1981

Shape Up With Interfacing

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact

Recommended Citation
https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact/950

This Fact Sheet is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in SDSU Extension Fact Sheets by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.
shape up with interfacing

Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture
shape up with interfacing

Interfacings help clothes keep their shape and look fresh. Many good interfacing materials are available today.

Why use interfacing?  Where?
---  ------------------
to add body or shape  collars, cuffs, necklines, pockets
to add strength or control stretch  buttons, buttonholes, yokes, facings
to keep seams and hems from showing through on the right side  collars, cuffs, waistbands, coat and jacket hems

What’s available?
Interfacing is available in woven, nonwoven, and knit constructions. Each type comes in a range of weights and crispness—from very soft to stiff. Also, both fusible and non-fusible forms are available in each type.

How to decide
Several different interfacings will be appropriate for a particular garment. Keep several yards of your favorites on hand. Consider these points as you choose interfacing.

Compatibility. Interfacing fabrics are usually the same weight or lighter than the fashion fabric. Drape your fabric over the interfacing to see how they act together. Remember that fusibles are firmer once they are fused.

Purpose. You might use more than one kind of interfacing in a garment, depending on the features of the garment. For example, you’d want a crisper interfacing for a tailored look and a softer interfacing when body but not crispness is needed. Sometimes names of interfacings can give you a clue. Take advantage of the differences in stretch and crispness to get the effect you want. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Interfacing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a tailored, crisp shirt collar</td>
<td>Crisp interfacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a knit blazer lapel</td>
<td>Crisp interfacing with some give (all-bias, or crosswise stretch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For soft roll on a collar</td>
<td>Cut interfacing so the stretch goes around the neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For stable button holes or waistband</td>
<td>Stable interfacing or one with stability in the direction of the buttonholes or waistband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For firm waistbands</td>
<td>Stable interfacing with adequate stiffness or special-purpose waistband interfacing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Care. Interfacings and fashion fabric should require the same care.

Woven or non-woven? Either type may be suitable. Keep in mind these precautions:

- Woven interfacings ravel and may be finished off grain.
- Non-wovens can stretch during stitching. They may crease or buckle inside collars and cuffs.

Fusible or non-fusible? Today’s fusible interfacings are much better than earlier “iron-ons.” Be sure to test fusibles before using. Make a test that is similar to the fusing technique you are planning to use on your garment. It is often a trial and error process before you find the product that exactly fits your needs.

Applying interfacing
Interfacings are usually attached to upper layers of collars, cuffs, waistbands, and yokes. Non-fusibles may be stitched to either the facing or the garment. Fusibles should be attached to the facing. If fusibles affect the appearance of the fabric, consider using a non-fusible.

Using fusibles
Check the instructions.

Most fuse with a steam iron, but a few call for a dry iron. To eliminate bulk:

- Trim 3/8-1/2 inch from the seam allowance before fusing.
- Trim off interfacing on corners inside collars and cuffs.
- Trim away entire seam allowance in areas that will be topstitched.

If there are no instructions, follow these guidelines:

- Use steam or wool setting on the iron.
- Fuse-baste interfacing to wrong side of the fabric by touching the tip of the iron to the interfacing in several places.
- Cover interfacing with damp press cloth or paper towel.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fusible</th>
<th>Non-fusible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advantages</strong></td>
<td><strong>Disadvantages</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick to use</td>
<td>May make fabric too stiff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adds firmness</td>
<td>May not adhere permanently to very smooth, stiff, or shiny fabrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often makes topstitching easier</td>
<td>May alter appearance of napped or pile fabrics, crepe, seersucker, or gauze.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good for reinforcing small areas</td>
<td>Fusing agent may seep through sheer fabrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fusible knits work well on soft knits</td>
<td>May cause machine to skip stitches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Press all areas.
- Let fabric cool before handling. Check the binding. Repress if necessary.

- To remove interfacing, hold steam iron over the interfacing for several seconds. Pull away interfacing while it is still warm.

Prepared by Linda Manikowske, Extension clothing and textiles specialist, SDSU.

Adapted from a publication written by Phyllis Brackelsberg, assistant professor, textiles and clothing, and Rae Reilly, Extension specialist, textiles and clothing, Iowa State University. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work. Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. in cooperation with the USDA. Hollis D. Hall, Director of CES, SDSU, Brookings. Educational programs and materials offered without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, handicap, or national origin. An Equal Opportunity Employer. File: 13.4-5.5-5,000 printed at estimated 5 cents each—6/11/mb—8082A.

---

**shape up with interfacing**