

1960

## EC60-423 Pressing Equipment

Helen Rocke

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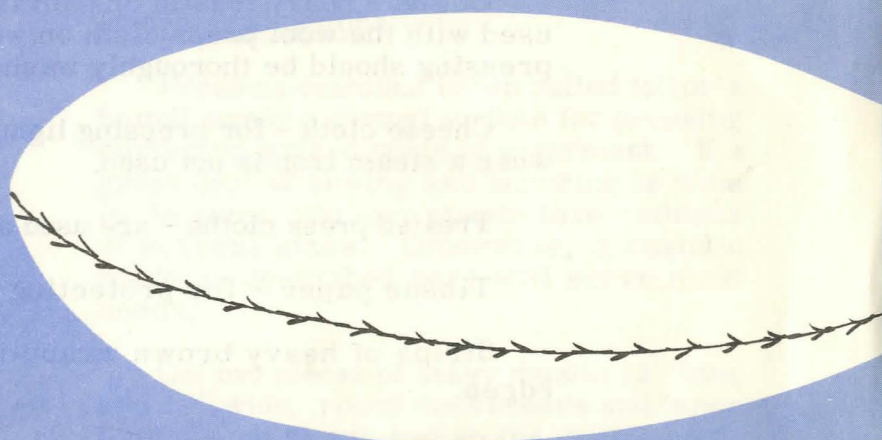
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# Pressing Equipment



EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATING  
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# Pressing Equipment . . . . .

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EXTENSION CLOTHING SPECIALIST

Equipment for pressing will vary with the kind and amount of sewing done in the home. Essential tools may be the same as those used in the care of clothes, with others added as the need arises.

Basic tools are the iron, ironing board, pressing cloths, and a pressing mitt. Other tools that may be added are a sleeve board, seam roll, tailor's cushions, a clapper or beater, and a point and edge presser.

## An Iron

An iron with an automatic heat control helps to eliminate many problems in pressing or ironing modern fabrics. A steam iron is convenient, but not essential to good work.

The regulation ironing board, adjustable to your height should be smooth and well padded.

## Pressing Cloths

Pressing cloths are needed to protect fabrics and to supply or distribute moisture. A convenient size cloth for general pressing is 18 x 24 inches. Pressing cloths include:

Wool - a piece of smooth textured, colorfast wool fabric such as flannel - used for pressing the right side of wool fabrics.

Cotton - heavy muslin or canvas for pressing heavier fabrics or to be used with the wool press cloth on wool fabrics. Any cotton cloth used for pressing should be thoroughly washed to remove starch or sizing.

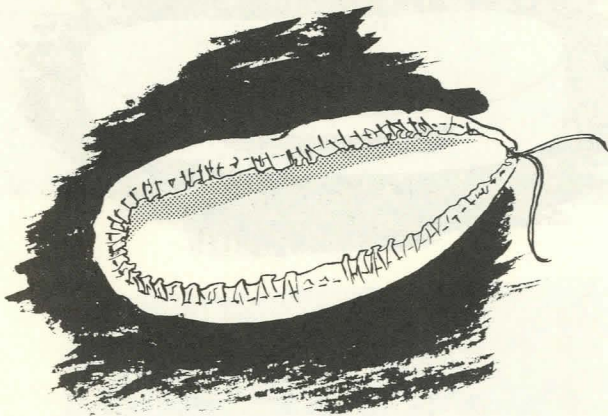
Cheese cloth - for pressing light weight fabrics and supplying moisture when a steam iron is not used.

Treated press cloths - are used according to manufacturer's directions.

Tissue paper - for protecting the surface of a light-weight fabric.

Strips of heavy brown wrapping paper to use under seam and hem edges.

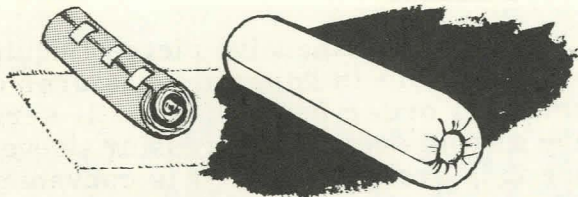




### Cover For Steam Iron

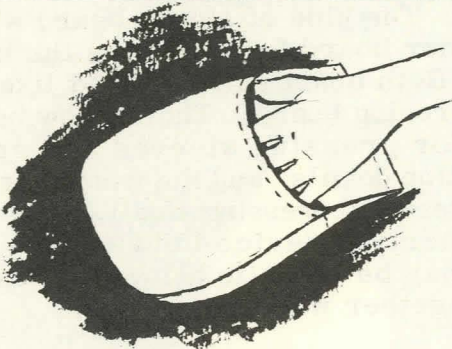
A cover which may be tied over the sole plate of a steam iron is convenient to use instead of a press cloth for some pressing done on the right side of a garment.

The cover may be made by cutting an oval from a piece of muslin about 10" x 14" in size. Make a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " hem around the edge. Leave an opening in the hem at one end to insert a heavy cord or narrow tape to use in drawing up the cover and to tie it to the iron.



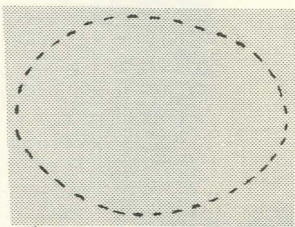
### A Seam Roll

A seam roll for pressing seams may be made by rolling a large magazine tightly. Use gummed tape to hold the roll in place. Cover with several layers of firm cotton cloth and sew in place on the underside.



