

1972

EC72-423 Pressing Equipment

Jane Speece

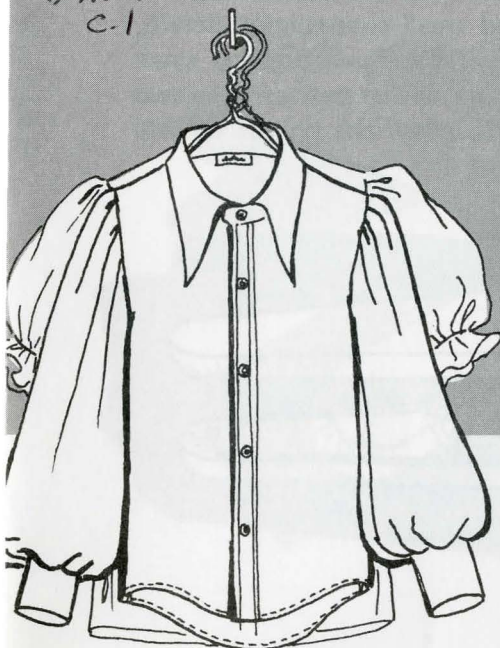
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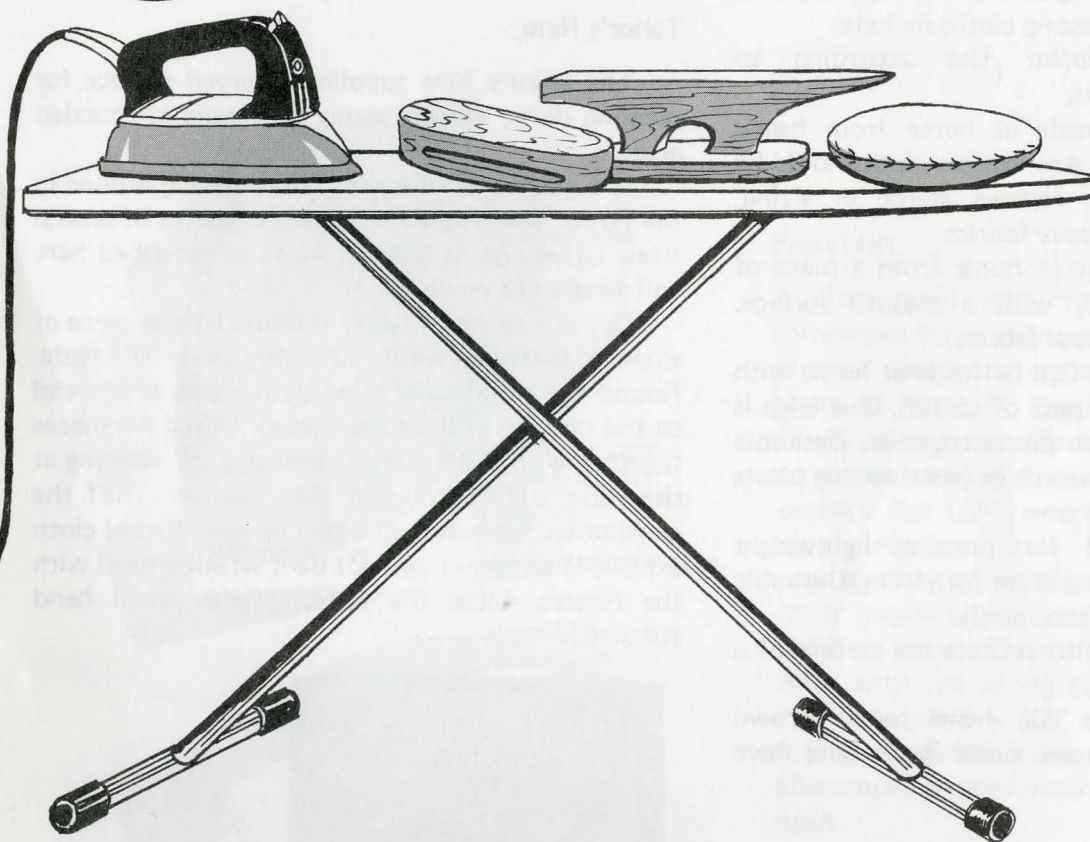


PRESSING EQUIPMENT

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EC 72-423



Extension Service, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture Cooperating with the
U. S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

Pressing Equipment

Jane Speece
Extension Specialist Clothing

The amount of equipment for pressing will vary with the kind of pressing or with the amount of sewing done at home. Essential tools are the same as those used in the care of clothes.

Basic tools are the iron, ironing board and press cloth. A steam iron is convenient but a dry iron used with a press cloth and moisture sometimes gives a more satisfactory press. The ironing board should be adjustable to your height, smooth and well padded.

