

Waddings, Interfacings, Interlinings, Stabilisers

WADDING (BATTING):

Some waddings contain **Scrim**. The scrim is fine non-woven fabric that the fibres are needle punched into. The scrim locks in fibers to prevent bearding/piling. The Scrim also gives the batting strength and firmness. Waddings with scrim can be quilted at wider distances apart.

Bonded quilt battings are made with a glue or bonding adhesive, which means the batting may get looser once the quilt is washed. This usually requires close quilting lines.

LOFT refers to the depth/compression of the wadding. High loft is usually polyester, harder to quilt, and gives a puffier look. Low loft is easier to use and more commonly used by quilters.

Synthetic:

100% Polyester - Doesn't keep heat as well as cotton or wool. However doesn't shrink as much as natural fibres. Can leave up to 10" unquilted. Suitable for craft projects.

Thermolam – densely compressed polyester wadding with a feel similar to wool felt. Suitable for adding strength & padding to bags, purses & wallhangings.

Heat Resistant/Insulating - This has a thin foil insulating layer in the wadding. It is needle punched polyester fibres that reflect the hot/cold back to its source Useful for ironing board covers, insulating bags, hot pads etc. Not suitable for quilts.

Gridded Volume Fleece – A fusible polyester lightweight wadding with pre-printed adhesive lines to follow for quilting. Suitable for quilting crafts and clothing.

Natural:

100% Cotton is a low loft, it drapes beautifully, soft, cuddly, warm and natural. Cotton batting tends to stick to the backing and top fabrics well so it doesn't shift around as much and easy to make your quilt sandwich. It is available in bleached white, great for your white quilts, natural in colouring or grey for your darker quilts.

100% Wool is a great wadding if you want the extra warmth. It has a scrim on both sides to prevent the fibres piling out of the top. It is heavier in weight than 100% cotton. Can be heavy to Quilt and hand quilt.

Bamboo Wadding is amazingly soft, drapes beautifully, low loft so easier for hand quilting. Dries 3 times faster than cotton wadding and will not allow mould or mildew to grow.

Blended: These waddings will have a combination of man-made materials, natural fibres or both.

80% Cotton / 20% Polyester – This has the same characteristics as 100% cotton but is lighter in weight. A little cheaper than 100% cotton or wool wadding.

60% Wool / 40% Polyester - It has the warmth of wool wadding but a lighter option. Quick to dry after washing and lighter on the bed.

60% Wool / 40% Cotton - This wadding is soft to touch and drapes better than the wool/poly wadding. It has the warmth of wool with the softness of cotton. Low - Medium loft.

50% Soya / 50% Cotton – This is similar in attributes to bamboo wadding. More environmentally friendly and helps to regulate body temperature.

Fusible Wadding - Popular with the quilt as you go techniques, bag making & small quilted projects. Adhesive can be on one side or both sides.

INTERFACING:

Interfacing is used to add stiffness or strength to your project and are a permanent addition when applied. They can be fusible or non-fusible (sew-in).

Fusible:

The general rule for using fusible interfacing is the weight of the interfacing should never be thicker than the fabric you are fusing it to. A thicker interfacing ironed onto a thin fabric can cause the fabric to bubble and resist.

Fusible interfacing comes in **woven** (feels like fabric) or **non-woven**, but generally fits 4 main categories: light-weight, medium-weight, heavy-weight, ultra heavy-weight. Light-weight / medium weight interfacings are commonly used in clothing (cuffs & collars etc.) where heavy/ultra heavy weight interfacings are used in bag making and structured crafts.

Ultra Heavy-weight:

Timtex – fusible, little flexibility. Suitable for bag making and projects requiring extreme stiffness.

Decovil – fusible and similar to Timtex but with a leathery/suede like feel. Little flexibility.

Bosal – Fusible, flexible foam which adds padding and structure to projects.

Sew-in:

These non-fusible interfacings are sewn/quilted in to the fabric being strengthened. Because they aren't being fused on, you can use a weight heavier than the fabric you are strengthening. Simply pinning the interfacing in place can make them tricky to work with, however they can be spray basted to fabric, making them much easier to sew-in.

Like the fusible interfacings, they are light-weight, medium-weight & heavy weight. Craft weight vilene is ultra heavy weight and inflexible.

Quick Screen Grids – a pre-printed (non-fusible) interfacing for making sewing triangles/square blocks easier. Seam allowances/cutting lines are shown as a broken line and stitch lines are shown as solid lines. However, the interfacing is a permanent fixture, making the block thicker. See this YouTube tutorial on how to use the Quick Screen Triangle Grid:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nMj2ZeP0s4>

INTERLININGS (UNDERLININGS):

Similar to interfacings, as they add strength and substance. Often used in clothing to add warmth and body, and goes in between the outer and lining fabrics. Almost anything used in between 2 layers could be considered an interlining. Calico, Canvas, Duck Cloth are common interlinings in bag making.

STABILISERS:

As the name suggests, these are materials used to stabilise or secure other fabrics while you sew.

Fusible:

Bondaweb: heat activated adhesive used to bond one fabric to another. Has a papery side which you can draw directly on to. Finished designs are always reversed when using bondaweb. Reduces fray. Comes in different weights to suit different textiles. Great for Applique, Textile and Quilt Art.

Heat n Bond – heat activated adhesive. Comes in different weights to suit different fabrics. However not for sewing through as it will gum up your needle. Suitable for crafting and ‘no-sew’ projects.

Steam a Seam 2 – a temporary fusible stabiliser. Has adhesive on both sides but isn’t permanently fixed until heat activated. Great for working out positions of designs, applique shapes first, before ironing in place.

Freezer Paper - Manufactured as a food wrapping product! Has a paper side which you can draw on, and a waxy/shiny side, which when ironed onto fabric will temporarily fuse. Easily peels off fabric and can be used again many times without leaving a residue. Used in paper & foundation piecing, needleturn applique and crafts.

Non-Fusible:

Stitch ‘n Tear: A removeable stabiliser used for applique & embroidery or dense stitching where fabrics can pucker.

Water Soluble:

Draw and stitch directly onto the water soluble stabiliser. Then soak in luke warm water to melt the stabiliser away, leaving your stitched design in tact. Great for embroidery, art quilts and textile crafts.