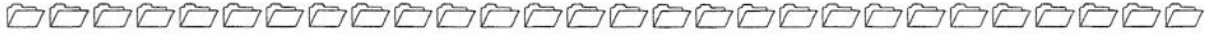




PRESSING MATTERS

- ✓ Pressing is an art; it an integral part of any garment's construction.
- ✓ You must press as you sew to achieve a professional look.
 - Overpressing gives an "old and worn" appearance to the garment.
 - Underpressing gives a "homemade" look to the garment
- ✓ Pressing is an up and down motion over the fabric with the iron.
Ironing is a back and forth motion across the fabric with the iron.
- ✓ The standards for a well-pressed garment are:
 1. There's no sign of pin or thread imprint.
 2. The garment is free from shine and iron marks.
 3. The darts are smooth and rounded at the points.
 4. The seams lay smooth and flat.
 5. There are no center creases showing (sleeves included).
- ✓ Pressing techniques:
 1. Use an up-and-down motion with the iron.
 2. Press curved areas over a curved surface, such as a tailor's ham or mitt.
 3. First, press darts as stitched, thus forming a crease from the outside fold to the point. (This eliminates having to use excess pressure to flatten darts; imprints are less apt to show on the outside of the garment.) Then, press vertical darts toward the center front or the center back as directed by the pattern guide. Press horizontal darts down.
 4. Each seam should be pressed before it is crossed with another.
 5. Each garment section (unit) should be pressed thoroughly before it is joined to another.
 6. Press seams open unless otherwise directed. Waistline seams are usually pressed upward toward the bodice, and armhole seams are pressed toward the sleeve. (Try pressing seams flat first. The tension of stitches is equalized and yarns that were distorted by the needle straighten.)
 7. Remove pins and basting threads before pressing. They will make indentations that are difficult to remove.
 8. Use a white vinegar and water solution (50/50) on center folds of fabric to remove the crease line.

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9. Never press woolens or linens completely dry. Hang garments on well-padded hangers to complete drying.
10. Avoid ripples in the hem by pressing from the folded edge toward the stitched edge.
11. Press with the grainline—never with the bias.
12. Brush the surface of soft woolens while slightly damp with a clothes brush to raise the nap.
13. A needleboard is suggested for pressing velvets and velveteens. If you do not have access to one, then use double pieces of terrycloth on the ironing board. Place the velvet/velveteen face down on the towels. Steam, but do not place the weight of the iron on the fabric.
14. For additional moisture, do not saturate a press cloth; instead, spray moisture on the surface of the press cloth.
15. Another piece of wool makes an excellent press cloth for woolens. Place wool over wool, spray moisture, and then press.
16. Do not use the weight of the iron for pressure. Hold the iron in your hand at all times. When pressure is needed, use a clapper. With heat sensitive fabrics, the soleplate leaves an indentation when the iron is used for weight.

