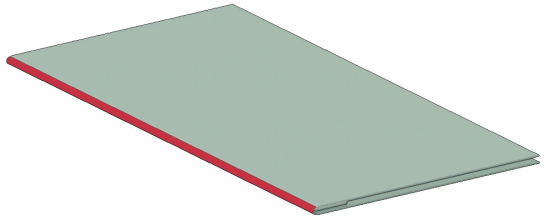
Pressing guide · What shape should the finished seam hold?

Full guide

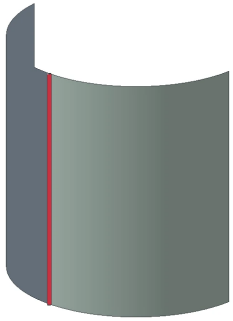
Flat, knife-like edge



Step help

Two faces turn back and lie against each other. The seam is on the outside edge.

Continuous surface

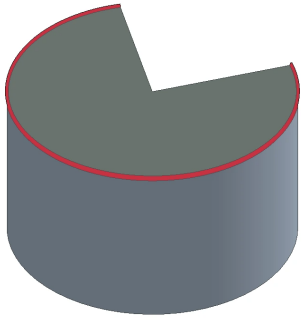


Step help

The cloth continues smoothly across the join, with no sharp bend at the seam.

Pressing guide · What shape should the finished seam hold?

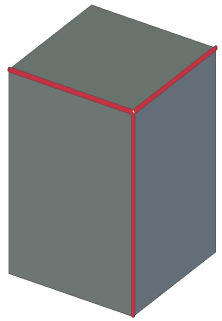
Angled join



Step help

Two faces meet along a bend. The seam forms an edge between them.

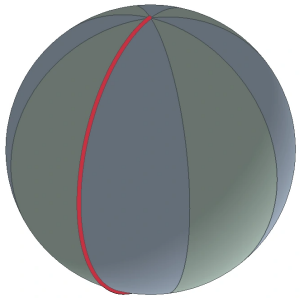
Box corner



Step help

Several faces and edges meet at one point, enclosing a corner with volume.

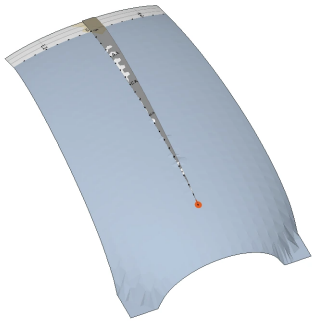
Rounded volume



Step help

The surface curves in two directions, like part of a ball.

Darted surface

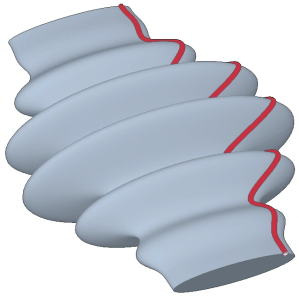


Step help

A tapered fold shapes one piece into a curve.

Pressing guide · What shape should the finished seam hold?

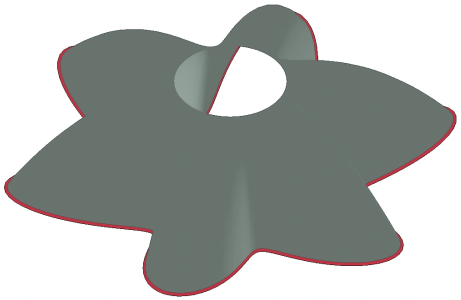
Gathers and ruching



Step help

Extra fabric forms soft folds instead of a smooth, taut surface.

Flared petals

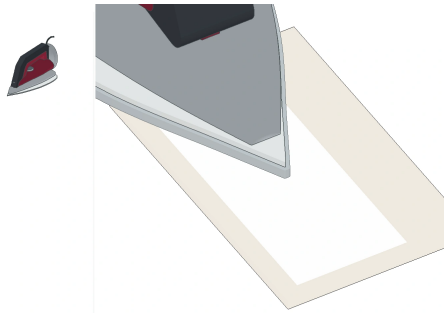


Step help

The edge opens outward into lobes; the whole surface does not lie flat.

Pressing guide · Before pressing

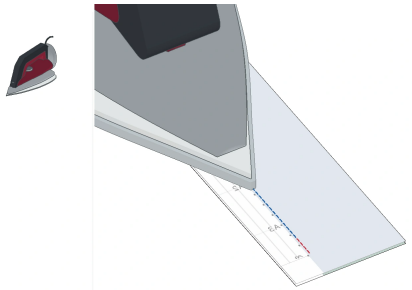
1 Test a scrap



Step help

Test heat and steam on a scrap from your kit. Check the print and fabric before pressing your pieces. Use a pressing cloth if needed.

