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Where can I buy that tailors ham that you are using?

The tailors ham is an essential part to any tailors arsenal of pressing equipment. The Tailors ham is essentially used for pressing the shape into a garment to give it a fitted look. The ham is shaped very much like a rugby ball and is made from a heavy weight linen or cotton drill, this is then packed with wadding to give a sturdy yet soft pressing aide. The tailors ham comes in various shapes and can be purchased from most haberdashery shops. The tailors ham can come complete with a ham holder as a set but usually is a separate item. The ham holder is made of sturdy plastic and has 3 U shaped sides enabling the ham to be cradled and sit in various positions. Being able to move the ham freely and also sit sturdy in the various positions is ideal for pressing various parts of the garment, such as sleeve heads and shaping the front panels of a jacket.

The Standard tailors ham measures about 35 cm in length and has a circumference of about 50 cm around the widest part, this is the ideal size to be able to give really nice shaping to sleeve heads and covers a nice area when pressing the shape into the front panel of a jacket. There are various shaped hams, one which has the appearance a bit like a banana, again the size is the same as the standard ham but can have a slightly reduced circumference as to give more emphasis on the inward curve. Other hams are smaller in size to cope with smaller tasks in hand such as a ladies tailored jacket with a smaller sleeve head. Essentially the ham is always shaped like a rugby ball as this copes with all tasks when pressing.

A bit of advice from a tailor.

When it comes to choosing a ham, purchase the largest one that you can find and start off with that one, there is no need to go out and buy every shaped ham that you can find, as a standard ham will cope with every eventuality that you will come across in your sewing projects. If you are sewing a lot and possibly to make a living then maybe you can invest in the other various hams available on the market as they can give you even more scope to pressing your garments. The pressing equipment that I would recommend would be a standard tailors ham, a ham holder, a sleeve roll and a pressing glove. With those 4 pressing aids, you will be able to produce some fantastic garments and have the confidence that you know whatever part that needs pressing, you will have the tool for the job.



The standard tailors ham cradled in the ham holder pressing a sleeve head.

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