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Is a seam roll pressing aid that important?

Pressing a garment is a very important process when it comes to sewing and tailoring as the results can mean a shoddy looking garment or a clean cut crisp professional looking garment. Pressing is as important as the actual make up and should be carried out around 50 - 60% of the whole garment creation process. There are various pressing aids available on the market for the home sewer and the professional industry alike and these consist of tailors hams, sleeve boards, clapper boards, shaping boards, pressing mitts and seam rolls.

What is a seam roll and how is it used?

The seam roll is an oblong pressing aid specially designed to pressing seams open once the two fabric pieces have been sewn together. Why would you use a seam roll to press? You might ask over just laying the fabric flat on the ironing board, well the answer is simple, to prevent the pressed lines of the seam edges showing through to the right side of the fabric causing the effect of over pressing. The seam roll achieves this by its rounded shape as the iron will only touch the actual seam stitched line. As you drape the fabric over the seam roll with the seam line running lengthways, the edges of the seam allowances will drape downwards over the seam roll away from the contact point of the iron while you are pressing. As pressure is applied to the thin stitched seam only, the allowance edges are not touched resulting in a beautifully pressed open seam without over pressing marks.



The classic seam roll

Getting the best out of your seam roll

If you use the seam roll in conjunction with a sleeve board, your fabric can drape more easily away from the pressing area. Simply place the seam roll onto the sleeve board and drape your fabric over that, not only does this result in better draping of your fabric while you are pressing, but also brings the working area closer to you and your line of sight resulting in a more accurate pressed seam.

The seam roll is great for tubular items

If you are working with a jacket sleeve, the seam roll is an excellent pressing aid to have. Start by sliding the seam roll into the sleeve and place onto the sleeve board. The sleeve is now in position to be able to press any seams or areas that need shaping. If your sleeve is big enough, you can slide the sleeve over both the sleeve board and the seam roll causing the sleeve to be stretched taught and can be steamed to create shape or take away any unwanted pressing lines.

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