . Used in rose bases. (Bedoukian).

AMBER (1) In perfumery, this refers to accords developed using plant compounds (such as labdanum) or synthetics, and referred to as amber because they were originally meant to mimic the smell of ambergris .

AMBER (2) : A fragrance accord designed to impart fullness, sweetness and warmth to a compound. Enhances the dry down of the fragrance and is of particular importance to the oriental type fragrance.

AMBERGRIS : A sperm whale secretion. Sperm whales produce it to protect their stomachs from the beaks of the cuttlefish they swallow. Ambergris was traditionally used as a fixative, but in modern perfumery, ambergris is usually of synthetic origin (including the synthetic compounds ambrox, ambroxan and amberlyn). Ambergris is described as having a sweet, woody odor. Today, the term "ambergris" is used nearly interchangeably with "amber" (see above) in lists of fragrance notes.

AMBRETTE : The oil obtained from these seeds has a musk-like odor and is frequently used as a substitute for true musk.

AMBERONNE : It is a colourless product having amber, woody notes with velvety undertones and excellent fixative properties . Its special odor and stably have turned this fine material into a basic ingredient for fine and functional fragrances.

AMBROX / AMBROXAN : A synthetic compound created as a replacement for natural Ambergris; it has a musky-ambery odor. There is a long description of the scent of ambroxan .

AMBRETTOLIDE : Intense and powerful musk odor. Used extensively in perfumes and fine fragrances .

AMYL BENZOATE : Floral-green , musk amber and balsamic notes.

AMYL SALICYLATE : Floral, sweet, herbaceous and balsamic notes.

ANDRANE : Woody, dry patchouli and ambergris notes.

ANIMAL : A note of animal origin derived from the natural isolates of civet, castoreum or musk. These materials, plus some man-made synthetics have been used to demonstrate this subtle yet penetrating odor quality. An important note in the development of many fragrances used to impart richness and fullness to compositions. A good example of fragrances with heavy

animal notes would be Beverly Hills Gale Hayman, and Chimere.

ANIMALIK : It refers to animal-derived ingredients such as civet, ambergris, musk, and castoreum. These are usually replaced by synthetics in modern perfumery. In large amounts, many of these notes are unpleasant, but in smaller amounts they provide depth and a sensual feel to a fragrance.

ANISE : An annual herb of the parsley family, grown for its fruits (aniseed), which have a strong, licorice-like flavor.

ANISYL ACETATE : Floral- anisic , fruity, and balsamic notes .

ANISYL ALCOHOL : Floral , anisic , herbaceous , and powdery notes. (Givaudan) .

ANOSMIA (1) : The medical term describing the total absence of the sense of smell, i.e., the inability to detect or recognize any vapor. It can occur temporarily after taking antibiotics and other drugs, or the result of an infection, influenza-like illness, head injury, congenital abnormality or can be associated with severe allergic rhinitis.

ANOSMIA (2) : The inability to smell odors. Many people have selective anosmias, for instance, the inability to smell certain synthetic musks.

APO PATCHONE : Herbal, woody , and ozone notes.

AQUANOL : Fresh marine, green, aldehydic and muguet notes.

AROMA CHEMICAL : Among the Perfumer's primary tools, some synthetic aroma chemicals duplicate chemicals that naturally occur in nature. These are classified as nature identical aroma chemicals. The second category of aroma chemicals are those isolated from natural origins, and a third category are the synthetic aroma chemicals not known to be found in nature but contribute a unique odor value to help broaden a Perfumer's library of tools.

AROMA-COLOGY : A science conceived, named and supported by the Olfactory Research Fund which is dedicated to the study of the inter-relationship of psychology and the latest in fragrance technology to transmit through odor a variety of specific feelings... relaxation, exhilaration, sensuality, happiness and achievement... directly to the right side of the brain – the limbic system which is the seat of emotions, memory, creativity and sensuality. Aroma-Cology is a service mark of the Olfactory Research Fund.

