Scottish Single Transferable Voting system

What is the Scottish Single Transferable Voting system?

As the name implies, this Scottish single transferable voting (STV) system is used for Scottish Council elections (and we use the STV for our Federal Senate elections as well).

A quota is set first, based on the number of voters and the number of candidates.

As an example, let's look at an election where there are 2 positions and 49 voters. The quota is determined by the number of votes divided by the number of positions plus one, and a 1 is added to that figure. In our example, the quota will be 49 divided by (2 positions + 1) 3. This comes to 16.33, and then one is added bringing it to 17.33. This number will be rounded down to 17. So any candidate who reaches the quota of 17 is elected (Stage 1), and any votes above the quota are distributed amongst the remaining candidates (Stage 2). At this point if there is a candidate who exceeds the quota, then they are elected and surplus voting preferences distributed to the remaining candidate. Conversely, if no candidate reaches the threshold, then the candidate with the least number of votes is excluded, and the votes distributed to the remaining candidates. This process continues until the 2 positions are filled.

Here is a great video explaining the system.