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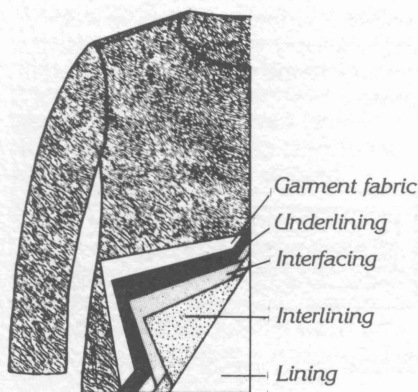
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Inner Fabrics

The Inside Story

Barbara Field*

Inner fabrics are tools with which to build a better garment. Each one — interfacing, interlining, underlining and lining — has a specific function that influences the garment's final look and performance. While all are not usually used in one garment, the general order of application is underlining first, then interfacing, interlining and finally lining.



Garment with four inner fabrics shown in order of application.

Choice of inner fabrics is a dilemma for everyone who sews. Appropriate choice and use of inner fabrics will help achieve the intended effect. Today's choices can often make the homeseamer's job much simpler by reducing handwork and machine stitching. Select inner fabrics with the same wrinkle and care characteristics as your fashion fabric, and preshrink all inner fabrics (except those specified as pre-shrunk). Have the fashion

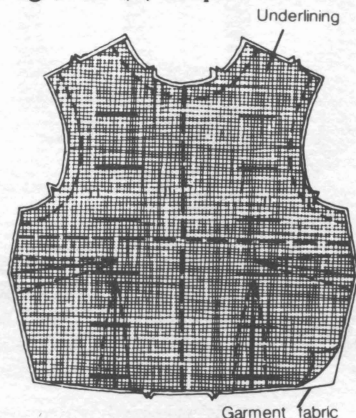
fabric with you when selecting inner fabrics, and drape the fabrics together to see which combination gives the desired effect. The right inner fabric can make the difference between a professional looking garment and one that looks homemade.

To understand the purposes and selection of inner fabrics, read about each fabric category, then refer to the selection chart for easy shopping.

Underlining

The main purpose of underlining is to give support and body to the garment fabric and design. It is usually basted to each main garment piece before construction, then each section is handled as one layer of fabric.

Underlining (1) reinforces seams and other construction details; (2) gives opaqueness to sheer fabrics to hide the inner construction; (3) inhibits stretching and reinforces areas of stress; (4) acts as a layer on which to catch hems and tack facings; and (5) keeps other inner



Transfer markings to underlining

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stitching from showing through to the outside of the garment.

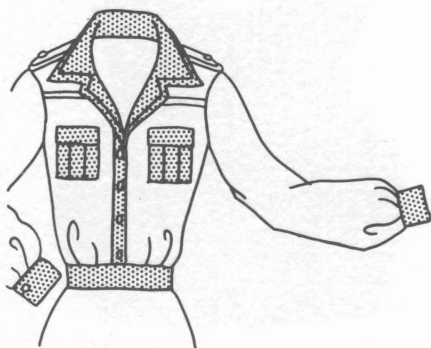
Underlining fabrics can be light to medium weight with a soft, medium or crisp finish, whichever is appropriate for the desired effect. Color and care should be compatible with the garment.

Interfacing

Interfacing supports and stabilizes the fashion fabric and keeps it from stretching in areas such as collars, cuffs and buttonholes. It should not change the appearance or hand of the fabric. When selecting interfacing, consider three things:

- (1) compatible care methods (can it be washed, dried or dry cleaned the same way as the fashion fabric?);
- (2) construction techniques you plan to use; and
- (3) the look and feel you wish to achieve.

Sometimes a combination of weights is required in one garment. For example, cuffs and pocket details may require a firm, medium weight interfacing, while a soft, roll collar requires a supple, lighter weight one. Interfacings come in white, black and natural colors. Choose one that will not show through your fashion fabric.