2 Set the seam

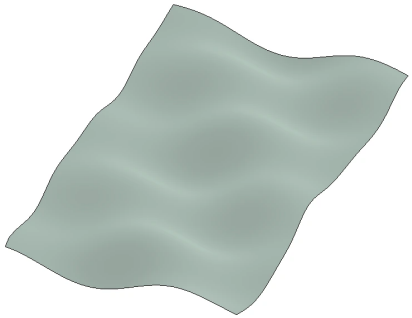


Step help

For a newly machine-stitched seam, set the stitches before turning or shaping. Skip this for an opening being ladder stitched.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Straight edge

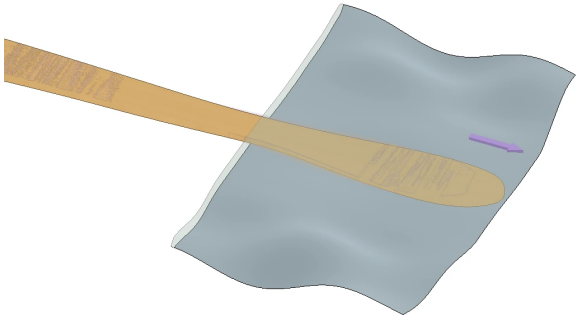
1 Find the tucked edge



Step help

The seam is still tucked inward. Ease it fully out before creasing.

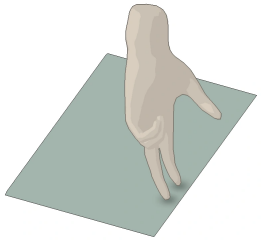
2 Ease out the seam



Step help

Press the blunt edge against the seam from inside. Work a short section at a time.

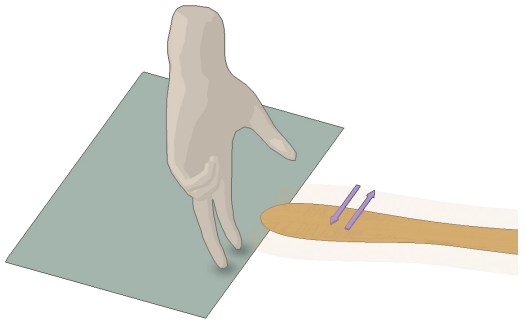
3 Hold it extended



Step help

Press the eased-out edge down with your fingertips. Keep it in place as you remove the knife.

4 Crease from outside

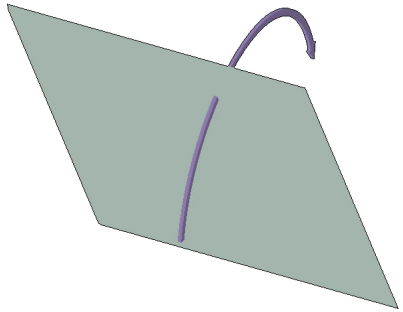


Step help

Keep holding the edge. Lay the blunt blade on the outside and slide it back and forth to set the fold.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Straight edge

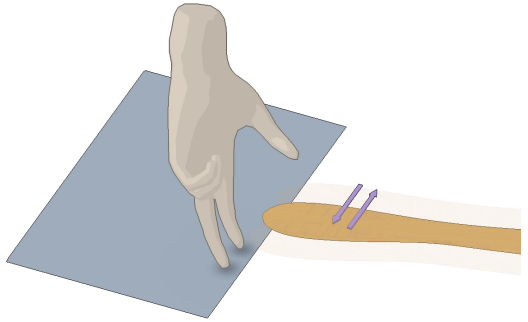
5 Turn over



Step help

Turn the piece over to work the other face.

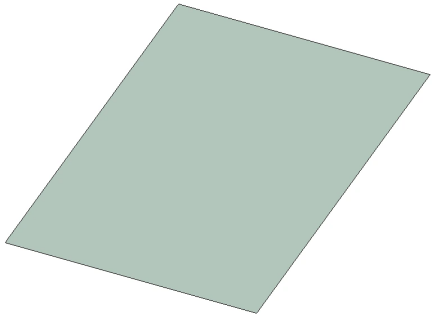
6 Crease the other side



Step help

Hold the edge extended again. Slide the blade back and forth on this side too.

7 Check the edge

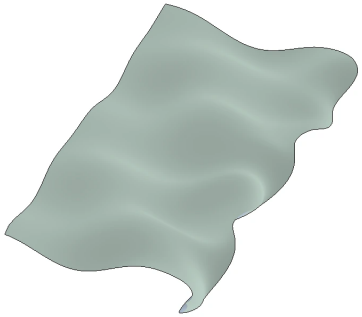


Step help

The seam is fully out, smooth and flat. Continue along the rest of the edge.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Scallops

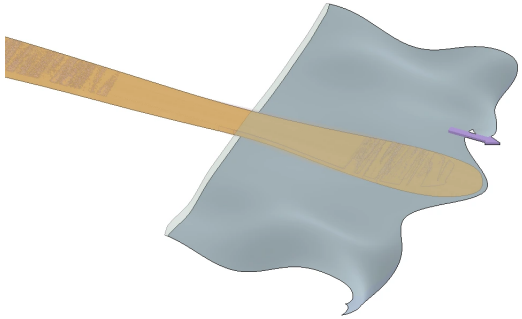
1 Find the tucked edge



Step help

The seam is still tucked inward. Ease it fully out before creasing.

