

Choosing and Using Interfacing (T007-1)

Here's some tips for choosing and using interfacing in your sewing projects.

What is Interfacing?

Interfacing is a textile used on the unseen or "wrong" side of fabrics to make an area of a garment more stable and to improve the 'handle'.

1. Choosing Suitable Interfacing

If you're not sure which weight of interfacing to buy for a dressmaking project, always buy one that is a little lighter than the fabric you will be applying it to. Interfacing always feels a little stiffer once applied to fabric and the heavier ones can make your collars and cuffs feel like cardboard.

2. Iron Your Fabric before Applying Iron-On Interfacing

When using iron-on interfacing, make sure that the fabric is completely smooth before you apply the interfacing. Otherwise, you're likely to end up with wrinkles and air bubbles which will be very difficult to remove.

3. Set Your Iron to the Wool Setting for Attaching Iron-On Interfacing

If it is any hotter, it may scorch and wrinkle the interfacing. If any cooler, it may not melt the glue layer.



4. 'Press', Don't 'Iron'

When applying iron-on interfacing be sure to 'press' rather than 'iron'. Ironing may place

undue stress on the interfacing, causing it to wrinkle.

5. Keep a Separate Iron for Applying Interfacing or Fusible Webs.

As you don't need much heat, a cheap one will do. It will save you lots of time and avoid unsightly glue marks on the family's ironing.

6. Cover your Ironing Board with Greaseproof Paper

Just a tiny overhang of interfacing can make a real mess of both iron and board so use some greaseproof paper.

7. Always Check Your Fabric's Care Instructions

Ensure that the care instructions on the interfacing are compatible with the fabric you're using it for. If you're going to apply it to a cotton fabric that is going to need lots of high temperature washes, make sure the interfacing can take the heat or you're liable to end up with a sticky, matted mess.

8. Use Ultrasoft Interfacing to Stabilise Fabrics for Patchwork

This is especially useful if you want to use vintage fabrics, worn fabrics, silk ties and anything that frays easily. And it comes in black and white.

9. Make Folders and Book Covers

Firm fusible interfacing is great for making fabric folders and book covers. Once you've applied it to your fabric, you can appliqué or machine-embroider it without using a hoop.

10. Avoid Re-Heating

Once you have applied interfacing to a particular area, try to avoid applying heat to that area. If the glue is re-melted, the interfacing may move out of position.