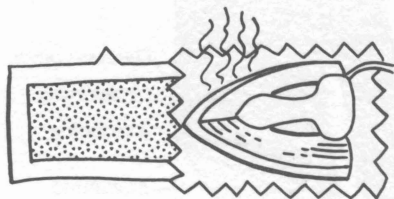


Interfaced areas.

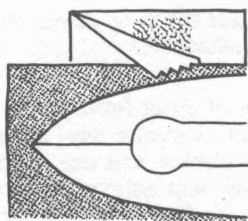
Fusible vs. Sew-In

Interfacing may be fusible or sew-in. Fusible interfacings are bonded to the fashion fabric with an iron. With fusibles, the drape test will not be completely accurate because the bonding of the two fabrics creates greater stiffness. However, using fusibles is fast and easy. The most important point to remember is to *follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully* in order to form a perfect bond.

Instructions for time, temperature, moisture and iron pressure differ among manufacturers, so be sure the instructions come with your interfacing purchase. (Do not confuse "fusible webbing" with "fusible interfacing." Fusible webbing is simply used between two layers of fabric to bond them together.)



Applying fusible interfacing to collar.



Applying fusible web to inside hem allowance.

To preshrink fusible interfacings, soak in lukewarm water and drip-dry unless the manufacturer states that the fabric is preshrunk.

Always make a test sample before applying fusibles to the garment fabric to check compatibility.

Sometimes fusing is not successful. If you can peel the interfacing off the fabric after cooling, check directions again. If it still peels, consider the fashion fabric incompatible and switch to sew-in interfacing. Also, some fashion fabrics may not tolerate the heat and/or moisture necessary for fusing.

If, when using fusibles, a residue forms on the bottom of the iron, use a hot iron cleaner. Make sure all the cleaner is removed from the steam vents before using the iron again to prevent possible staining.

Sew-in interfacings are sometimes preferred over fusibles because of ease in combining them with fashion fabrics. For example, sheer fabrics often have a better finished look with a nonfusible or with the garment fabric used for interfacing. Sew-in interfacings are also preferred in tailored jackets and coats in which the traditional hand pad-stitching is utilized.

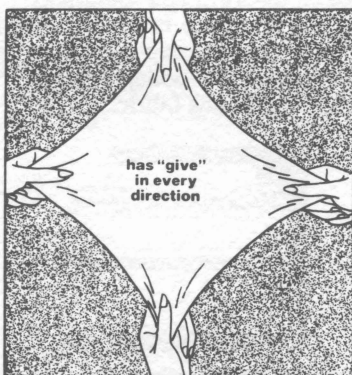
Woven, Knit and Nonwoven

Woven, knit and nonwoven interfacings are available in both fusible and nonfusible varieties. Woven interfacings are frequently used with woven fashion fabrics although they can also be used with knits.

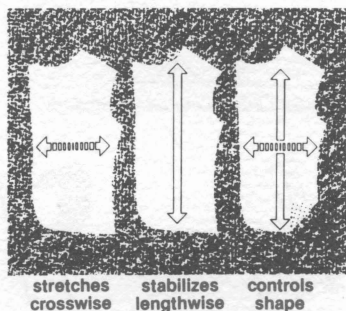
Knit interfacings are compatible with light to medium weight knits and wovens where curved shaping is desired from the crosswise stretch and lengthwise stability of the knit interfacing.

Nonwovens are easy to use and do not ravel. The three kinds of

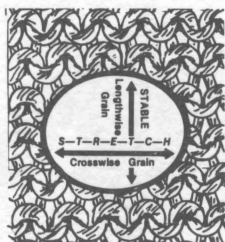
nonwovens are: stable, "all-bias" stretch; and one-way stretch. Stable nonwoven interfacing does not give or stretch in any direction and can be cut in any direction since it has no grain. "All-bias" has give in all directions and is suitable for use with woven fabric cut on the bias and with knits. One-way stretch interfacings have crosswise stretch for curved shaping and lengthwise stability for support and control.



All-bias nonwoven interfacing.



One-way stretch nonwoven interfacing.



Knit interfacing has crosswise stretch and lengthwise stability.