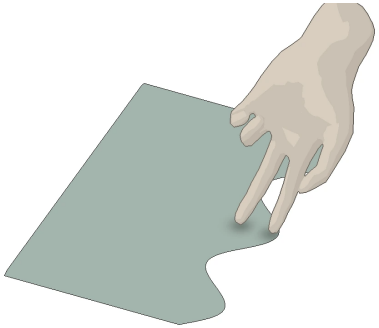
2 Ease out the lobe



Step help

Press outward against the rounded seam from inside. Work a short section at a time.

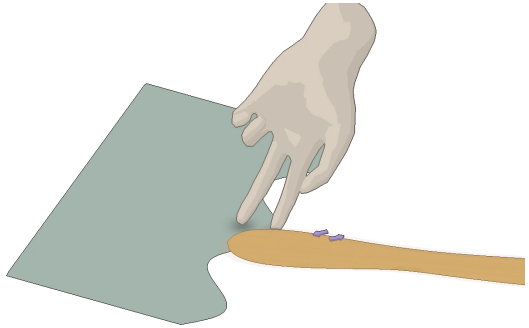
3 Hold it extended



Step help

Work one lobe at a time. Hold its tip with one finger and support it farther inward with the other.

4 Crease from outside

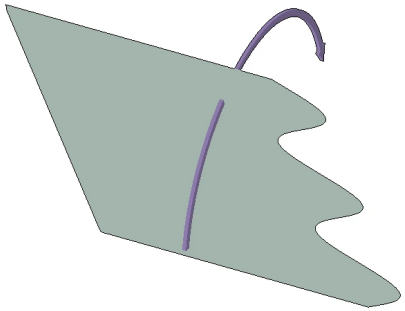


Step help

Keep holding the edge. Lay the blunt blade on the outside and slide it back and forth to set the fold.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Scallops

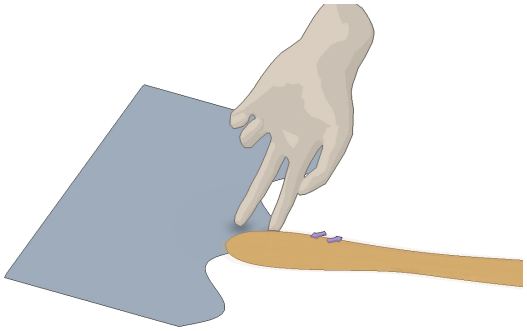
5 Turn over



Step help

Turn the piece over to work the other face.

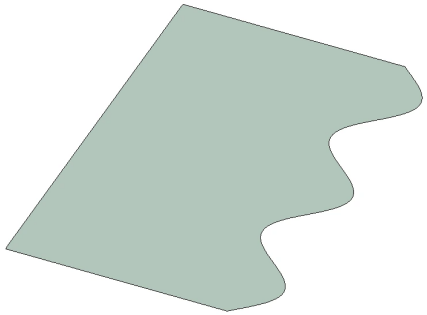
6 Crease the other side



Step help

Hold the edge extended again. Slide the blade back and forth on this side too.

7 Check the edge

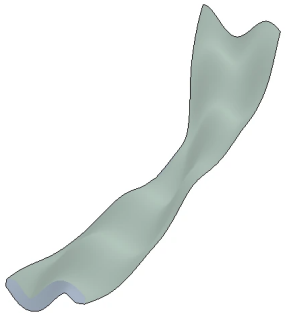


Step help

The seam is fully out, smooth and flat. Continue along the rest of the edge.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Bag handles

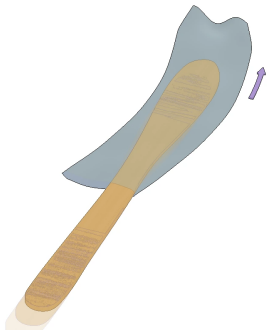
1 Find the tucked edge



Step help

The seam is still tucked inward. Ease it fully out before creasing.

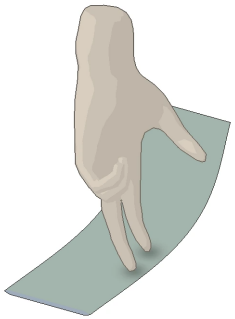
2 Support the edge



Step help

Keep the blade inside the tube and gently ease the seam outward. Work a short section at a time.

