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Should I invest in buying a press?

Should I invest in buying a press? Well only you will know the answer to that question, I can only give you advise with the pros and cons when buying a piece of sewing equipment like the steam press. The press is essentially a very large iron which can cope with a pressing a large area in one motion, this makes pressing garments and fusing interfacing a lot easier and quicker than a conventional iron. The press does as its name suggests, it presses down onto the cloth and can not be moved around so the press will always stay in one position permanently unlike the iron which can be moved around freely in any position. The press can produce steam on some models but not all. This is achieved by having a small unit that you can fill with water and it sits on one of the handles of the press. This water device has small nozzles that grace the front which can spray water a lot like the water spray you would get on a motor car where the window wipers are situated. This small water device can be freely removed if needed by sliding it off the handles of the press but in most instances can be left happily sitting there as it does not get in the way of any work that you are doing.

Do I really need a press?

The main reason why sewers and tailors alike would invest in a press is that they are working with a lot of garments that need interfacing and having a press really speeds the job up. If you are doing a lot of shaping to garments with steam, then a really good steam iron with a water reservoir would be the better choice as the press is only kept in one position and can not be moved around. The benefits of owning a press can be very rewarding as it takes the time out of fusing interfacing to garments, it does this very efficiently as it can cope with big areas in one go. The press will apply a lot more pressure to the cloth when in the closed position than a conventional iron and so can cope with a vast selection of different interfacings, (some interfacings require greater pressure to bond than others). As the press has a very large sole plate that heats up like the iron, this gives the scope for a lot more accuracy and will reduce the risk of missed parts when bonding the interfacing to the cloth, this means the fused cloth will be very evenly distributed and result in a more professional look.

The large sole plate does not have steam holes like that of an iron and so again will bond interfacing more evenly and securely. One thing you have to watch out for when using interfacing is that you place the interfacing glue side down to face the fabric otherwise it will stick to the heated sole plate and will then require immediate cleaning.

Overall the press is an excellent piece of equipment to have along side the iron and can really save time when it comes to fusing interfacing onto your panels before you sew them together. If you sew a lot then I would definitely recommend the tailors press.

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