

BASIC GUIDE TO INTERFACING

Disclaimer – there are a variety of makes and uses of interfacing this is a basic guide to help you along.

What is interfacing

“**Interfacing** is a [textile](#) used on the unseen or "wrong" side of [fabrics](#) to make an area of a garment more rigid. Interfacings can be used to stiffen or add body to fabric, such as the interfacing used in [shirt](#) collars strengthen a certain area of the fabric, for instance where [buttonholes](#) will be sewn keep fabrics from stretching out of shape, particularly [knit](#) fabrics”

www.wikipedia.com

It is also used in applique work. It stiffens the fabric, gives it support and structure and stops it from fraying. Used in applique projects, interfacing allows you to draw and cut your design out easily and gives the design a rigidity which works perfectly with satin stitching.

Types of interfacing

There are two basic types of interfacing:

1. Fusible or iron on

This is the easiest to use. It has little “bobbles” or small dots of glue on one side, which when ironed will stick/bond to your fabric, permanently.

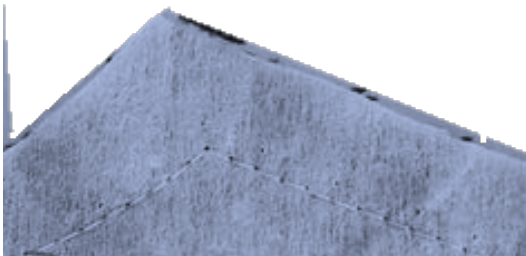
You can use fusible interfacing on most fabrics, excepting napped fabric - fur, velvet; heat sensitive fabrics - sequins, metallic, vinyl or open weave fabrics – lace, tulle. For these types of fabrics you use the sew in interfacing.



2. Sew in – also known as “**Non-fusible interfacing**”

This type of interfacing has to be stitched in place, by hand or machine.

This is used on fabrics that cannot use the Fusible interfacing and is very popular when creating an outfit. It has a more flexible feel and softer look.

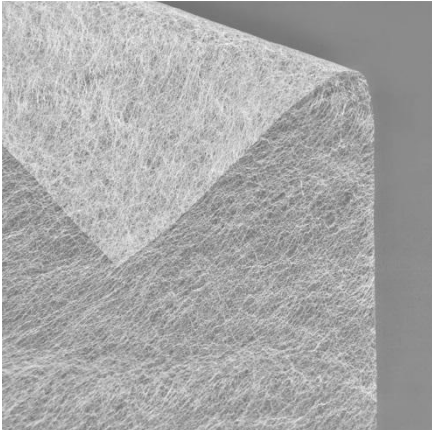


The two types of Interfacing come in different weaves and weights.

3 different commonly used weaves:

1. Non-woven interfacing:

This is easy to use and suitable for most fabric and uses. Non-woven interfacing has been bonded together and it has no grain - line, it almost looks and feels like handmade paper. As it does not have a grain it can be cut in any direction.



2. Woven interfacing:

This looks like woven fabric, it has a lengthwise and crosswise grain, giving that weave look.

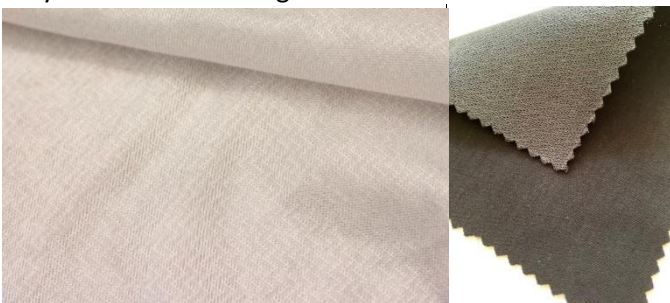
When cutting woven interfacing you need to match the grain with the fabric grain, so that your fabric does not look “wonky” or distorted.



3. Knit interfacing:

This has a stretch and it is therefore used on jersey knits or stretch fabrics.

Only use knit interfacing on fabrics that have a stretch to it.



Our 3 weights in interfacing are:

1. Light
2. Medium

A medium weight is generally good for most things.

3. Heavyweight

Always use the same Interfacing weight as the fabric weight – eg chiffon, you will use light weight interfacing and denim you use heavy weight interfacing.

Interfacing comes in 2 main colours – black and white. Black interfacing is generally used for the darker fabrics and white for the lighter colours.



Please visit the link below for a great chart on interfacing and how to wash and use.

https://www.cottonpatch.co.uk/acatalog/Interfacings_fusibles_and_stabilisers_comparison_chart.html

Notes And Tips.

The fusible interfacing can be woven, non-woven or knit.

A knit interfacing is mostly fusible and they have a good stretch making it suitable for a variety of purposes. They are supple as well.

The non woven fusible interfacing looks like paper. You should follow the grain in this type otherwise you will get wrinkles on the fabric it is attached to.

Double-sided fusible: There is also a double-sided fusible type of interfacing that bonds with the fabric on both sides. I use this extensively when sewing appliques. It holds your pieces in place and stops the edges from fraying.

Do not use fusible interfacing with

Pile fabric like velvet or fur – it flattens the pile.

Fabric that will melt or distort with heat – sequins, plastic, vinyl.

Very textured fabrics with uneven surface – glue does not stick.

Because fabrics like lace, tulle and other mesh-based material have little or no “substance” for the glue to adhere to, fusible interfacing can be difficult to use.

Use non-woven interfacing for most tasks unless you are sewing with a jersey or stretch fabric when for instance a knit interfacing is appropriate. However, only consider woven interfacing for particularly fine materials such as sheers and silks.

How to apply interfacing

1. All interfacing is applied to the wrong side of your fabric.

2. **Sew in** interfacing is the simpler one. You pin it to your project and then stitch – follow the instructions to the pattern.

3. **Fusible** is easier to use, but must be ironed on properly, otherwise you will have lumps and crinkles. being washed.

TIPS before applying.

1. Always test with a piece of scrap.

2. I always create small holding stitches to hold the fabric and interfacing together, so that it does not slip or move whilst ironing. Create holding stitches in each corner or in 4 to 5 spots around the edge of your project.

3. I have two old pillow cases that I use and reuse (easy to wash). Or you can buy or make your own press cloth.

4. Remember the iron heat setting must be correct for the fabric you are using.

5. Using steam allows the interfacing to fuse/bond better with the fabric.

6. Start ironing from the middle out.

Application process:

A. Place one pillow case on your iron board, then place the right side of the fabric onto the pillow case.

B. Place the bobble or glue/adhesive side (you can actually feel one side is smooth and the other is bumpy – little bobbles) of the interfacing facing the wrong side of the fabric, place your second pillowcase on top of all the layers and iron/press for 10 to 15 seconds at a time.

C. Allow to cool and then lift your top pillow case and check if the edges are stuck down.

EXTRA TIPS:

You can use fabric as interfacing.

1. Particularly when sewing garments, the same fabric as the outer fabric is used for lining. Common uses are the neckline and sleeveless outfits, it gives a more professional and neater finish.
2. Muslin and silk organza can be used.
3. If you are using suede or leather for your project, then canvas can be used as the interfacing.
4. Netting/tulle is a great interfacing for sequin fabrics.
5. And one of my favorites, mainly in craft projects is Felt.

How to prewash the interfacing

PLEASE visit the link below. It has the best washing instructions.

https://www.cottonpatch.co.uk/acatalog/Interfacings_fusibles_and_stabilisers_comparison_chart.html