One-way stretch nonwoven interfacings have a "grainline," so cut with the stretch going around the body except where stability is required, such as in a collar or cuff.

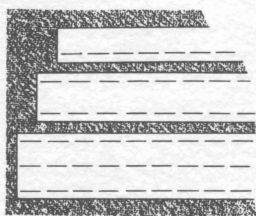
Specialty Interfacings

Products are available to greatly

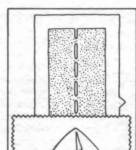
simplify many interfacing jobs. Among these are fusible interfacings, precut and perforated for waistbands, facings, plackets and cuffs. These interfacings are available in different weights and widths.

Other types of waistbandings are available such as sew-in, non-roll, non-roll with stretch, curtained waistbanding and non-roll elastic. New and easy-to-use products constantly appear on the market.

Some companies offer several types of tailoring kits including some or all of the following: sized, precut jacket interfacing; felt under-collars; shoulder pads; sleeve heads; and lining fabric.



Precut interfacing for waistbands, cuffs, and facings



Fusible precut interfacing for waistbands



*Curtained waistbanding
Specialty interfacing.*



Non-roll elastic

Interlining

Interlining is used in the body of a jacket or coat, and sometimes in the sleeves to provide warmth. It is cut the same as the lining but trimmed away at the hemline, and may be basted either to corre-

sponding lining pieces or to the garment pieces. Then the unit is sewn together as though the two fabrics were one. Interlining fabrics should be lightweight, warm and not too bulky.

Lining

Lining gives an attractive finish to the inside of a garment by covering inner construction details. Because it is slick fabric, it also contributes to the ease of putting on and taking off a garment. Lining differs from interfacing and underlining in that it preserves the garment's silhouette, but never shapes it. It can be partially or fully applied to coats, jackets, dresses, skirts and pants. Partial linings are cooler. Fabrics should be lightweight, smooth, opaque and durable. Exceptions include linings used for special effects such as fake fur for lining the front and back of a garment; then, slippery fabric is used only in the sleeves. Weight, color and care should be compatible with the garment, and if possible lining should be antistatic. In addition to special fabrics made for linings, you can choose from an endless array of lightweight blouse or dress fabrics. Making a blouse of the same fabric used to line a suit creates a well-coordinated outfit. For an individual look, you can use a pretty scarf by dividing it and lining the front of a jacket. Line the back and sleeves with an appropriate coordinated fabric.



Lining the front section with a decorative fabric adds a designer's touch.

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Inner Fabrics Selection Guide

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Inner Fabrics Selection Guide