AROMATHERAPY : The therapeutic use of pure essential oils and herbs in body massage, the rest of which is described by proponents as “healing, beautifying and soothing” the body and mind, has its roots in the folk medicine practiced in primitive cultures. The history of aromatherapy stretches as far back as 6,000 years ago in ancient Egypt. It wasn't until the 1920's, however, when the term was actually coined by a French chemist, R.M. Gattefosse.

ARTEMISIA : see WORMWOOD

ATTAR : Attar is the English form of *itr*, the Arabic word for fragrance or perfume. A traditional attar is made from the distilled essence of floral or other fragrance materials in a base of oil, often sandalwood. Traditional attars are made from natural materials, and do not contain added alcohol.

B

BACDANOL : Woody and sandalwood notes . (IFF)

BALANCE: The result of the blending of all perfumery components into one harmonious sensory experience.

BALSAM (BALSAMIC) : A sweet fragrance accord that provides rich, warm, resinous and very tenacious qualities to most compounds. Also, described as woodiness associated with fresh-cut, well-seasoned non-coniferous

wood, as for example, maple. The balsamic effect is most commonly found in Oriental fragrances and powder perfumes.

BAIES ROSE : Pink peppercorns, from the tree *schinus molle*, also known as the Peruvian or California pepper tree. These are actually dried berries and not "true" peppercorns, and you will sometimes see them listed as "pink berries".

BALSAM OF PERU : A tree resin from Central America, so named because it was historically shipped from Peru. Balsam of Tolu is from a closely related species of tree grown farther south; both resins are said to smell like vanilla and cinnamon.

BASE (Dry DOWN) : Base notes are made up of the underlying tones of the fragrance, and are responsible for its lasting qualities. The ingredients used in base notes are often referred to as the "fixatives."

BAY RUM : A traditional men's cologne made from the leaves of the *Pimenta racemosa* (or Bay Rum tree) distilled in a mixture of rum and water.

BENZOIN : A balsamic resin from the *Styrax* tree. It has a sweet odor that is sometimes described as smelling like root beer.

BENZYL ACETATE : Floral and jasmine notes.

BERGAMOT (1) : The tangy oil expressed from the nearly ripe, non edible bergamot orange (a variety of bitter orange). The oranges are grown mostly in Italy and are also used to flavour Earl Grey tea.

BERGAMOT (2) : Citrus, bergamot and zesty notes .

BETA DAMASCONE: Fruity, floral , fresh, green , woody rose like odor . Sophisticated plum , honey , tobacco and blackcurrant aroma. In fine perfume compositions and flavors. Beta damascene is best appreciated in 10% solution , imparting sophisticated floral and fruity aroma to fine fragrances.

BETA IONONE : Floral, orris , fruity and woody notes.

BIGARADE : A variety of bitter orange, also known as Seville orange. The zest is used to make the bigarade note used in perfumery .

BLEND : A mixture of natural and/or synthetic ingredients.

BODY : The heart or main part of the fragrance. The characteristic note when the most volatile components have lost their dominance and all of the components of the fragrance come into play. Body in

perfumery is analogous to a symphony orchestra playing with the full complements of instruments.

BOISIRIS : Woody, ambry and orris notes. (Givaudan)

BOTTOM NOTE : Also called the dry down of the fragrance. This note contains the fixatives of the fragrance that impart the long lasting qualities.

BOUGENOL : Aquatic, floral, muguet, and green notes. (Quest).

BOURGEONAL: Floral, green, muguet , fresh and powerful notes (Givaudan).

C

CALONE : An aroma chemical that adds a "sea breeze" or marine note, and is also used to impart a "fresh melon" aroma. First used in large quantities in Aramis New West (1988).

CALYPSONE : A Givaudan molecule with a watery / ozonic melon note.

