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## NF00-430 Sewing with Velveteen

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## Sewing with Velveteen

*Rose Marie Tondl, Extension Clothing Specialist*

What is velveteen? Velveteen is made from cotton or a cotton-blend fabric that has a short dense pile. It is woven in a single layer with an extra set of filling yarns that are cut to form the short, closely set pile. Velveteen is available in solid colors and printed with plaid, floral or paisley designs. As a medium weight fabric, it is used whenever a velvet look is desired. It is easier to sew and more durable than velvet.

### **Patterns**

This fabric is used for dresses, jumpers, vests, children's clothes, jackets, coats, skirts and slacks. Simple styles with few seams are good choices.

### **Preshrink**

All cotton velveteen will shrink. For finished garments that will be laundered, stitch ends of fabric closed, then wash and tumble dry on delicate cycle. If finished garment will be dry cleaned, preshrink fabric holding a steam iron just above the surface or place fabric on a shower rod, fill tub with hot water, close door, let steam penetrate fabric and allow to dry. Polyester/cotton blends will shrink less and shed wrinkles better than all cotton velveteen.

### **Layout/Cutting**

Use a "with nap" layout. Determine the direction of the pile you will use. You can cut with the pile running up or down, depending on the look you want. The color looks darker when the pile feels smoother toward the top of garment. Color looks lighter when nap feels smoother running toward the garment hem. Fold fabric in half with wrong sides together for accurate cutting. Cut heavier velveteens in a single layer, wrong side up.

### **Marking**

Mark on the wrong side of fabric. Use chalk, pins, marking pen, tailor tacks or snip the notches.

### **Interfacing**

Select a suitable sew-in interfacing or a lightweight fusible. If using a fusible, apply it to the facings.

## **Needles**

Depending on the weight of the fabric, select sizes 70/10 or 90/14.

## **Sewing**

Set the stitch length to 2 to 2.5 mm or 10 to 12 stitches per inch. Select good quality cotton or polyester thread. Stitch with the nap of the fabric. If fabric shifts while sewing, use an "even feed" foot to help prevent this. Practice taut sewing by holding the fabric under tension in front and behind the presser foot. Decrease or loosen the top tension while sewing.

## **Seam Finishes**

To control raveling, finish the seams with bias binding, pink and stitch, zigzag or multistitch zigzag or serge each seam allowance separately. Using a two-thread serger will put less thread on the fabric and reduce bulk.

## **Pressing**

Avoid touching the pile of velveteen. Use a velveteen press cloth when steam pressing the right side of fabric. When pressing the wrong side, place the right side of the fabric on a fluffy terry towel, a needle board or a velvaboard which is a synthetic velvet pressing board. Place the steam iron gently on the area you are pressing. Lift the iron and move it to the next area to be pressed. Do not push the iron using an ironing motion. To prevent steam imprints on the right side of fabric, place strips of brown paper underneath the seam allowance. Before handling, allow fabric to dry completely.

## **Hemming**

Finish the raw edge of the hem with seam binding, nylon sheer bias tape, zig zagging or use a serger. Turn up hem and hand sew in place using a fine thread. Use an inside hemming stitch or the catch stitch. Keep stitches loose to prevent hem imprint. For casual wear and children's clothing, topstitch the hem by machine.

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