

Using Pressing Aids

Using a Press Cloth



Press cloths are used to protect against shine, scorching, tearing, excessive heat, deterioration of fibers, or soiling from an unclean soleplate. Press cloths are placed over fabric being pressed, between fabric and iron. The following is a list of recommended materials for use as a press cloth, although any scrap of fabric that won't transfer lint is all right. You may purchase press cloths, including see-through ones.

For light weight fabrics - - - Lightweight Muslin or Cheesecloth

For medium weight fabrics - - - Non-padded diaper or flour sack tea towel

For heavy weight fabrics - - - Canvas or 100% wool

Fill an atomizer with very warm water and spray press cloth until evenly damp, but not saturated. Warm water penetrates more readily than cool water.

Inspect your iron's soleplate for any residues that might transfer to an item. If there is not time to properly clean the soleplate, use a press cloth.

Scorching a treasured item can be avoided by using a press cloth. Scorching can happen if your iron setting is too high, or if you allow iron to rest on one area for too long. Also, if there is any residue from laundry products that were not totally rinsed, scorching can occur. Lower heat setting if you suspect that scorching can occur and try an inconspicuous area first. *Immerse freshly scorched washable items in cold water immediately and soak for 24 hours.*

Shine will occur on dark or heavy fabrics unless you either iron with a press cloth or iron the reverse side. Acetates and rayons also need the same preventative measure.

To remedy an item with shine, wipe with a damp cloth or sponge and press with iron lightly using a press cloth. In addition, you can use a soft brush lightly on the surface.

For a lightweight press cloth that won't transfer too much moisture to fabric, use cheesecloth. Use double thickness over wool to allow steam to pass through.

A brown paper press cloth dampened by a damp cloth or a sponge is good for some applications such as when you are trying to avoid a shine.



Using a Pressing Ham:

Tailors and seamstresses use a pressing ham when constructing a garment, like pressing a contoured area around a seam, or shaping a dart. For ironing already constructed garments, a pressing ham comes in handy for getting to those hard-to-reach areas such as formal attire that have generous sleeves or touching up the sleeve of a woolen jacket.



Using a Pressing Mitt:

A pressing mitt comes in quite handy for jacket/formal attire sleeves that are awkward to position on an ironing board.



Using a Seam Roll:

Tailors and seamstresses use a seam roll when constructing long seams in a garment. This aids in minimizing the ridges visible on the right side of the fabric.