Fashion Fabric	Interfacing Fabric		Underlining Fabric		Lining Fabric	
Type of Fabric/Garment	Product	Description	Product	Description	Product	Description
Sheer fabrics/blouses or dresses (voile, batiste, gauze, filmy knits, georgette, organza)	*Armo Stylus Sew-In Featherweight Bias Batiste Organza *Pellon Sew-In Sheer Weight Fusible Sheer Weight Self-fabric *Stacy Easy-Knit Sure-Fuse *Staple Jiffy Flex Super Lightweight	Nonwoven, sew-in Woven, lightweight, soft, sew in Woven, sheer, soft to crisp, sew in Nonwoven, sew in, soft Nonwoven, fusible, slightly crisper than Sew-In Sheer Weight Use fashion fabric for interfacing, sew in Knitted, fusible Nonwoven, fusible Nonwoven, fusible	*Armo Si Bonne *Ascot Marquise Organdy Organza	Woven, lightweight, soft Mesh, gives body to sheer fabrics Woven, delicate finish Woven, lightweight, soft to crisp	*Ascot Intimate Lawn *Stacy Butterfly Voile	Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight Woven, soft
Blouse and shirt weight fabrics, light dress weight fabrics (jersey, light weight interlock knits, broadcloth, chambray, gingham, calico, crepe de chine, silk-like polyester, and cotton/polyester blends). Note: Remember to keep softness or crispness of inner fabrics compatible with fashion fabric.	*Armo Armo-Press Soft Stylus Fusible Fashion Former — Lightweight Stylus Fusible Uni-stretch Light Weight Stylus Fusible Fashion Former — Medium Weight Stylus Sew-In Feather Weight Bias Broadcloth Muslin *Pellon Fusible Sheer Weight Sew-In Sheer Weight Fusible Feather Weight Sew-In Feather Weight Fusible Shapewell Sew-In Shape-Well Sof-Shape Shirttailor *Stacy Easy-Knit Easy-Shaper — Lightweight Shirt-Fuse *Staple Jiffy Flex Super Lightweight Shapewell (Sew In) Shapewell (Fusible) Shirtmaker (Sew In) Shirtmaker (Fusible) Shape-Up Stretch and Bounce Bias *Stretch and Sew Perky Bond Plus (Woven) Perky Bond Plus (Nonwoven)	Woven, sew in, soft Nonwoven, fusible, soft, stable Nonwoven, fusible, crosswise stretch Nonwoven, fusible, stable Nonwoven, sew in, all bias Woven, sew in, lightweight Woven, sew in, lightweight Nonwoven, fusible, slightly crisp, sheer to light weight Nonwoven, sew in, soft, sheer to light weight Nonwoven, fusible, slightly crisp, light to medium weight Nonwoven, fusible, light to medium weight Woven, fusible, light to medium weight Woven, sew in, light to medium weight Nonwoven, fusible, very soft Nonwoven, fusible, crisp Knitted, fusible, body without crispness Nonwoven, fusible Nonwoven, fusible, firm and crisp Nonwoven, fusible Woven, sew in, firm Woven, fusible, firm and crisp Nonwoven, sew in, firm and crisp Nonwoven, fusible, firm and crisp Nonwoven, fusible Nonwoven, sew in, soft, all bias Woven, fusible Nonwoven, fusible	*Armo Si Bonne Super Siri *Ascot Whisper *Batiste China silk Crepe *Hayden Saja Muslin Organdy Organza *Stacy Veri-Super Tricot	Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight; soft, medium or crisp finish Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, medium soft Woven, medium soft Woven, light to medium weight Woven, lightweight, crisp finish Woven, lightweight to crisp Woven, soft or crisp Knitted, soft, medium weight	*Armo Ciao *Ascot Pole Trilissa Batiste Crepe *Erlanger Blumgart Marvelaire *Fabricators Solo Organza Percalé Tricot	Woven, medium weight Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight Woven, light to medium weights Woven, lightweight Knitted, light to medium weights
Suit and bottom weight wovens such as skirts, slacks, and light jackets; tailored double knits (poplin, chino, duck, linen-like fabrics, gabardine, denim, flannel).	