CAMPHORACEOUS : An odor resembling camphor to some degree. The essential oil spike lavender is a good

example of a common aromatic material with a camphorous note.

CANTHOXAL : Floral, anisic , balsamic and spicy notes. (IFF).

CASHMERAN Musk, wood, spicy and floral notes.(IFF).

CASHMERAN : An aroma chemical with a spicy, ambery, musky, floral odor. Meant to add a powdery, velvet nuance that invokes the smell or feel of cashmere. Often listed in fragrance notes as "cashmere woods".

CHARACTE : A recognizable effect obtained in a fragrance. An effect that should be a faithful translation of the generating concept.

CANNELLE : French word for cinnamon.

CASSIE : A floral note from *acacia farnesiana* (sweet acacia), a member of the mimosa family.

CASTOREUM (1) : A secretion from the Castor beaver, or a synthetic substitute. Used to impart a leathery aroma to a fragrance.

CASTOREUM GIVCO 116 : It is a reconstitution of the natural oil, which it can replace in equal amounts. This

reconstitution contains only synthetic ingredients and plant-based naturals. It reflects all the typical warm, animal, leather –like notes and is a highly interesting note for use in chypre, tobacco, leather and fougere notes. (Givaudan).

CEDARAT : French term for citron.

CEDARAMBER : Woody and ambergris notes.

CEDARWOOD RECTIFIED : Woody and cedar notes.

CERVOLIDE : Musk, fruity-green and woody notes .

CETONE V : Fruity, floral-green and woody notes.

CHAMPACA : A flowering tree of the magnolia family, originally found in India, also called the "Joy Perfume tree" as it was one of the main floral ingredients in that perfume. Traditionally used in Indian incense as well .

CHEVREFEUILLE : French word for honeysuckle.

CHOYA NAKH : A smoky aroma made from roasted seashells.

CHYPRE (1) It is pronounced "sheepra", French for "Cyprus" and first used by Francois Coty to describe the aromas he found on the island of Cyprus. He created a woody, mossy, citrusy perfume named Chypre (launched by Coty in 1917). Classic chypre fragrances generally had sparkling citrus and floral notes over a dark, earthy base of oakmoss, patchouli, woods and labdanum. Modern chypre fragrances usually use less (or no) oakmoss because of regulatory restrictions; sometimes they use synthetic substitutes..

CHYPRE (2) : A fragrance accord blend of aldehydes built upon a citrus (Bergamot) and mossy base (Oakmoss). This classical accord has been widely used in both men's and women's fragrances

CISTRUS : see Labdanum.

CITRAL : Citrus, fatty and cinnamon

CITRUS : Most typically found in the top note of the fragrance composition and may contain: bergamot, grapefruit, lemon, lime, mandarin orange, petitgrain, and/or tangerine.

CITRONELLYL ACETATE : Fresh, rose like , and fruity notes.(BSAF).

CITRON : A citrus fruit tree (*citrus medica*), sometimes referred to as a cedrat lemon. It is not a true lemon, although it is related to both lemons and limes. The peel is the source of the note citron which is used in perfumery; the leaves and twigs are used to distill cedrat petitgrain.

CIVET : The African civet cat looks like a fox, and is related to the mongoose. Civet musk is produced by a gland at the base of the cat's tail. Pure civet is said to have a strong, disagreeable odor, but in small quantities to add depth and warmth to a fragrance. In addition, civet acts as an excellent fixative. Most modern fragrances use synthetic substitutes.

CLARY SAGE : An herb of the *salvia* family; the essential oil is described as smelling sweet to bittersweet, with nuances of amber, hay and tobacco.

CLASSIC : A classic fragrance can be considered in the same vein as classic literature or architecture. A fragrance that has been widely accepted by generation after generation and has enjoyed popularity for a minimum of 15 years.

CLOU DE GIROFLE : French word for clove.

