Interfacing

Interfacing is a fabric, woven or non-woven, that is applied to the inside of a garment to add firmness to the fabric. This provides shape and structure in areas that require additional support such as collars, cuffs and waistbands. It can also be used to reinforce areas on a garment that may be prone to stretching or warping, such as buttonholes and welt pockets.

Interfacing would also be called for in other patterns such as bags, sides and bases, or for the brim of a hat.

Read your patterns instructions to see what is recommended for your chosen application. The pattern instructions will also highlight which pieces are to be cut from interfacing. Get to know your pattern instructions and become familiar with the different symbols that highlight right side, wrong side, interfacing, markings and notches.

There are a variety of interfacing options available, all of which come in different weights.

- **Fusible:** One side has an adhesive which is heat activated with an iron. This is pressed to the wrong side of your fashion fabric. The fusible side will feel bumpy, this is the side that will be adhered to the wrong side of your fabric.
- **Sew In:** This is sandwiched between layers of fabric and sewn into place, ideal for fabrics that are textured and can not be pressed.
- **Woven:** Created from a woven fabric, this does not have any stretch and works well with woven fabrics.
- **Non-woven:** This would typically be a fleece or felt type of interfacing.
- **Knit:** A stretchy interfacing which is used with knitted fabrics, such as jersey.

Tips:

- When fusing interfacing, 'press' it to the fabric by lifting the iron up and down, don't slide the iron. This helps to reduce any chance of the layers shifting and adhesive on your ironing board and iron plate. Follow manufacturers instructions for fusing.
- Use a pressing cloth, this protects your ironing board and iron.
- When choosing the type of interfacing consider the weight of the fashion fabric, where it will be used, the fabric care required, and the amount of shaping desired. The interfacing can be crisper than your fashion fabric, but should never be heavier in weight.
- It is recommended that interfacing be preshrunk before being applied to the fabric since steam and heat can cause the interfacing to shrink. To preshrink the interfacing, soak the interfacing in hot water for 15 minutes. Squeeze out excess water and hang to dry. Be sure that the interfacing is flat and smooth when drying - ***this is not recommended for fusible interfacing.***
- Block interfacing is a better option for fusible interfacing as washing is not possible. It will dry very wrinkled and cannot be ironed because of the sticky side, so please allow for shrinkage on your fabric.
- When cutting two of the same pattern piece, such as two fronts, be sure to reverse one piece so that you'll end up with left and right pieces rather than two right or two left pieces! Pieces which are symmetrical, such as collars and neck facings, may be cut on the fold if desired.

Block Interfacing:

- Fuse interfacing to your fabric yardage before cutting pattern pieces from fabric. This ensures that fabric & interfacing cannot distort while being handled; all pieces will stay on-grain and retain their true shapes.