

Tips & Tricks for Sewing Velvet

Cut all patterns pieces single layer

- Lay your fabric nap side down and place your pattern pieces on the back to minimize slipping.
- Lightweight pattern weights are helpful for keeping your pattern in place.
- Use a rotary cutter (ideal, and sharp) or shears to carefully cut out your pattern.

Interfacing

- Use only the sew-in type of interfacing.
- You cannot adhere fusible interfacing to velvet with an iron as it will pucker and pull the velvet in different ways.

Pin Pin Pin! Did we mention pin?

- You want to make sure your pattern pieces are secure and won't shift during the sewing process.
- If using the hand basting method, try using a diagonal stitch pattern as this will work best to ensure that your fabric stays secure as you stitch it up.
- Alternatively, temporary basting spray holds layers of velvet together and prevents shifting while sewing. The spray should disappear from the fabric easily, but always test a scrap piece first.

Iron lightly with lots of steam

- Use a towel or scrap of the same velvet to protect the right side of your fabric while you steam the wrong side.
- Ideally, hover with the iron rather than apply any pressure, so as not to crush your velvet. Do not rub the iron from side to side.

Sewing it up!

- Test your stitch length, your tension, and the feel of your fabric under your presser foot before you jump into your project.
- Check your sewing machine needle sizes are correct. A Universal or Sharp 70/10H or 80/12H works best, unless your fabric is a knit, then using a Jersey or Ball Point is required.
- Hold both layers of fabric taut while sewing so you get an even tension on the fabric and can guide it through the machine.
- Always sew in the direction of the nap.