

Sewing Basics - Pressing

By Nancy Fiedler

Pressing is one of the most important steps when sewing any type of project. Pressing sets stitches, compresses seams, shapes seams and so much more.

Set Stitches: Lay the seam flat and press (hold) a dry iron in place for a few seconds to embed the thread into the fabric and remove any slight distortion of the fabric.

Press Seams Open: After setting the stitches, open the seam and press for a few seconds so that the seam remains open. Do not move the iron forward and back as this may distort the fabric.

Press Seam to Side: After setting the stitches, turn the project to the right side and gently press the seam in one direction. It is often recommended to press the seam towards the dark color.

Press Embroidery: Place a folded clean towel on a flat surface to cushion the embroidery during the pressing process. Place the embroidery face down, set iron temperature to the fabric, mist with water and hold the iron in place for 10-12 seconds.

Fusing Interfacing: Steam and pressure are the two factors that makes fusible interfacing adhere to the fabric. Set the iron to the manufacturer's recommended temperature. Mist the area with water and then press, holding the iron in place for 10-12 seconds. Lift the iron and move to the next section. Do not move the iron back and forth.

Fusing Stabilizer: Set the iron to the manufacturer's recommended temperature. Press by holding the iron in place for 10-12 seconds. Lift the iron and move to the next section. Do not move the iron back and forth.

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- Using high quality tools will make the pressing step easier and give you professional results.
- Oliso Smart Iron for everyday pressing and ironing chores.



- This steam iron prevents scorching, accidental tipping and burns. The digital temperature control gives consistent and precise heating, as well as continuous steam. An 8-minute auto shut-off prevents accidental overheating.
- The **Prestigeboard** has a large ergonomic surface, iron rest and practical linen rack for a solid and stable work space.



- The **LauraStar** System offers a professional ironing, steaming and working surface all in one. The board has a blower-vacuum system for perfect results without creases and the integrated steam generator creates powerful steam in horizontal and vertical positions.



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- The **Elna Press** is the perfect tool for all large pressing needs. The work surface has 10 times the area of a standard iron and exerts 100lbs. of pressure, so interfacings and stabilizers will fuse in place quickly and easily. Removing wrinkles from prewashed fabric or fabric that has become creased in storage will never be a chore.



- The **Perfect Press** is a .12mm double-coated nonstick surface which can resist 500 degrees. This pressing sheet protects fabric from becoming excessive heat and convenient built-in handles prevent burnt finger tips as the project is moved.



- The Polyfer Iron Cleaner is designed to keep the soleplate of your iron good as new. Simply rub the cool iron against the mat in a forward and a backward motion to clean any residue built up.



*Visit our friends at **Sew4Home** (www.sew4home.com) for more pressing tips.