pressing

Pressing elevates your garments from homemade to handcrafted. It creates smooth transitions between pieces, crisp hems, and sharp corners.



1 fill water tank
essential for steaming



2 heat to 400°F
or the iron's cotton setting



3 remove basting
or else it won't iron flat



4 prep surfaces
use a mat or board for flat seams.
use a ham or roll for curved seams.



5 iron wrong side
use steam; after, press seam allowances down with clapper



6 iron right side
again, use steam and clapper

straight flat seams

A-F, Q-V

Surface: mat or board (something flat)

Do steps 1-6. Skip steps 7 onwards for these straight seams. You can press every seam after sewing it to keep it simple. Or to minimize switching between sewing and ironing, press seams A - F after stitching all of them.

Whatever you do, don't move onto seam G before pressing A-F!

slightly curved seams

G-J, W-Z

Surface: tailor's roll
If you don't have one: you should get one! Or, roll up a towel or magazine and stuff it in 2-3 layers of socks. You can also use rolling pins, scraps, or sawdust as filler.

Start with the basic pressing steps 1 - 6 on the left. Then clip (step 7) and re-press (8).

Don't move onto seam K before pressing G - J!

very curved seams

K-N, AA-AD

Surface: tailor's ham.

Start with the basic pressing steps 1 - 6 on the left. Then clip (step 7) and re-press (8).

Don't move onto seam K before pressing G - J!

hem seams

AG-AJ

Surface: mat/board
Other tools: cheese spreader

Setup with prep steps 1-4 on the left. Then, trim your allowances (step 5 on the right). AG-AI will be trimmed after machine stitching. AJ will have to be clipped before your ladder stitch.

Crease AG-AI after turning the hat right side out. AJ should be creased after the ladder stitch is almost finished, but there is a hole the size of the cheese spreader remaining. This is step 6 on the right. Then, press each side (7).

straight ring seams

O, P, AE, AF

Surface: tailor's ham.

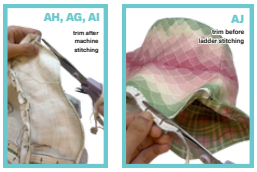
Perform basic pressing steps 1 - 6 on the left, but do it wrapped around a tailor's ham.



7 clip seam allowance
reduces bulk, relieves tension



8 re-iron both sides
will be even flatter post clipping



5 trim allowance
cut to first stripe on allowance



6 ladder stitch if AJ
create a ladder stitch until a 2 inch long hole remains



7 crease and score
use cheese spreader to crease hems from inside and outside



8 iron each side
both sides are "right sides" with no exposed allowances