



Published by the University of Missouri-Columbia
 Extension Division
 College of Home Economics

Tips for Fusing

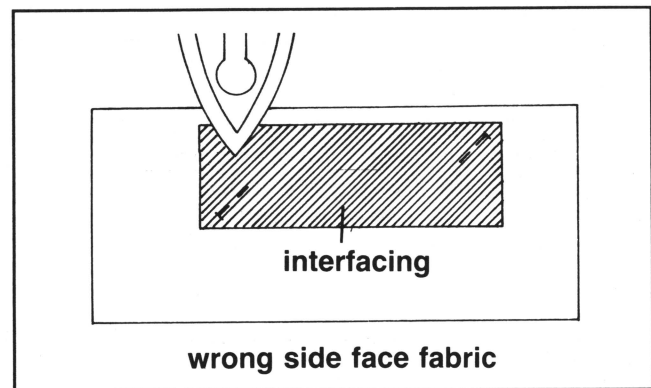
Velda Rankin, State Clothing & Textiles Specialist
 Janet Delcour, Area Clothing & Textiles Specialist

Selecting the one interfacing that will be most compatible with the chosen fashion fabric and applying the interfacing properly are keys to constructing garments with a professional look. Pattern companies suggest appropriate face fabrics but do not specify the interfacing for the drape or hang you want to achieve. Some manufacturers print this information on the edge of the interfacing and on the end of the bolt.

Interfacings available range from fluid and soft to stiff and rigid; however, not all stores carry all weights. The wise consumer will shop for the best selection. The following directions are for fusible interfacings.

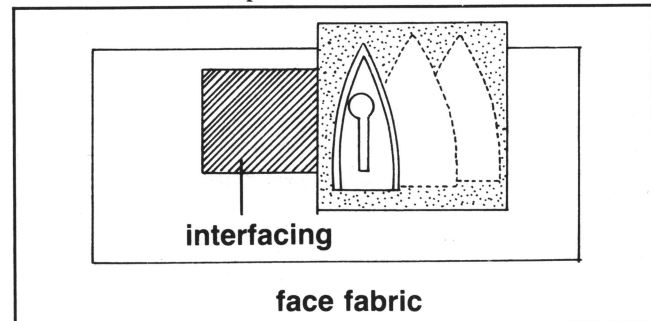
General Guidelines

1. **Evaluate** each project to determine the type interfacing needed and shop until you find the right one. It is not uncommon to use two or more interfacings on one garment, depending on the degree of body and shaping desired. The choice between fusible and sew-ins depends on the outer fabric and personal preference. Fusibles are not recommended for acetates, pure silks or silicon-treated fabrics.
2. **Economizing** on interfacing is taking a risk. Reliable manufacturers research their product and stand behind it.
3. **Follow the manufacturer's directions** explicitly. The interfacing must be properly applied in order to give satisfactory results.
4. **Pre-shrink** before cutting. Gently place the interfacing in a tub of *tepid* water and soak for 10 minutes. Remove from water and hang over a rod to drip dry. *Do not crush or wring* the interfacing during this procedure.
5. **Test** on a fabric swatch before starting the garment.
6. **Trim** away 1/2 inch of the seam allowance before fusing.
7. **Buttonholes**—Avoid puffy buttonholes by fusing small pinked patches of sheer weight fusible, cut lengthwise, over the interfacing for sheer fabrics and on the wrong side of heavy face fabric at the button hole markings.
8. **Edges**—Make a test swatch. If a line shows where the interfacing ends, pink the edges.

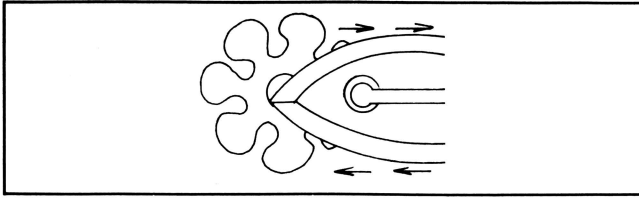


Guidelines for Applying Fusibles

1. **Steam Baste**—Steam basting is quick and efficient.
 - a. Place the fusible side of the interfacing on the wrong side of the face fabric.
 - b. Anchor with a few pins.
 - c. Steam baste by touching lightly, in strategic spots, with the tip of the steam iron.
 - d. Remove anchor pins.



2. **Fusing interfacing to face fabric**
 - a. Cover with a damp pressing cloth. Handiwipes, or a similar product are suitable.
 - b. Set steam iron at recommended temperature.
 - c. Place the iron and press firmly for the recommended time, not more or less.
 - d. *Raise*, do not slide, the iron. Overlap the first section, lower the iron, press the recommended time and continue until the piece is fused.
 - e. Cool before handling.



3. **Iron-Ons**—Do not confuse iron-ons with fusibles. Iron-ons are used to provide a firm, crisp reinforcement and are commonly used for craft or decorator items.
- Place the iron-on to the right side of the face fabric.
 - Apply with a hot, dry iron and a gliding motion.

Lightweight and Sheer Fabrics

Lightweight knits and wovens, voiles, chiffons, silky crepes, tissue weight jerseys, filmy knits and gauzes are among the most difficult to interface. If you select one of these fabrics for a suit blouse note the following suggestions.

