

IRONING TIPS FOR QUILTING

Press a quilt... don't iron it. What they mean by this, is that when ironing a quilt, use the weight of the iron to "press" the fabric without having to move the iron back and forth across the surface of the fabric. This will allow the iron to do the work for you and will help protect the quilt. Seams should first be flattened smooth. Iron the inside length of the seam and then press the outside of the seam.

When ironing over decorative buttons, cover them with the bowl of a spoon and press the surrounding fabric.

Many of our irons are equipped with an auto-off feature. Gently shake or lay the iron down and then back up to reactivate the iron to disperse the heat. Auto-off is not an on/off switch. Always unplug your iron when it is not in use.

Clean the soleplate using a quality hot iron cleaner. Try using an Appliqué Pressing Sheet when using fusible webs to keep your iron and ironing board cover free from the "sticky stuff".

Tips: Adhere to temperature recommendations for ironing. If the iron is too hot it will stick to garments. In general, one dot setting for synthetics -- two dot setting for silk/wool -- three dot setting for cotton/linen.

If you are a spray starch user, always spray starch on the reverse side of the fabric. Allow starch to penetrate for 30 seconds before ironing. If you give the back of your block a quick shot of spray starch and press it will lie much flatter.

Set up the ironing board at the right height. Whether you're sitting or standing, you should be able to place your palms on the board without bending your arm or your back.

A very important part of sewing is ironing properly. Whether you are ironing, pressing or steaming, always allow your fabric to cool and dry in position to "set" the press. Too many times we pick up the fabric while it is still warm. Remember the saying, "Cool remembers, warm forgets."

Do not leave water in the tank when you have finished ironing. ALWAYS turn your iron to the "OFF" position before unplugging or plugging it in the wall socket.