



INTERFACING: Selection and Use

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Tailoring and interfacing are inseparable. The interfacing fabric and the way it is applied determine the garment's final shape and help preserve that shape. It increases the life of the garment and reduces the need for frequent pressing.

Interfacing for armholes, fronts, neck edges and hem:

- Gives body and adds firmness;
- Provides strength and prevents stretch;
- Supports roll of lapel;
- Softens the turn of hems.

Interfacing details such as pockets, cuffs and collars:

- Prevents pockets from drooping;
- Provides a firm shape to collar and cuffs;
- Supports styling details.

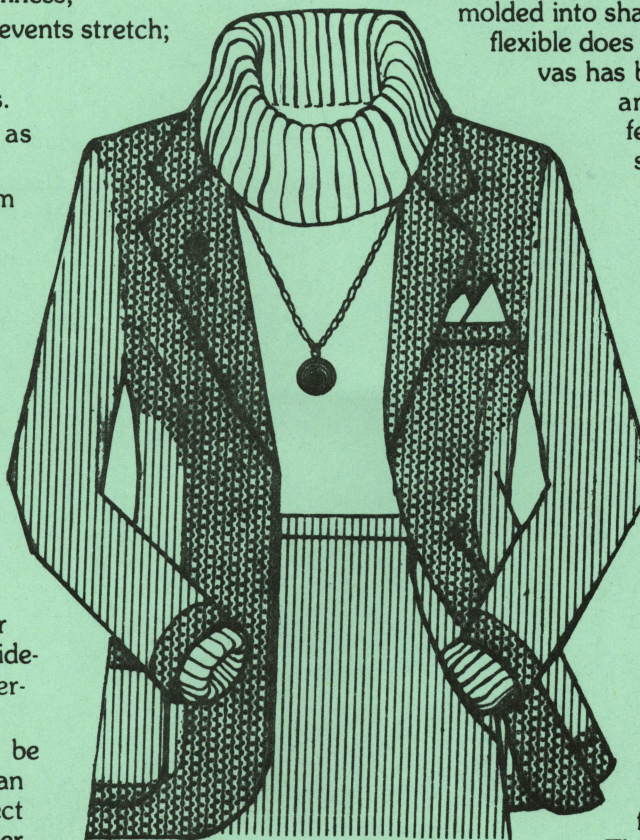
Interfacings today are woven, knitted or non-woven and can be sewn or fused in the garment. An interfacing can eliminate many ills of the home-made look. Interfacing gives stability, adds body and prevents stretching without adding bulk to your fashion fabric. Use these guidelines in selecting a proper interfacing:

- Interfacing should either be the same weight or lighter than the garment fabric. Never select an interfacing that is heavier unless you want an exaggerated effect and a complete change in fabric hand.
- Drape a single thickness of fashion fabric over a single thickness of interfacing. For tailoring purposes,

interfacing should never show through.

- Interfacing and fashion fabric should be compatible in cleaning and care methods.
- If working with stretch fabric, select an interfacing that has compatible give.

Where a garment section such as the collar or lapel is molded into shape, a sewn-in interfacing that is flexible does the best job. For years hair canvas has been the choice of dressmakers and tailors. It is still the preferred interfacing for molding and shaping. Hair canvas comes in weights ranging from light to heavy. Fine canvas-type interfacings of a cotton-synthetic blend that work well with lightweight suit fabrics are also available.



Fusibles are popular shaping aids, and they're getting better all the time. Even if you have been using traditional hair canvas, try using fusibles where the object is to add support or to give body to straight front opening edges, standup collars, pocket flaps, etc. Follow the guidelines given earlier for interfacing selection, but fuse the interfacing to a scrap of fashion fabric to test stiffness.

The bonding agents used will make the interfacing slightly stiffer when fused in place.

Keep in mind that in contemporary tailoring, shape is being pressed in rather than stitched in permanently.

This shape is usually renewed with correct pressing after dry cleaning or laundering.

You can choose from a large variety of interfacings. However, not all of them are suitable for the look of a tailored garment. The weight of your fashion fabric will help in selecting the appropriate interfacing.

Sewn-in interfacings for suit fabrics are:

Lightweight
Armo-Press
Durable-Press
Formite
Mediumweight
Acro
Bravo
Bravo Set
Heavyweight
Armo P-1
Armo P-26
Hymo

Fusible interfacings for suit fabrics are:

Lightweight
Lightweight Easy Shaper
Fusible Featherweight Pellon
Lightweight Stylus
Mediumweight
Shapeflex
Suitweight Easy Shaper
Fusible Formite
Suitweight Stylus
Pel-Aire
Suit-Shape
Heavyweight
Fusible Arco
Armo Weft

Suits and coats will look better and wear longer when properly interfaced. Experiment with different interfacings to discover the one you prefer.

Reference to trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended nor endorsement implied.

For more information on interfacings, you may purchase a copy of PNW 192 *Interfacing* for 25¢. Order by number and title from Agricultural Information, College of Agriculture, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843. Make your check payable to University of Idaho, Agricultural Information.

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