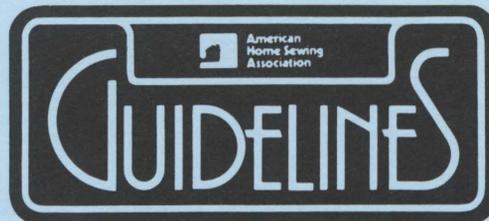


## PRESSING TOOLS AND PRESSING POINTS



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You have chosen the perfect pattern and fabric. You have cut, pinned, basted and sewn; but have you pressed? Pressing affects the shape of any project you sew and is essential for achieving professional looking results. The pressing tools listed below and the pressing points on the back, will help you press your way to perfect results. Do not hesitate to ask your retailer for directions and demonstrations. When shopping, look for brand names, clear directions and guarantees, where applicable.



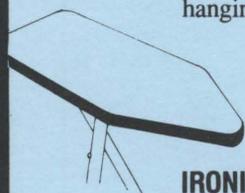
### IRONS AND STEAMERS

The iron plays an important part in your home sewing projects since it is used throughout the construction process. A steamer on the other hand, is basically used for quick touch-ups and hard to reach areas.

**Iron** — a lightweight steam iron is essential for pressing needs. Some questions about features you should consider in selecting an iron are: Does the iron have temperatures listed? Is the soleplate coated with a non-stick finish? Does the iron steam in all settings? Is there a large water reservoir or water level gauge? Does the iron have a shot of steam or spray attachment? Also check for easy-to-read instructions and a manufacturers guarantee.

Before buying, lift the iron, try it in both hands, make sure it is comfortable and not too heavy. Test press the iron on a variety of fabric strips.

**Steamers** — are either lightweight, portable models or large (table top) professional types. Both will steam your fabric without scorching or marring. The portable model can be used in either the horizontal or vertical position, so that garment or curtains can be steamed while hanging.



### IRONING BOARD AND ACCESSORIES

An ironing board with the proper pad and cover is a pressing necessity. There are also items available that can make ironing less of a chore. Some of these items are:

**Ironing Board** — available in two models,

table top for small pressing jobs, and full height, adjustable for all pressing needs.

**Pad** — cushions the board and helps make pressing more comfortable. A pad may be made of foam or a cushiony fabric.

**Ironing Board Cover** — goes over the pad and protects both the board and fabric. Covers are available in either Mylar — a shiny silver fabric, or heavy cotton duck. The cover should be secured with a draw-string or clamps.

**Iron Hanger** — metal clip and hook system which suspends a hot iron up and away from the ironing board. It is a good safety device.

**Mist Bottle or Sprayer** — fill with water and use to add moisture to fabrics and prevent scorching.

**Ironing Board Caddy** — or specially built cabinet are the perfect storage place for this equipment.



### IRON CLEANERS AND PROTECTORS

To help clean dirty irons, cover nicks and scratches and protect fabrics, it is essential that you have the proper iron cleaner and/or iron protector.

**Iron Cleaners** — are available in two formulas, one designed for hot irons, one for cold. Choose the one that is best for you.

**Iron Protectors** — cover the iron and protect the fabric from scorching or catching. They are available in non-stick finish or plastic.



### PRESSING CLOTHS

Pressing cloths protect against iron shine, aid in steaming and protect fabrics against scorching. These cloths come in various weights for various fabrics and may be used wet or dry. Some styles are:

**Bristled Press Cloth** — for napped fabrics.

**Paper Strips** — for pressing seams, prevents seam edge impressions on right side of fabric.

**See-thru Press Cloth** — so you can see what you are pressing, especially useful to see placement of fusible interfacing.

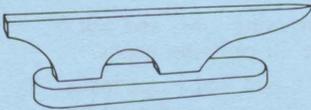
**Silicone Treated Press Cloth** — iron glides easily, helps prevent scorching.

(continued on back)

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## CONTOUR AND SEAM PRESSING

To help press hard to reach or curved areas try one of the following aids.



**Boards** — made of wood either with or without a cover. Different boards exist for “special” pressing needs, some are: sleeve boards — shaped for sleeves, needle board — for napped fabrics, point presser — for collars and other points, combination (tailor) boards — which combines some of the above features.



**Clapper** — a rounded wooden block, usually used in tailoring to achieve long lasting sharp creases such as pleats and darts.

**Hams** — contoured firmly packed cushions, in the shape of a “ham” used to press shaped areas, darts and contours. Available in various sizes. A ham holder will store hams when not in use.

**Hem Ruler** — a specially coated ruler over which hem can be pressed without pinning.

**Mitts** — padded glove-like cushion, worn on the hand or placed on the end of a sleeve-board to reach areas that a ham can not.

**Rolls** — stuffed long rolls to press long seams.

## PRESSING

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Proper pressing is essential in achieving professional sewing results. Pressing helps set curves, reduces bulk (by pressing seams open), as well as removes wrinkles.

For professional looking results, seamstresses recommend the following pressing points:

*Note:* There is a difference between ironing and pressing!

*Ironing* is used to remove wrinkles and is never used during construction. Ironing is done by moving the iron over the fabric with a back and forth motion.

*Pressing* is done throughout the construction of a garment. A steam iron or a steamer is lightly placed on the wrong side of the fabric, or on a press cloth, lifted, and lightly replaced until desired results are achieved.

- Scrap test a piece of fabric with all appropriate iron settings, steam and press cloths.
- Know your fabric and design. If your fabric needs special pressing equipment, (needle board, pressing cloth etc.), or your design would be aided by special pressing equipment (seam roll, point presser etc.), make sure you have them on hand before beginning to sew.
- Press as you sew. When you complete one step, seam, dart, etc. press before continuing on to next step.
- Do not under- or over-press. This may result in a worn or homemade appearance.
- Do not press over pins.
- Press seams in direction of fabric grain, from wide to narrow. Pressing against grain will cause seams to distort.
- Let garment hang for a while (24 hours if possible) before hemming and giving it a final pressing.

## CREATING A HOME PRESSING CENTER

Proper pressing techniques and proper pressing equipment are investments in professional looking results and save time and energy.

Listed below are the basic items needed for regular everyday pressing. These items also serve as a base to which you can add more specialized pressing equipment.

Basics		Specialty Items
Ironing Board	Iron Holder	Steamer
Ironing Pad	Iron Protector	Steam Press
Ironing Cover	Mist Bottle or Sprayer	Various Press Cloths

In addition to these basics, there are other specialized items. To help you know which items are best for a specific sewing construction area or fabric-type, see the list below. Add this information to your sewing aids index.

<b>Collars</b>	<b>Napped Fabrics</b>	<b>Shaped Areas &amp; Darts</b>
Clapper	Bristled Press Cloth	Hams
Point Presser	Needle Board	<b>Sleeves</b>
<b>Curved Seams</b>	<b>Natural Fabrics (non-napped)</b>	Pressing Mitt
Hams	Pressing Cloths	Sleeve Board
Tailor Board	Steam Iron (large temperature range)	<b>Straight Seams</b>
<b>Hems</b>	<b>Pleats</b>	Point Presser
Hem Ruler	Clapper	Seam Roll
<b>Man-Made Fabrics (non-napped)</b>	<b>Points</b>	Tailor Board
Non-Woven Press Cloths	Point Presser	
Steam Iron (lower setting)		

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