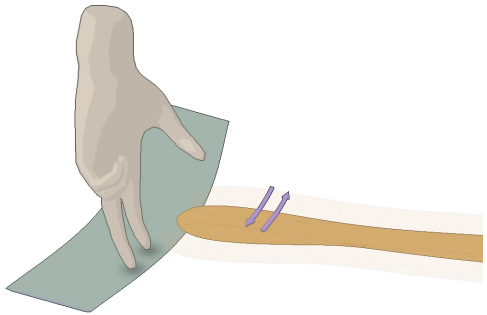
3 Hold it extended



Step help

Press the eased-out edge down with your fingertips. Keep it in place as you remove the knife.

4 Crease from outside

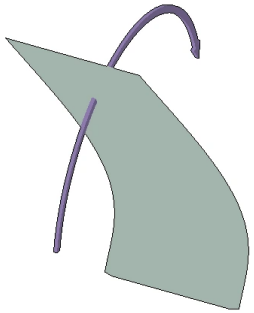


Step help

Keep holding the edge. Lay the blunt blade on the outside and slide it back and forth to set the fold.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Bag handles

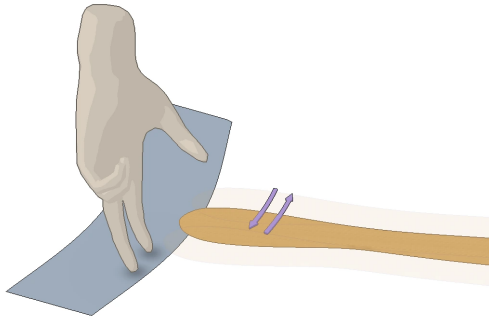
5 Turn over



Step help

Turn the piece over to work the other face.

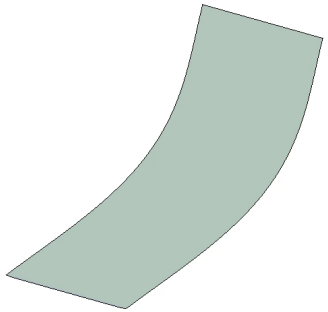
6 Crease the other side



Step help

Hold the edge extended again. Slide the blade back and forth on this side too.

7 Check the edge

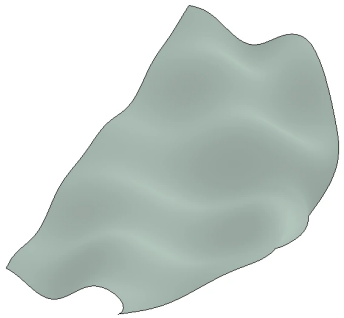


Step help

The seam is fully out, smooth and flat. Continue along the rest of the edge.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Flat pointed edge

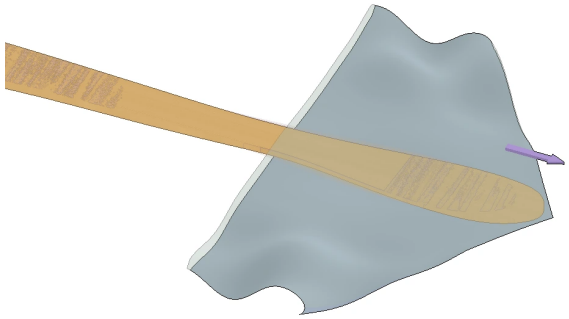
1 Find the tucked edge



Step help

The seam is still tucked inward. Ease it fully out before creasing.

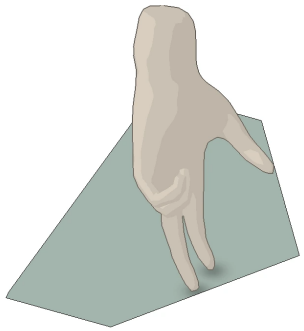
2 Ease out the corner



Step help

Press gently against the stitched point; stop when it is fully out. Work a short section at a time.

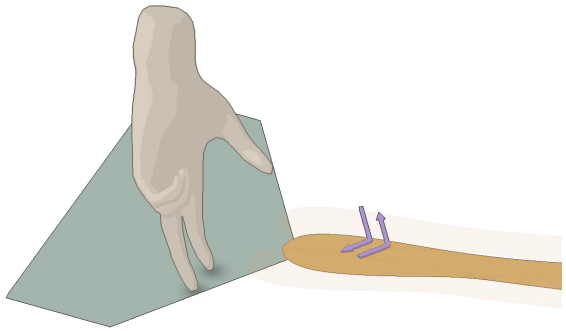
3 Hold it extended



Step help

Press the eased-out edge down with your fingertips. Keep it in place as you remove the knife.

