

Interfacing...The Inside Story

Interfacing is a hidden component. If it's doing its job, you don't realize it's even in a garment. However, if it's been omitted, or the wrong product is used, the garment suffers.

Interfacing shapes, supports, and stabilizes detail areas of a garment such as collars, facings, waistbands, etc. It can make the difference between a garment looking and feeling good in wear, or feeling stiff, rigid, and uncomfortable. Without interfacing, a garment can be limp and lifeless.

Choosing just the right interfacing is key to a garment's appearance and performance. The process is part science, part tradition, part personal preference — and admittedly bewildering to many home sewers. This guide is designed to help you identify the best choices for specific applications.

The majority of Pellon® interfacings and craft materials are nonwoven. Nonwovens are made directly from fibers that are bonded together using several different methods to form a "fabric". Nonwovens do not have a grain. They have little or no shrinkage. They will not ravel. They can be washed or dry-cleaned. Other Pellon interfacings are woven, knitted, or weft inserted.

Interfacing may also be described as fusible sew-in. "Fusibles" have an adhesive on one side which will be activated by your iron. The choice between a fusible and a sew-in interfacing depends on the fabric, the degree of firmness desired, and personal preference. Fusibles are great time savers. They're easy to work with and compatible with most fabrics. They will make a fabric slightly crisper than a sew-in interfacing of comparable weight. (Refer to the interfacing pre-test for more details.)