

## **Fusible Interfacing: Perfect Fusing**

Written by Allison Spence, Needleworks 2006©

Fusible Interfacing can be a challenge. I know some sewers who have stopped using it all together because they can't prevent or eliminate the little puckers or wrinkles in the fabric that just scream "home made". The garment looks great when it is complete, but after the first trip to the washer and dryer....those pesky puckers appear. The trick is to pre-shrink the interfacing before you fuse it to the fabric. You can soak the interfacing in hot water for 10-20 minutes and then let air dry....but I want to use my interfacing right away and don't have time for that step.

Here's what I do with fusibles and I have been teaching this method for a number of years without any wrinkles or puckers. Begin by cutting a large piece of fabric that will accommodate the pieces to be interfaced...collars, cuffs, etc. Cut a piece of fusible interfacing the same size as the fabric. Take into consideration the direction of the grain. Many patterns tell you to cut your pattern pieces from the fabric and then to use the patterns to cut the interfacing. Then, you have to match up the interfacing with the fabric....not as easy as it appears! One or both of the fabrics with shift, stretch or curl at the cut edges. By cutting and fusing a large enough piece of fabric you can eliminate any of the frustration of trying to match up those funny shaped pieces.

Position the fabric piece right side down on your ironing board. If your piece to be fused is larger than the ironing board, it may be worth while to set up some old sheets and towels on a large surface and use that as a pressing surface. Immerse the interfacing in warm water for a minute or two. Squeeze the extra water out of the interfacing. Don't wring it out. Smooth the wet interfacing, glue side down on the wrong side of the fabric.

Without touching the iron to the interfacing, steam the entire piece. I hold the iron 2-3" above the interfacing, press the steam button and wait till there is no more steam coming from the iron. Then I move the iron to another area and press the steam button again. NEVER, touch the iron to the fabric at this point.

Once you have covered the entire area of the interfacing with steam, it is safe to put the iron on the fabrics. I have read that you need lots of pressure to get the glue to adhere the two layers together. I use very little pressure when I have used lots of steam. Resist the temptation to IRON. PRESS in an downward and upward motion, rather than sliding the iron on the surface of the fabrics. You can tell that you are fully fused when your interfacing is completely dry and you cannot feel any wrinkles or shifting as you slide your hand across the fabrics.

Lay your pattern pieces on your fabric and cut out your collars and cuffs for a perfect "hand crafted" look.