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Do I need a press to fuse my fabric?

Fusing your interfacing with a standard iron

When fusing interfacing to a fabric all you need is a good sturdy iron. If you are fusing large panels on a regular basis then a press is a recommended investment. If you are fusing your panels with an iron, start off with the heat setting on silk or wool which is not the hottest setting but you then do not go through the risk of curling the interfacing, when you have applied heat and it has fused the interfacing to the fabric, you can turn up the setting on the iron to linen or cotton to get a real bond and set the interfacing permanently. Obviously the iron is going to take longer to fuse a panel than a press would as the press can cope with more than one panel at a time. If you are fusing large panels with the iron, you will have to fuse one part and then move onto the next in a sort of overlapping motion, this technique takes longer than if you had a press but it is the only way to fuse the entire panel. You must also be careful as to cover all parts of your interfacing as the iron sole plate has steam holes and these can be missed if not kept an eye on resulting in patches of non fused interfacing.

Fusing interfacing with a press

A press is like a very large iron as it has a larger heated sole plate and can cope with larger areas in one go. The pressure when the press is in contact with the fabric (in the down position) is greater than that of an iron. The press can cope with large areas and will distribute the heat in a much more even way as there are no steam holes on the large sole plate of the press. You do not need to worry about missing parts that have not bonded together like you would with the standard iron. When working with a press, you must first set the desired heat setting and wait for that temperature to be reached in the same way as a conventional iron. Once the press is at the desired temperature, you can place your fabric panels onto the cloth bed of the press and place the interfacing on top of your fabric. With the handles pull the sole plate down onto the cloth bed and wait a few seconds before you release and open the sole plate of the press to check to see if the interfacing has fused to the fabric. If you are not happy with the bonding keep the press down for longer as this will bond the interfacing and the fabric more. It is best to start off with a short press first, check the cloth and then press again for longer, as this irradiates any problems that might occur. The press also reduces the interfacing and fabric from moving as you do not have any overlapping motion as you would have with the conventional iron. This is because the sole plate is pressed onto the fabric bed trapping your cloth and interfacing and so reducing any movement while the sole plate is in the down position. If you do a lot of sewing and this includes fusing panels on a regular basis, then a press is highly recommended piece of sewing equipment to have in your sewing room.



Getting the fabric panels ready on the press before the interfacing will be bonded to the cloth.

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