4 Crease from outside

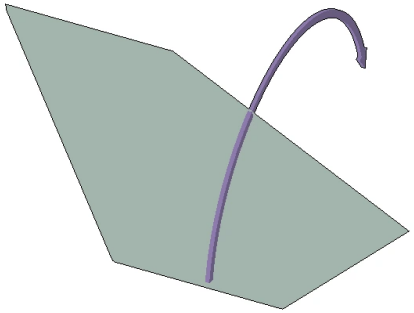


Step help

Keep holding the edge. Lay the blunt blade on the outside and slide it back and forth to set the fold.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Flat pointed edge

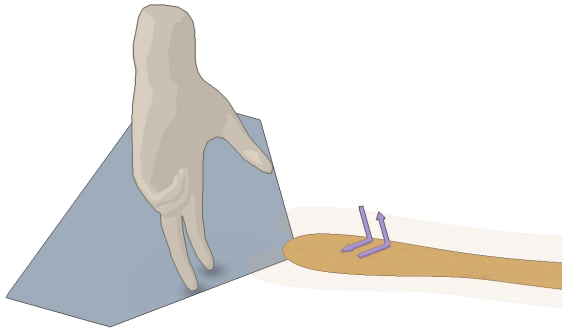
5 Turn over



Step help

Turn the piece over to work the other face.

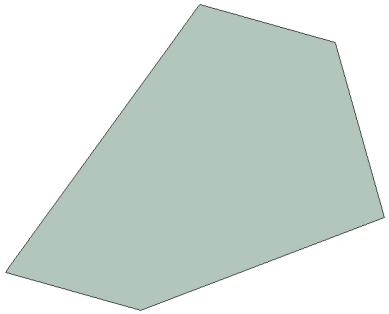
6 Crease the other side



Step help

Hold the edge extended again. Slide the blade back and forth on this side too.

7 Check the edge

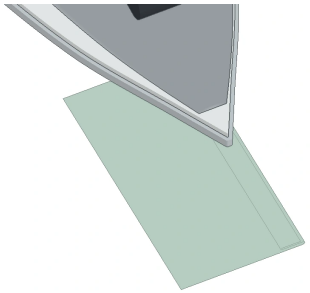


Step help

The seam is fully out, smooth and flat. Continue along the rest of the edge.

Pressing guide · Flat, knife-like edge · Folded hem

1 Fold and press



Step help

Fold the hem twice. Press flat.

Pressing guide · Continuous surface · Broad curve

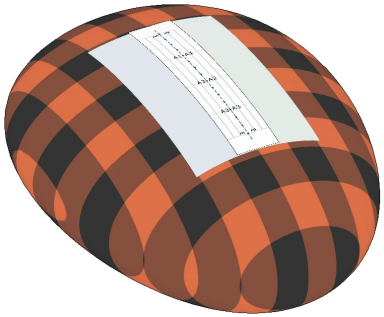
1 Choose the ham



Step help

Use the rounded ham to support curved seams. Choose the part whose curve matches your piece.

2 Rest the curve on the ham



Step help

Rest the curved area on the ham, wrong side up. Arrange allowances as the kit shows; open allowances are pictured.

3 Press a small section

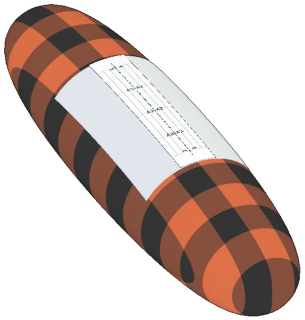


Step help

Press the allowances in short sections. Lift to move; let the fabric cool on the ham without flattening its curve.

Pressing guide · Continuous surface · Narrow or tubular area

1 Use the roll for a narrow seam



Step help

Lay the seam along the top of the roll. Let the rest of the fabric hang to the sides, clear of the iron.

2 Press along the roll

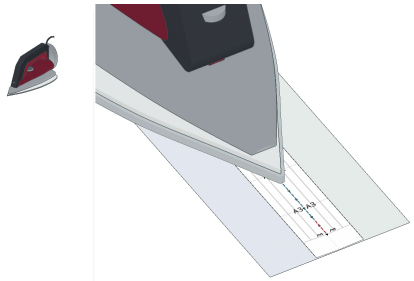


Step help

Keep the iron tip on the seam. Press short sections without flattening the garment around it. Lift before moving.

Pressing guide · Continuous surface · Flat area · allowances open

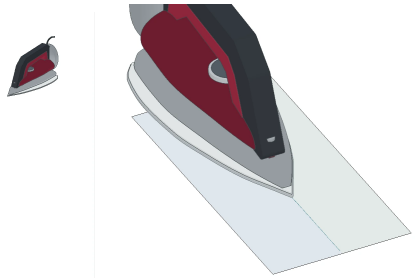
1 Press allowances open



Step help

Open the pieces, with the wrong side up. Spread the two allowances away from the stitch line and press them onto their own sides.

