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What is fusing?

Fusing or otherwise known as interfacing gives support and stabilizes areas of a panel ready to be attached to a garment. Interfacing is also used for reinforcing and preventing fabric from stretching. Interfacing works by applying heat which melts the glue and in turn bonds the fusing to the fabric. There are certain areas of sewing where you can put your sewing machine aside and "sew" with a wide range of heat sensitive, iron on sewing aids. Timesaving and easy to use, these fusible's iron-ons and fusible webs are a fundamental part of today's sewing,

An iron-on is applied using heat and pressure only, no steam. Mending tape, mending patches and some hem tapes are today's most common iron-ons. However as technology improves, more iron-on products are available. For quick glamour, there are embroidered appliques and sequin trims that can be applied with the touch of your iron.

A fusible is applied using a combination of heat, steam and pressure. Fusible products include interfacing and fusible web. Both fusible and iron-on products come with instructions unless you buy interfacing off a large roll. If your fusing comes with instructions, be sure to follow them carefully. To be on the safe, always use a press cloth to protect your fabric.

Fusible web is an adhesive web that glues two layers of fabric together. Don't confuse fusible web with fusible interfacing. Fusible web will not shape, support or reinforce your fabric the way fusible interfacing will. In fact if you examine fusible web carefully, you will see that it is not fabric at all. Its a network of fibres. When the prescribed combination of heat, steam and pressure is applied, these fibres melt and disappear, causing the two layers of fabric to adhere to one another. Use it as a substitute for hand tacking to keep facings etc from rolling to the outside of a garment.

Fuse-baste with fusible web. Position the web between the two layers of fabric, cover with a damp press cloth and press lightly for two to three seconds. This basting method is great for preventing ribbons, trims etc from rippling and shifting as they are stitched. Its also a useful technique when sewing lapped seams on fabrics that cannot be pinned, such as synthetic suede.

Hems on casual clothes and children's garments can be fused in place instead of sewing. Design your own appliques and fuse them in place with fusible web. Draw the shape directly on the right side of the fabric. Place the fabric, right side up over the fusible web then cut out both layers at the same time. This is a great way to cover tears and worn spots in children's garments.

As general rule by the interfacing that suits the fabric that you are working with so for instance if you are making a jacket and the fabric is a heavy twill, then apply a heavy fusing to match the fabric and on the other hand if you are working with a light fabric, apply a lightweight fusing. If you are working with light interfacing be careful not to have the iron too hot as this will curl and burn the fusing. The best way is to apply the fusing with a lower heat setting and if that bonds with no curling, set the iron hotter and bond the interfacing again to make sure it has taken to the fabric and your fusing has really bonded well together.

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