

Interfacing Shirts

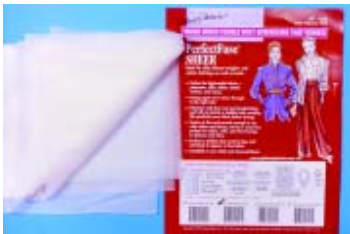
by Pati Palmer, Palmer/Pletsch, & Designer, The McCall Pattern Company



I have been a designer with The McCall Pattern Company for nearly 30 years, and I have designed over 50 shirt and blouse patterns for the company. These patterns have become teaching tools in schools because the directions are simple (one was edited by one of my 4-H clubs). They are clear about interfacing (which has changed dramatically over the years). They include fit instructions and now even have alteration lines printed on the patterns.

McCall's pattern 4079 is one of our simplest designs for both men and women. The guidesheet includes design tips, fit tips and pro tips.

Using the right interfacing and fusing it correctly are so important when making shirts and blouses. My first job in the sewing industry was with the Armo Co. in 1968 -- before fusibles! Armo was the premier shaping fabric company for home sewing and manufacturing, so I learned a lot. At that time I never thought I'd be in the interfacing business. But over the years Marta Alto and I saw a change in products available. We wanted to simplify and educate and have products we would be happy with. It has been over 10 years since we searched, tested, selected, and wrote instructions for our line of PerfectFuse™ interfacings. People love them.



PerfectFuse Sheer is the interfacing we recommend for shirts -- a weft interfacing that is stretchy in one direction and stable in the other. It is 100% polyester, won't pucker or bubble, doesn't need preshrinking, won't show through, and works well even on sheer fabrics.

If your shirting is cotton, do preshrink the cotton. Use a press cloth when fusing. Complete instructions are included in the package.

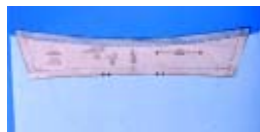
PerfectFuse is wide enough, 60"-wide, to interface the entire front facing of a shirt or shirtdress using the crosswise (stretchy) direction running the length of the front. Because the lengthwise direction of the interfacing is stable, horizontal buttonholes won't stretch when sewn.

A customer wrote: "I love fusible interfacings, but they get on my pressing surface and make it sticky." She's not alone with this problem. But we have a very simple solution. It is all in the cutting. The trick is to make your interfacing smaller than your fabric.

Here is our easy way.



Step 1:
Cut along one edge.



Step 2:
Slide the pattern up 5/8".



Step 3:
Cut the other sides.



Now when you fuse, the interfacing is smaller than the fabric.



To help sewers learn to use fusible interfacings, we have produced a DVD on how to use fusible interfacings in blouses, dresses, jackets, and with a variety of fabrics.

For teachers who would like to teach an interfacing class, there is a set of digital slides with a script that you will find under teaching aids on our Web site. For more information go to www.palmerpletsch.com.