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Underlining a Tailored Garment

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Underlining is a second layer of fabric that is attached to the wrong side of the fashion fabric prior to joining seams. Underlining can create shape as well as serve as a reinforcement. Underlining:

- shapes the garment when the outside fabric does not have sufficient body.
- prevents distortion and stretching of leather and loosely woven fabrics.
- prevents pulling at the seams when using soft wools or raw silk.
- hides seam allowances and creates an opaque look when using loosely woven fabrics.
- creates a thicker, more luxurious look when used with satin.
- reduces wrinkling by cushioning hems and seam allowances.

Selection

The pattern will not specify underlining or give directions for using it. You should select underlining based on the purpose you want it to serve and the type of fashion fabric you will be using. Check yardage departments to see what is available.

Consider the effect the underlining fabric will have on the fashion fabric.

Underlining Fabric

Cotton Sheath Lining
Easy Knit (Fusible)
Keynote-Plus
Lawn
Poly SiBonne
Silkie
Silk Organza
Siri
Undercurrent

Application

Medium to heavyweight suit fabrics
Polyester and wool double knit
Medium to heavyweight fabrics
Lightweight suit fabrics
Medium to heavyweight fabrics
Medium to heavyweight fabrics
Good for velvets
Mediumweight suit fabrics
Mediumweight suit fabrics

Hand — Crisp or Soft

Hold the fashion fabric over the underlining to determine the crispness or softness necessary to give the desired effect. For a crisp fabric, check the bolt for a crispness guarantee. Underlining fabrics may lose crispness when washed or dry-cleaned, resulting in a limp garment. Always preshrink underlining. This will also act as a double check on stiffness. If stiffness is lost, save it for another fabric that may require a softer hand.

Weight

The weight of the underlining fabric depends on the fashion fabric, the desired effect and the type of lining and interfacings to be used. It should never be heavier than the

garment fabric. As a general rule, the heavier the fashion fabric the heavier the underlining. Consider the combined weights of underlining, interfacing, lining and fashion fabric. If the combined weights are too heavy, an unnatural appearance will result. This is unattractive and undesirable.

Fiber Content And Required Care

If the fashion fabric is washable, then the underlining must be washable also. The two fabrics must be able to act as one. Always preshrink, even if the manufacturer does not indicate it is necessary. Even 1 percent shrinkage is sufficient to cause wrinkled seams. This holds true for dry cleaning also. Hot steam is used in this process and can cause shrinkage the same as washing.

Color

The color of the underlining should match or blend with the fashion fabric. When the outer fabric is loosely woven, you need to match colors since the underlining may show through to the right side. On a tightly woven fabric that will be lined, use any color you find pleasing.

Cutting and Marking

Underlining helps a great deal in achieving the firmness of shape that is characteristic of a tailored garment.

- Underlining is absolutely necessary for a soft or loosely woven fabric.
- Underlining should be firm but lightweight.
- When buying underlining, use the same yardage indicated for the outer fabric (taking fabric width into account).

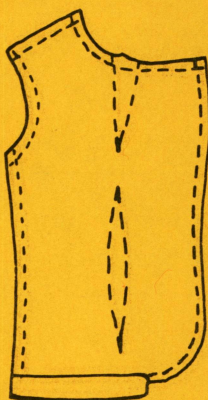
Underlining may be total or partial.

- Unless fabric weave is exceptionally loose, the undercollar is never underlined.
- Collar and facing are only underlined if the interfacing will show through.
- Sleeves are not usually underlined to avoid bulk at the armhole.
- Cut underlining from garment pattern; **do not** use the lining pattern.
- Cut underlining to end at the hemline. This will eliminate unnecessary bulk since tailored hems are interfaced.
- Do not cut underlining and fabric at the same time to avoid

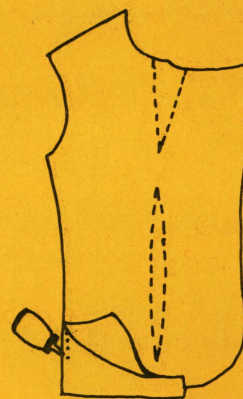
inaccuracy. If fashion fabric is not too bulky, it may be time saving to cut the underlining first. Leave it pinned to the pattern piece, and pin both layers to the fashion fabric.

- Transfer dart markings to the underlining. Other markings should be transferred to the fashion fabric.
- The fashion fabric will determine the method you choose to attach the underlining. Press all wrinkles from fashion fabric and underlining. Do not attach underlining at hemline.

Pin baste to the wrong side, and stay stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge. Stitch with the underlining on top. Since the underlining is firm, it makes it easier to control fabrics that feed at different rates. Always stitch with the grain, even though this means that the bulk of the fabric may be to the right side of the needle.



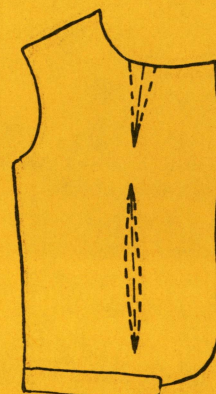
Dot Sobo glue close to the edge on the wrong side of fashion fabric. Be sure to keep it within the seam allowances. Put underlining in place, and allow 5 minutes to dry. (You can use a glue stick instead of Sobo glue.)



Garment Construction

Construct the garment treating the underlining and fashion fabric as one.

- Machine baste through the center of darts and tucks to keep them together during construction.



- Construction details may be temporarily held by pin basting or by using talon basting tape, depending on the fashion fabric.

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