COLOGNE: A term derived from the French name of the German city of Cologne, where this product was

allegedly first popularized. Originally, it was the condensate from the steam distillation of a water-alcohol infusion of citrus peels (bergamot, lemon, orange), herbs, leaves (rosemary, thyme, lavender), and flower petals (rose, orange blossom). With the modern advent of a wide selection of other essential oils and synthetics, this cologne has been considerably altered. Today, cologne is usually a diluted version of a perfume using diluted alcohol as its solvent and contains from 3-10% fragrance oil in the finished product. A less expensive fragrance oil is generally used for cologne than for perfume. After-shave lotions and toilet waters are technically considered to be in the cologne category. After-shave lotions usually contain 2-3% fragrance oil, while toilet waters sometimes utilize as much as 15% fragrance oil.

COLOGNE (CLASSICAL) : A term reserved for those fragrances which are basically citrus blends and do not have a perfume parent. Modern colognes, however, are often a lighter extension of the perfume.

COLOGNE (MEN'S) : Unlike women's colognes, it is similar to the concentration of toilet water, eau de Parfum, and in some instances perfume.

COLOGNE (WOMEN'S) : The lightest form of fragrance with a low concentration of perfume oils mixed with diluted alcohol.

COMPOUND : A compound is a completed perfume formulation ready to be used in a product such as

perfume, toilet water, etc. The terms “composition” and compound are interchangeable.

CONCRETE : During the process of extraction, flowers are subjected to solvents of various types by which the oils are removed. What remains is a very concentrated oil known as a “concrete.” The concrete is usually a solid, waxy substance representing the closest odor duplication of the flower from which is derived. Since the perfumer cannot use the concrete as such, it is further processed into absolutes that have already been described

COPAHA (BALM) : Also called Copaiba balsam; an oil obtained from trees of family Copaifera, which grow wild in South America. Described as having a mild, sweet, balsamic peppery smell.

COSMONE: Musky, warm and powdery notes.
(Givaudan).

COUMARIN: A compound that smells like vanilla. Usually derived from the tonka bean (see Tonka bean) , but also found in lavender, sweetgrass and other plants. Coumarin is banned as a food additive in the United States due to toxicity issues, but is used to produce anti-coagulant medicines, rat poison, and as a valuable component of incense and perfumes.

CUIR : French word for leather.

CUMIN NITRILE : Spicy, cumin and green notes.
(Givaudan).

CYCLOMONE A : Ozone, fruity , woody , herbal notes.

CYPRIOL : An essential oil derived from the roots of *Cyperus scariosus*, aka Indian papyrus, aka nagarmotha grass. The term cypriol is sometimes used interchangeably with papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*) in lists of perfume notes.

D

DAVAN : Oil derived from *artemisia pallens*, described as having a sweet, fruity odor

DELTA DAMASCONE : Fruity, cassis, floral and woody notes.

DEPTH: A fragrance has depth when a leading identity of accord or character is noticeable during its evolution from top notes to dry down.

DI HYDRO ISO JASMONE : Mild, jasmine, fruity odor. Used in jasmine fragrances. (Bedoukian).

DIFFUSIVE: A term used to describe a fragrance, the odor of which spreads quickly and widely. It fills the space. Also described as “throw” or “lift.”

DIMETOL : Lavender, citrus, floral and woody notes (GR).

DISTILLATION : One of the oldest methods of separating oils from flowers and still widely used. It is a heat-dependent process for separation and purification of a liquid mixture based on differences in vapor pressure of components of the mixture. In each case, the flowers or other sources of oil are changed into a still and heat is applied to separate the oil. One type involves direct contact between the plant material and boiling water. In another type, the heat source is steam that is blown through the flowers. The process involves vaporization of the more volatile component(s) and then condensation of the vapor back to a liquid. The water and oil are collected and as they separate, the oil is removed from the top.

DRYDOWN : The final phase of a fragrance—the character that appears several hours after application. Perfumers evaluate the base notes and the tenacity of the fragrance during this stage.