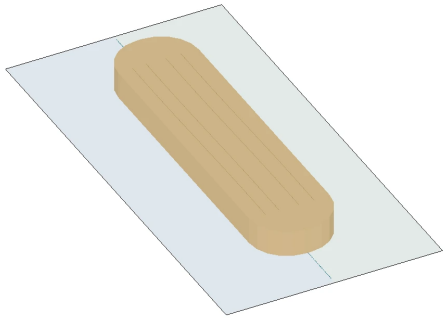
2 Optional: flatten seam bulk



Step help

On a flat pressing surface, press the seam or folded edge with the heat and steam your fabric allows. Lift the iron away.

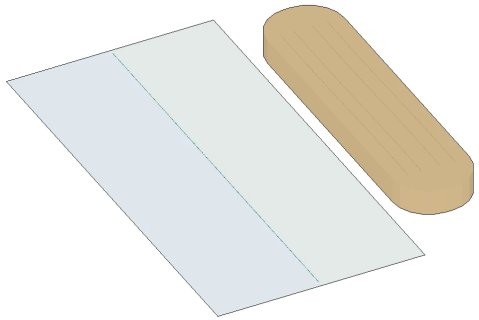
3 Hold the clapper on the warm seam



Step help

Immediately place the flat wooden clapper on the pressed area. Hold it still with gentle pressure as the seam cools.

4 Lift and check

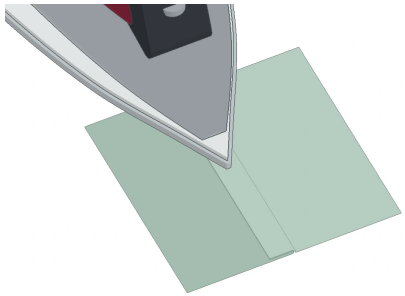


Step help

Lift the clapper once the fabric has cooled and dried. Check for a flat seam. Use the ham or roll again if the shape needs to stay rounded.

Pressing guide · Continuous surface · Flat area · allowances together

1 Press to one side

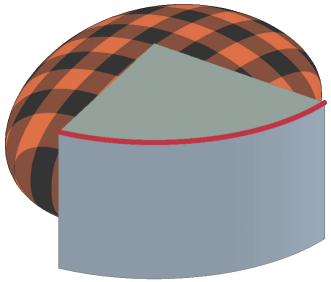


Step help

Press both allowances to the same side.

Pressing guide · Angled join · Press an angled join

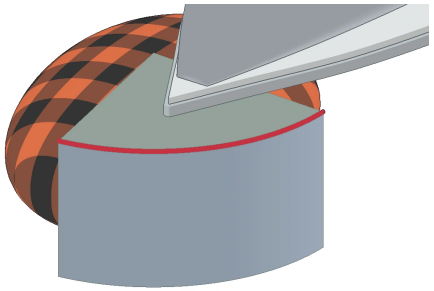
1 Support the angle



Step help

Set the join over the end of a ham or roll. Arrange allowances as your kit shows; use only marked relief cuts.

2 Press one face at a time

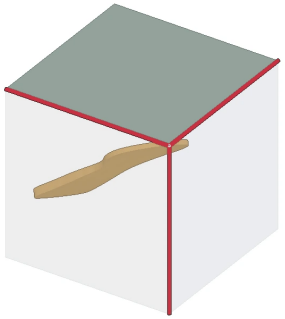


Step help

Use the iron tip in short sections. Rotate the work on its support to reach the other face; do not flatten the angle.

Pressing guide · Box corner · Press a box corner

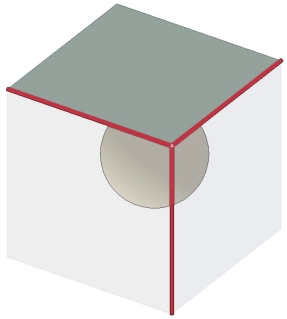
1 Ease out the edges and point



Step help

From inside, ease along each seam toward the corner with a blunt tool. Stop when the point is out. The side faces are translucent here to show the tool.

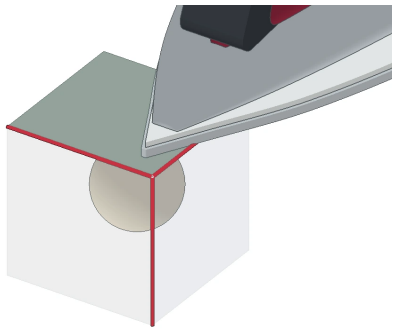
2 Support the inside



Step help

Place a small folded pressing cloth inside the corner. Keep each face smooth and the seam allowances in their instructed positions.