Interfacing choices

- Sheer weight *sew-in* interfacing for a soft, subtle look.
- Sheer weight *fusible* for crisp, delicate body.
- Neutral color* to prevent show through, keep colors true, and maintain the see through look.

Sewing Hints

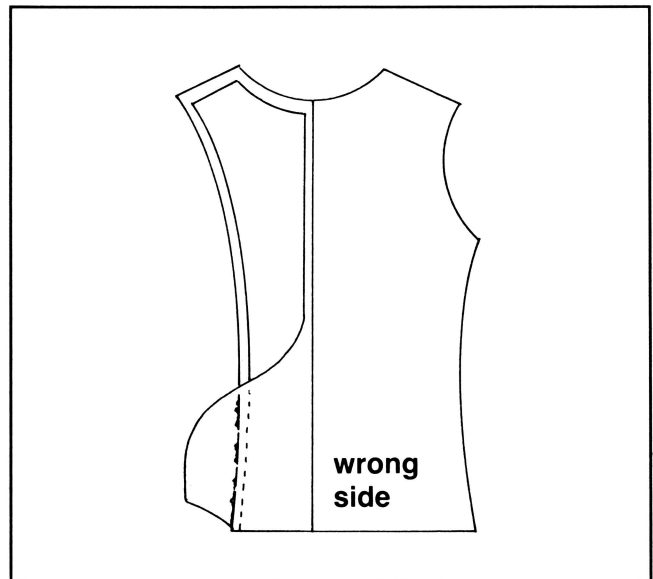
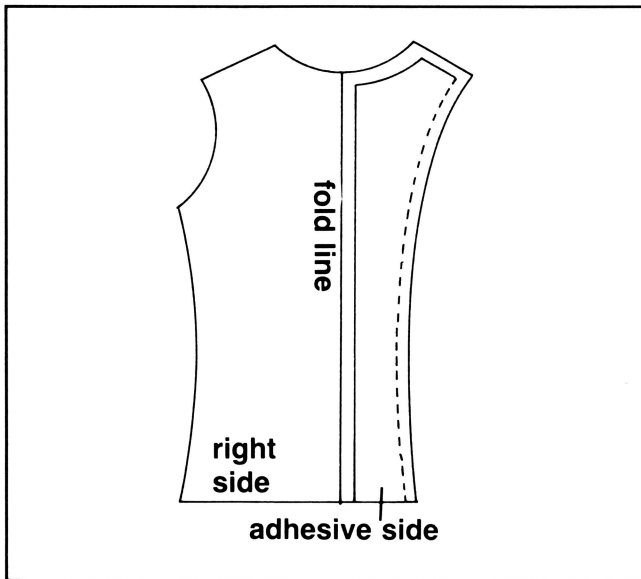
Notions—Use silk pins, fine needles and fine thread, lightweight zippers and trims, and sharp scissors.

Stitching—prevent puckers by using a straight stitch throat-plate and strips of tissue paper between the fabric and feed-dog.

Grainline—Use the lengthwise edgemarking on sheer weight interfacing for the grainline.

Edge finish—Prevent a raw edge from showing by encasing the edge as follows.

- Cut the sheet weight fusible facing on grain to the shape of the facing.
- Trim away ½ inch from the interfacing at the neckline seam allowance.
- Place the interfacing with the fusible side up on the right side of the blouse facing.
- Machine stitch through interfacing and blouse facing ¼ inch from the edge.
- Pink the edge and turn interfacing to wrong side.
- Fuse as directed.



Selection Guide

Fabric Weight	Hand Desired	Fabric Types
Sheer to Lightweight	light to crisp hand, soft shaping	voile, chiffon, lawn, gauze, batiste, leno, georgette, dimity, eyelet, dotted swiss, challis, Quiana, jersey, single knits, tricot, silk, crepe, satin crepe, lace
Featherweight to mid weight	soft hand, gentle support, subtle shaping	chambray, tattersall, oxford cloth, broadcloth, muslin, gingham, calico, cotton, flannel, seersucker, plisse, damask, sateen, rabbit hair, jersey, quilted fabrics
Mid weight to heavy weight	slightly crisp hand and body; controlled shaping softer hand and body; flexible shaping	corduroy, terrycloth, velour, chenille, velveteen, suedecloth, poplin, duck, denim, sailcloth, chino, khaki, linen types, jute, hopsacking, gabardine, doubleknits, rainwear
Light to heavy weight	soft shaping; natural hand and drape	crepe, jersey, single knit, Quiana, challis, broadcloth, poplin, chino, duck, linen types, gabardine, tweed, twill, wool and wool blends, corduroy, terrycloth
Suiting weight	soft tailoring controlled shaping	Suiting weight of: wool and wool blends, herringbone, camel hair, gabardine, flannel, boucle, doubleknits, mohair
Outerwear weights	soft tailoring and shaping; extra stability	Coatings: wools, melton, camel hair, tweed, tweed, twill, angora, fake fur

Reviewed from: "Guidelines to Shaping" - Pellon Corporation

This guide is part of a series on clothing construction.
For others in the series see Home Economics guides 410-422.

■ Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Leonard C. Douglas, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Missouri and Lincoln University, Columbia, Missouri 65211. ■ An equal opportunity institution.