E

EAU DE COLOGNE: A toilet water first developed early in the 18th century by an Italian, Paul Feminis, living in Cologne, who called it "L'Eau Admirable", it was based on citrus, neroli, lemon, bergamot and lavender. At the beginning of the 19th century, the product was modified by Jean Farina, under the name Eau de Cologne and after it is produced under the name "Jean Marie Farina". Very different eau de colognes have subsequently been marketed, using a variety of further ingredients such as rosemary and honeywater. Modern eau de colognes are toilet waters containing 3-6% of perfume oil in a 70% alcohol / Water mix.

EAU DE PARFUM : In modern perfumery this is the highest grade of Eau being a perfumed toilet preparation containing substantially more perfume oil than either eau de cologne or eau de toilette. It usually contains 15-18% of perfume oil mixed with a 80-90% grade alcohol. (Nigel Groom).

EAU DE TOILETTE : In modern perfumery this signifies a perfumed toilet preparation with a perfume oil content of 4-8% in an alcohol, thus stronger than eau de cologne and weaker than eau de parfum. (Nigel Groom).

EFETAAL: floral, green and hyacinth notes. (Givaudan).

EARTHY :The peculiar aroma of fresh turned soil. It is also described as “rooty” as is exhibited in vetivert oil and sometimes in patchouli oil.

ELEM : A gum resin which introduces a light, fresh, balsamic-spicy, and citrus scent.

ELINATAAL: Floral, green and muguet notes.(Givaudan).

EMPETAL : Fresh, aldehydic, citrus and marine notes. (Givaudan).

ENFLEURAGE (1) : A process whereby fragrant materials are infused into solid, odorless fats. Traditional cold enfleurage used refined lard or tallow spread on a frame; the petals were placed on top of the fat. Warm or hot enfleurage involved first heating the fat, adding petals, draining the fat, and repeating with more petals.

ENFLEURAGE (2) : The traditional method of separating the absolute from flowers. The procedure involves placing the petals between layers of fat to which they impart their odor. The layering is repeated again and again with fresh petals until the fat is rich in the flower’s essential oils. The oils are extracted from the fat with alcohol, after which the alcohol is distilled leaving the absolute.

EPICES : A French word for spices.

ESSENCES : Products which endeavour to capture or emphasize the highly volatile top notes of natural products.

ESSENTIAL OIL : The “essence” of plants or the fragrant, volatile extracts obtained from flowers, grass, stems, seeds, leaves, roots, bark, fruits, tree moss and tree secretions. They are obtained by various means including distillation, expression and extraction.

EVAPORATION : The process of changing from a liquid to a vapour

EVERNYL : A synthetic substitute for oakmoss

EXPRESSION : A production method used to obtain citrus oils and fruit juices. The expressed or cold pressed essential oils are obtained from the peels of the fruits. Expression yields essential oils that can contain a certain amount of non-volatile material.

EXTRACT (1) : An alcoholic solution of fragrance oil. The traditional concentration of the fragrance oil in an extract is between 15 and 50% of oil in the finished extract. The layman refers to the extract as “perfume.”

EXTRACT (2): Concentrated perfume or flower products obtained through the process of extraction using volatile solvents.

EXTRACTION : A process for obtaining natural oils by means of tanks and solvents and is used with certain flowers and plants where the heat of steam distillation might damage or destroy the odorous substances or in such cases where the yield of oils is rather small. In one process, the tank is stationary and the solvent flows over the flowers or other natural matter. The other involves the use of a revolving unit inside of which the flowers move through the solvent. After removal of the solvent, alcohol is agitated through the remaining mixture of waxes and oils and the former is removed by chilling and filtering. The alcohol and oil mixture is then brought to the boiling point, the alcohol filtered off, and the concentrate allowed to remain for recovery. The concrete, as previously defined, is the pure essence in solid form from which an absolute is derived.