3 Press each face

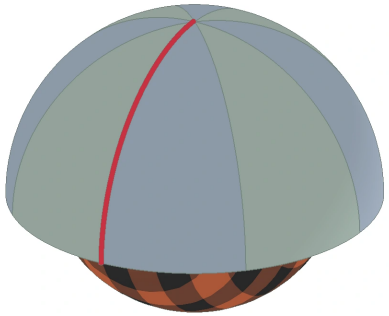


Step help

Press one supported face at a time. Rotate the pouch to reach the others, then let it cool in its box shape.

Pressing guide · Rounded volume · Support the rounded shell

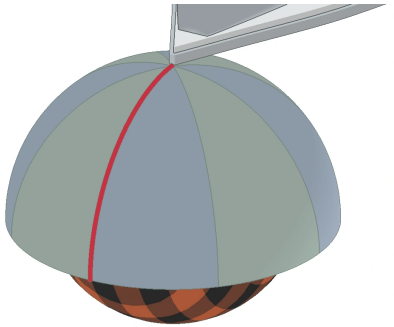
1 Support the seam



Step help

Set the open shell over a rounded padded support. Match its curve; arrange allowances as your kit shows.

2 Press a small section



Step help

Use only the iron tip. Lift and rotate the shell to follow the seam without flattening its volume.

Pressing guide · Darted surface · Press a dart

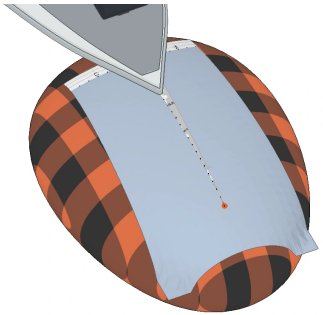
1 Lay the dart on a ham



Step help

Lay the dart toward the skirt’s center.

2 Press toward the point

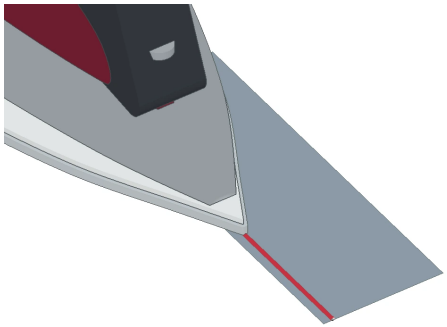


Step help

Press from the waist edge to the dot at the tip. Stop there.

Pressing guide · Gathers and ruching · Press before gathering

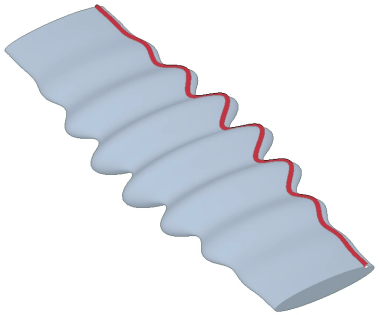
1 Press the seam first



Step help

Press the sewn cover before gathering or inserting elastic, webbing, or a metal base. Use a roll if the tube is narrow.

2 Distribute the folds

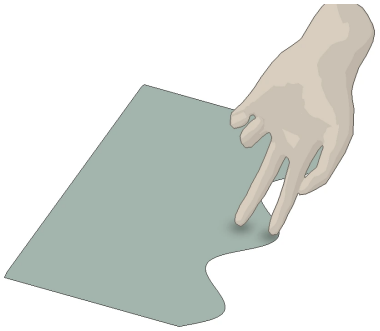


Step help

Gather as your kit shows. Arrange the folds by hand; keep attachment ends smooth. Do not press the ruching flat.

Pressing guide · Flared petals · Press a flared petal

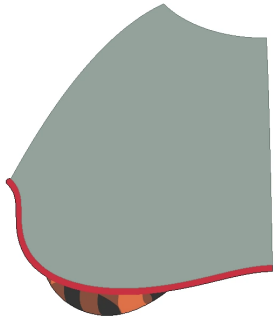
1 Ease out one petal



Step help

From inside, ease the seam outward with the blunt spreader. Hold the extended edge with your fingers.

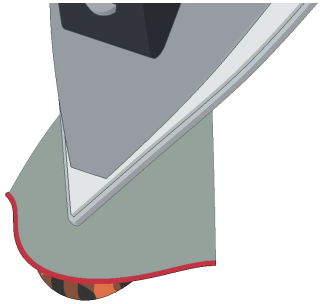
2 Support one lobe



Step help

Rest just this petal on the rounded support. Keep the opening and the other petals free.

