



laminated fabric tips

I've been working a lot with my laminated fabric and my "LOVE" fabric collection features my first series of designs printed on this versatile material. My laminated fabric is printed on 58" wide 100% cotton quilting weight fabric with a phthalate free laminated coating. It's great for a variety of projects from bags, tablecloths and picnic blankets to raincoats and umbrellas.

(CLICK HERE to get some great ideas and instructions on how to recover an umbrella featured in the photos!)

Because laminated fabric is such a unique material, I thought it would be helpful to share some basic information and some fabulous tips that will come in handy. Please let me know about your experiences with laminated fabric, everyone has so many great suggestions! Drop me a note anytime at amyb@amybutlerdesign.com.
Happy Sewing! ~Amy



selecting your pattern and fabric

- Laminated material isn't as flexible as traditional cotton fabric so choose a sewing pattern with simple lines and stitching. Avoid projects with too much intricate shaping.
- When purchasing laminated fabric, have the store clerk roll it onto a cardboard tube rather than folding it. This will keep it from forming creases and wrinkling.



general care information

- Wipe using a soft cloth with mild soap and water or a gentle surface spray cleaner. Do NOT Machine Wash or Tumble Dry
- Laminated fabric may ONLY be ironed on the **WRONG** side, using a dry iron on a low/cool setting. Be careful not to touch the laminated coating with your iron.



suggested notions and tools

- **All-purpose thread** works great, be sure to use a coordinating color. Check out my new Premium Thread Collections for Rowan available June 2010
- **Wax-free tracing paper and a smooth-edge tracing wheel** can be used to transfer marks from your pattern pieces onto your fabric. (I use Dritz® brand)
- **Size 12 or 14 sharp sewing machine needles** work best.
- Using a **Teflon® coated presser foot or a roller presser foot** on your sewing machine is very helpful. Ask your local sewing center to guide you in finding one that fits for your machine.
OR
- **Masking tape or blue painter's tape** cut to fit the bottom of your regular presser foot will allow the laminated coating to slide through your machine more easily.

Please continue with "suggested notions and tools" on the next page.

- **Transparent tape** can be used to hold your pattern pieces to the **RIGHT** side of your fabric while you cut them out. The tape can easily be removed if needed.
- **Binder clips or large paper clips** can be used to hold the edges of your fabric pieces together in lieu of using pins. Regular pins leave permanent holes in the material. *(I use Binding & Hem Clips from Collins®)*
- **Spray adhesive** can be used to secure sew-in interfacing while you machine baste it to your fabric. Be sure to spray the adhesive on the **WRONG** side of your material. *(I use Spray Adhesive from Dritz®)*
- **Double-sided fabric tape** is used to hold pieces of your project in place or to hold an opening in a seam closed while you stitch. *(I use 1/4" wide Wash Away™ Wonder Tape from Dritz®)*



sewing tips

- You don't need to straighten the grain on laminated fabric. It doesn't shift because of the coating.
- Do NOT use fusible interfacing with laminated fabric. The combination of the moisture and the heat from the iron will wrinkle the front of your material.
- The laminated coating will keep the raw edges from fraying.
- When sewing your fabric pieces together use a longer stitch length (3mm or larger). Shorter stitch lengths create too many holes and can weaken the seams.
- Stitch slowly as you gently guide your fabric through your sewing machine to help keep it from puckering. If the fabric begins to pucker in front of your presser foot, stop, and use the hand wheel on your machine to walk your needle through the small pucker.
- Once you sew a seam, open up the panels and finger press the seam allowances to one side. Then turn the panels over to the **RIGHT** side and edge stitch close to the seam catching the seam allowances underneath. This will make the seam lay flat and look neat and finished.



caring for and storing your projects

- To avoid permanent wrinkling, do NOT fold your fabric or projects when storing them.
- To store a bag made from laminated fabric, use tissue paper and stuff the inside of the bag. Place it on a shelf or hang it from its handles on a hanger.
- To store clothing, hang it on a padded hanger. This will help prevent creases and wrinkles. Take care not to allow the ends of your hanger to stress the fabric at the shoulders.
- Your project or clothing can be "de-wrinkled" by laying it out in the desired shape. You can also de-wrinkle your project by running a hair dryer back and forth across the wrinkles. Be sure to use a low setting and do not to touch the laminated coating.
- Keep your fabric or projects out of direct sunlight. Over time the material could fade.



more great laminated info!

There is so much great information on the web about sewing with laminated fabric. Visit my friends' blogs and see all their helpful ideas and tips.

- Pink Chalk Studio - <http://pinkchalkstudio.com/blog/2009/11/18/laminated-cotton-sewing-tips/>
- Sew Mamma Sew - <http://sewmamasew.com/blog2/?p=5>
- Fabric.com - http://forums.fabric.com/blog/2008/06/the_fabric_maverick_says_let_m.html
- Oilcloth Addict - <http://oilclothaddict.blogspot.com/> (the tips are on the left side of the blog)

Check out these fantastic umbrellas in the photos below! My friends at Threads Magazine have created detailed instructions on how to recover your own umbrella. A fun project to brighten up those gray rainy days!

CLICK HERE for the umbrella instructions: <http://www.threadsmagazine.com>



The women's jacket shown above is from my new Spring pattern "Rainy Days Hooded Raincoat". It is made using the "Sandlewood" print from my "Love" laminated fabric collection. The little girl's raincoat is from my "Little Splashes" pattern for sizes 3 - 14.