*Armo Armo-Press Firm Armo-Weft Acro Fusible Acro Stylus Fusible Fashion Former — Medium Weight Muslin *Pellon Pel-Aire Medium Weight Sew-In Mid-Weight All-Bias Sof-Shape Tri-dimensional *Stacy Easy-Shaper — Suit Weight Suit Shape *Staple Jiffy Flex — Suit Weight *Stretch and Sew Perky Bond Plus	Woven, sew in, lightly tailored look Knit/weave construction, fusible Woven, sew in, washable hair canvas Woven, fusible, washable hair canvas Nonwoven, fusible, soft, stable Woven, sew in, medium weight Nonwoven, fusible, soft Nonwoven, sew in, all bias Nonwoven, fusible, very soft Nonwoven, fusible, crosswise stretch Nonwoven, fusible Knit/weave construction, fusible Nonwoven, fusible Woven, fusible	*Ascot Whisper Batiste China silk Crepe *Erlanger Marvelaire *Fabricators Solo *Hayden About Face *Stacy Undercurrent Taffeta	Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, medium soft Woven, lightweight Woven, medium weight Woven, crisp, firm Woven, medium weight, soft or crisp finish Woven, lightweight, crisp	Crepe Crepe-back satin Faille Rayon twill Silk *Stacy Undercurrent Taffeta	Woven, light to heavy weights Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, light to medium weight Woven, medium weight, soft or crisp finish Woven, lightweight
Medium weight knits (double knit, terrycloth, velour, knit suede).	*Armo Stylus Fusible Uni-Stretch — Suit Weight *Pellon Sew-In Mid-Weight All-Bias Pel-Aire Medium Weight Sof-Shape Tri-dimensional *Stacy Easy-Knit Easy-Shaper — Suit Weight *Staple Stretch and Bounce Bias *Stretch and Sew Perky Bond Plus	Nonwoven, fusible Nonwoven, sew in, all bias Nonwoven, fusible, soft Nonwoven, fusible, soft Nonwoven, fusible, soft Knitted, fusible Nonwoven, fusible Nonwoven, sew in, soft, all bias Woven, fusible	Batiste *Stacy Interlon Bias Tricot	Woven, lightweight Non-woven, lightweight, for soft supple shape Knit, medium weight, soft	Crepe *Fabricators Solo Faille Rayon twill *Stacy Undercurrent	Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight, soft finish
Bulky or heavy wool suitings and coatings	*Armo Acro Fino II P-26 Red Edge *Stacy Bravo Canvas Interlining *Armo Lamb's Wool *Ascot Lana Polyester fleece	Woven, sew in, hair canvases for tailoring; percentage of goat hair varies Woven, sew in hair canvas Woven, medium weight Woven, heavy weight Nonwoven, medium weight	*Armo Si Bonne *Erlanger Marvelaire China silk Organza *Stacy Undercurrent Taffeta	Woven, lightweight, soft finish Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, soft to crisp Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, crisp	*Armo Inside Out *Ascot Intimate Quilted Brocade Crepe *Deering-Miliken Millium Fake fur Satin Taffeta	Woven, medium weight, prints and plaids Woven, heavy weight, combination lining/interlining Woven, heavy weight Woven, heavy weight Woven, heavy weight, combination lining/interlining Knitted or woven pile, heavy weight Woven, heavy weight Woven, medium weight
Special Fabrics Corduroy and velveteen (velvet if being tailored.)	*Armo Acro Armo-Press Firm Fino II P-26 Red Edge *Pellon Pel-Aire Sew-In Mid-Weight All-Bias Sof-Shape *Stacy Shirt Fuse	Woven, sew in, washable hair canvas Woven, sew in, light weight Woven, sew in, hair canvas for fine tailoring Woven, sew in, hair canvas Nonwoven, fusible, medium weight (cut cross-grain when using on corduroy.) Nonwoven, sew in Nonwoven, fusible, soft Nonwoven, fusible, for tailored shirt styles	Batiste China silk Muslin Organdy *Stacy Undercurrent Taffeta	Woven, lightweight Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, light to medium weights Woven, lightweight, crisp Woven, lightweight, soft Woven, lightweight, crisp	*Armo Ciao Crepe Satin Taffeta	Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight
Fake Fur (Jackets and coats)	*Armo Acro Fino II Ti-Rite *Pellon Pel-Aire *Stacy Bravo Canvas	Woven, sew in, hair canvases for tailoring; percentage of goat hair varies Woven, sew in Nonwoven, fusible, heavy weight Woven, sew in, hair canvas	Underlining not recommended for fake furs	Brocade Satin	Woven, heavy weight Woven, heavy weight	
Synthetic Suede (*Arma, *Suede 21, *Ultra Suede)	*Armo Fusible Acro Stylus Fusible Uni-Stretch Suit Weight *Pellon Pel-Aire *Stacy Easy-Knit Easy-Shaper Suit Weight	Woven, fusible, good for tailored jackets Nonwoven, fusible Nonwoven, fusible, medium weight Knitted, fusible Nonwoven, fusible	Underlining not recommended for synthetic suedes	China silk Crepe Satin Taffeta	Woven, lightweight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight Woven, medium weight	

(*Manufacturer followed by trademark names of products)