3 Press just the edge

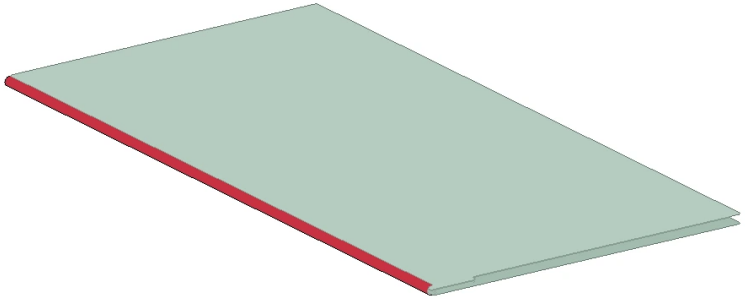


Step help

Press the supported edge in short sections, then rotate to the next petal. Keep the flower’s flare and soft folds.

Pressing guide · Let the shape set

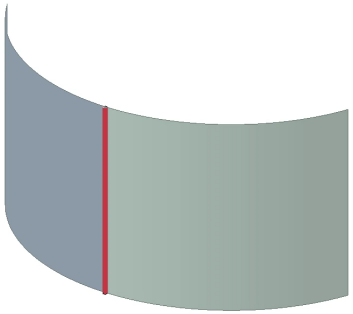
1 Cool flat



Step help

Check both faces. The seam should sit on the edge, fully extended. Let it cool flat.

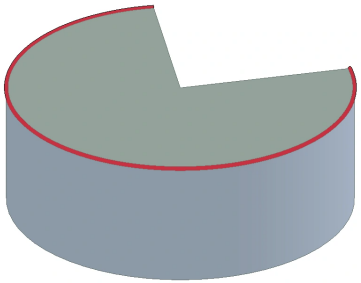
2 Keep the surface smooth



Step help

Check from the right side. Let the fabric cool on its support without a ridge or unwanted crease.

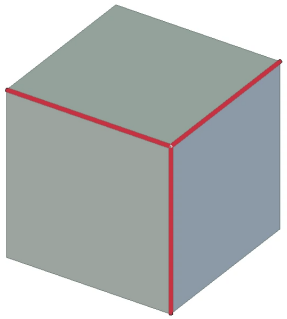
3 Keep the angle



Step help

Let the join cool on its support. The two faces should keep their intended angle.

4 Keep the corner’s volume

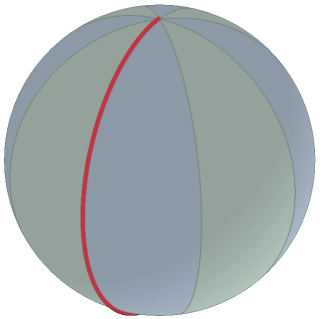


Step help

Let the supported corner cool before removing the pressing cloth. Check all faces from outside.

Pressing guide · Let the shape set

5 Keep it rounded



Step help

Let the shell cool on its support before filling or closing it.

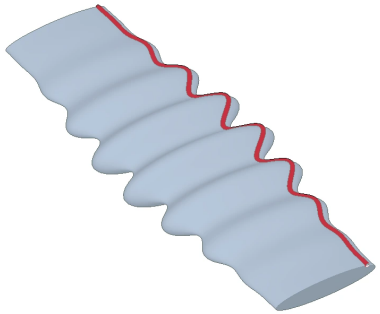
6 Keep the shaped fullness



Step help

Let the dart cool on the ham. Check that the crease ends at the dart point.

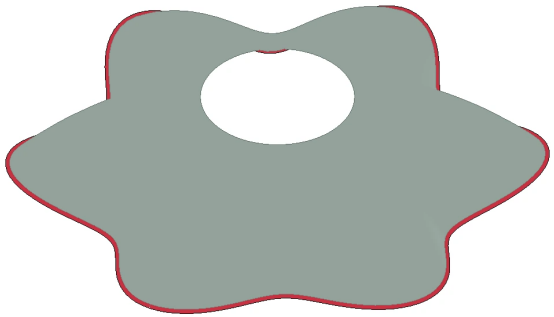
7 Keep the folds soft



Step help

Check that the gathers move freely and the attachment ends remain smooth.

8 Keep the petals open

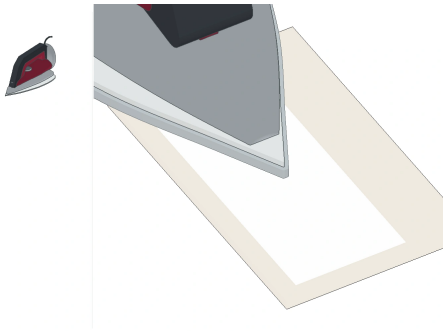


Step help

Let the edge cool in its flared shape before gathering or adding the drawcord.

Pressing guide · Tips

1 Test your fabric



Step help

Test heat and steam on a scrap. Use a pressing cloth if needed. The ham, roll and clapper are optional tools, available separately.