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### **Does my pressing equipment make a real difference to the end results?**

The whole process of creating a garment involves 50% make up and 50% pressing, so the whole process of ironing and shaping is a very important one. Your pressing equipment is the absolute backbone of garment make up and if done well can mean the difference of an ok looking garment and a perfect looking one. As a domestic sewer the equipment on the market is excellent with a wide choice of pressing aids. You do not, however need every sleeve board and tailors ham available but a general selection is a great starting point.

#### **The main pressing equipment**

To create wonderful looking garments, the sewer or tailor needs a general base of pressing equipment and these items can be found in many haberdashery stores on the main high street. Lets start out at looking at the main items you need to achieve some great results, the sewer who creates garments as a hobby and possibly a bit more.

*The steam iron:* A good steam iron with a water reservoir is the centre point and one of the first items that a sewer or tailor is going to purchase, without the steam-iron, you generally cannot complete your garments unless working with lycra for a sports or dancing outfit. An iron with a separate water reservoir is what will produce a good burst of steam and is essential when it comes to pressing and shaping of garments.

*The sleeve board:* This item is an essential pressing aid for sleeves and general tubular parts to a garment. Also great for pressing seams, a general workhorse in the sewers arsenal of equipment.



*A good steam iron and a sleeve board is a great starting point for your pressing equipment*

#### **For those who sew or tailor that little bit more**

*The tailors ham:* is a firmly packed cushion shaped very much like a rugby ball, this pressing aid is for giving general shape into garments like the front panel of a jacket or the darts on a skirt.

*The point presser:* is made of wood, it has a solid flat base and an arc like structure on the top which form points on both ends. This great pressing aid is for forming the points on garments such as mitred corners on jacket sleeves and skirts that have a vent.

*Seam roll:* is an oblong cushion firmly packed very much like the tailors ham. This pressing aid is used for the pressing of seams without the seam edges showing through on the right side. Excellent for getting into finished tubular panels such as sleeves and trousers legs.

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