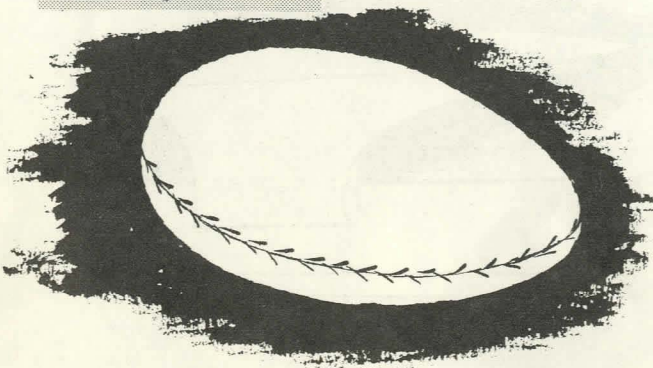
### A Press Mitt

A press mitt which may be used on the hand or end of a sleeve board is convenient for pressing shoulder seams, sleeve caps, darts in blouses. Press mitts are commonly found at notion counters or may be made from available patterns.



### Pressing Cushions

Pressing cushions (often called tailor's hams) supply a curved surface for pressing curved or shaped parts of a garment. If a great deal of sewing and tailoring is done in the home, you may wish to have cushions of several sizes. Otherwise, a cushion made as described here will serve most needs.

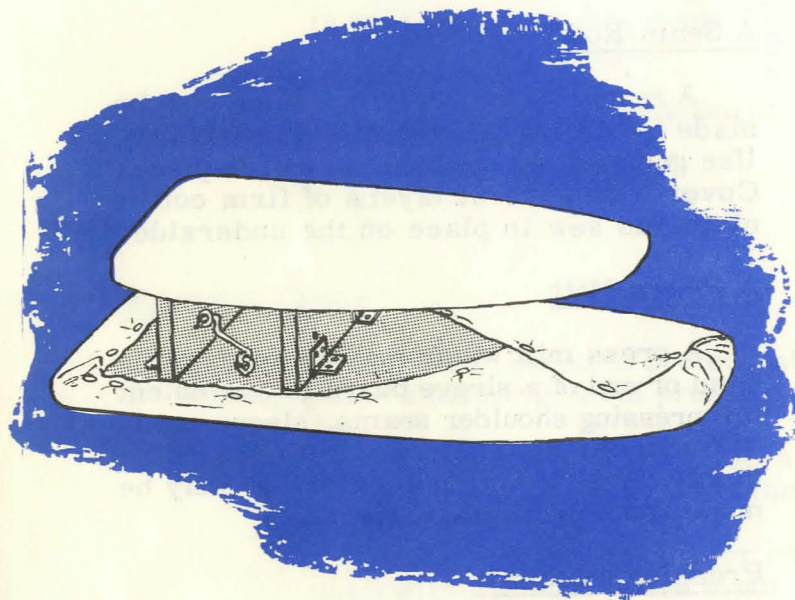
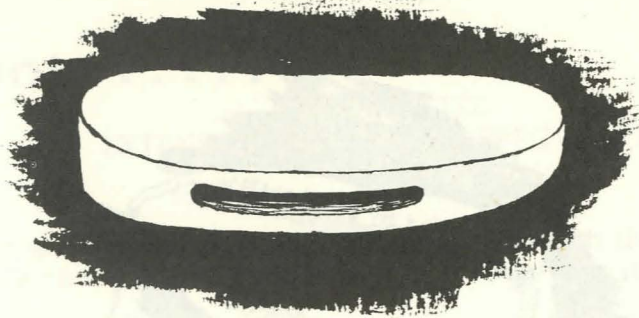


Cut two pieces of heavy muslin 12" long and 10" wide, round the corners and taper both pieces at one end so the cushion will be egg shaped. Stitch the pieces together with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam, leaving a 3" opening at the wide end. Turn right side out and stuff the cushion with sawdust or small scraps of wool cloth until it is so firm it will not dent when pressed with the fingers. Close the opening with small hand stitches.



### A Clapper or Beater

This is used in tailoring to help obtain sharp edges on collars, facings, hems, pleats and other parts of the garment. A beater may be made from a piece of hardwood, 2" thick, 4" wide and 12" long. The ends and edges are rounded and sanded smoothly. Finger grooves along the sides make it easier to hold the clapper.



### A Sleeve Board

This is an inexpensive piece of equipment available in department stores or from mail order houses. It will serve many purposes other than pressing sleeves. Since it is easily moved, it is convenient to place near the machine for pressing as you sew. The kind of sleeve board which has a wider board for a base is the most useful. Both boards are padded like the regular ironing board. The narrow board serves for pressing sleeves and small construction details, and the wider one for larger areas and pressing small garments. The supporting device between the two boards may be made to allow the boards to fold together when not in use.

### An Edge or Point Presser

This is a less commonly used piece of equipment. It is used to open the seam of a collar or cuffs, and the pointed end can be pushed into corners of lapels. A point presser is made from a piece of hardwood  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick and 4" wide, about 10" long. The board is pointed at one or both ends and is mounted edgewise on a base. It is not padded, but may have a layer of felt or heavy cotton fabric drawn tightly over the top and tacked in place to keep the grain of the wood from being raised by steam.