Press cloths are needed to protect fabrics and to prevent their getting a shine from the hot iron and steam. A convenient size is 18 x 24 inches. Smaller cloths may be used for special areas, such as sleeve caps or buttonholes. Pressing cloths include:

Treated press cloths: Use according to manufacturers directions.

Cotton: Can be made at home from heavy muslin, drill or canvas. Any cotton cloth should be thoroughly washed to remove starch or sizing. Desirable for pressing heavy fabrics.

Wool: Can be made at home from a piece of colorfast wool, usually with a smooth surface. Desirable for pressing wool fabrics.

Doublefaced cloth: Can be made at home with one layer of wool and one of cotton. One edge is stitched to hold the two pieces together. Desirable when tailoring wool garments or when setting pleats or pant creases.

Cheesecloth: Used for pressing lightweight fabrics and supplying moisture for steam. Desirable to use with the doublefaced cloth.

Tissue paper: Used to protect the surface of a fragile fabric.

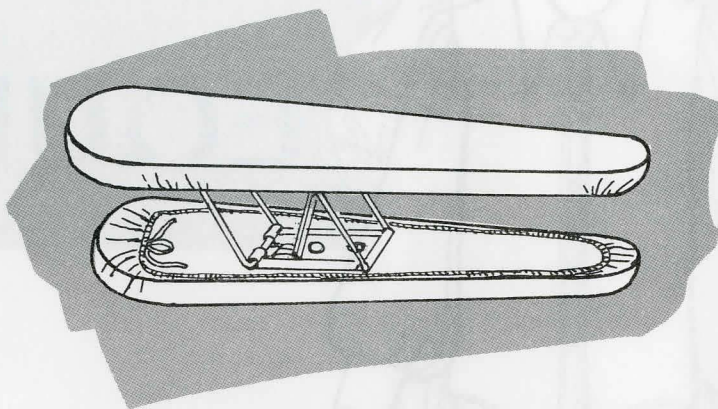
Paper strips: Are cut from heavy brown wrapping paper and used under seam and hem edges.

Sleeveboard

The sleeveboard is a small padded ironing board used to press short seams, sleeves and other areas that will not fit readily over the ironing board.

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 sleeveboard 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, 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.

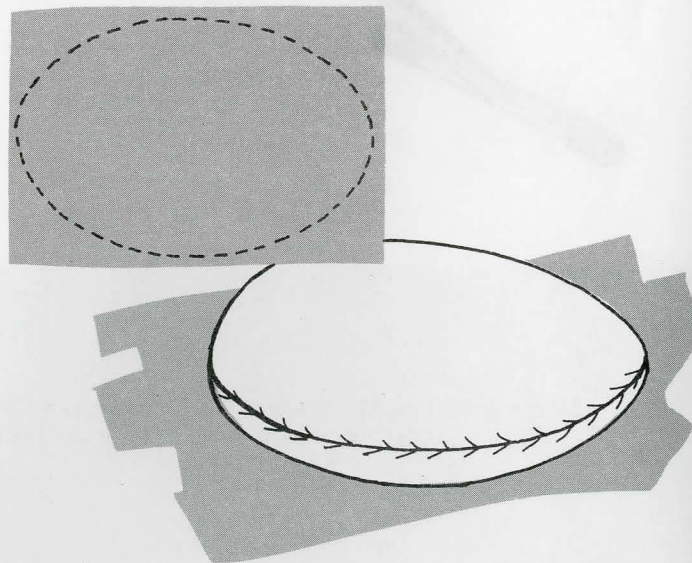


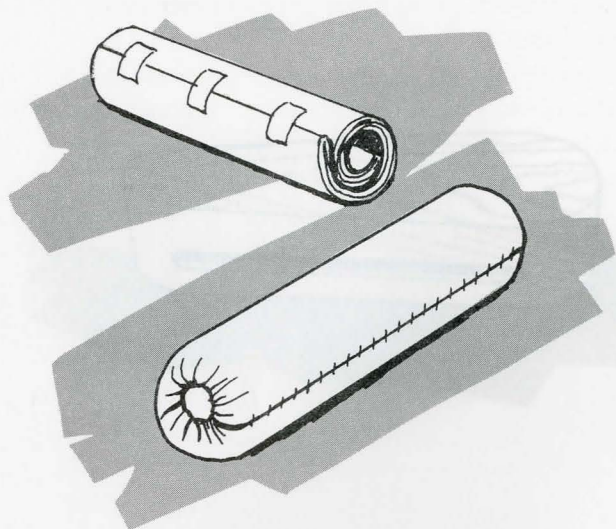
Tailor's Ham

The tailor's ham supplies a curved surface for pressing darts, curved seams or details in rounded areas.

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 one piece of heavy muslin and one piece of smooth textured wool 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.





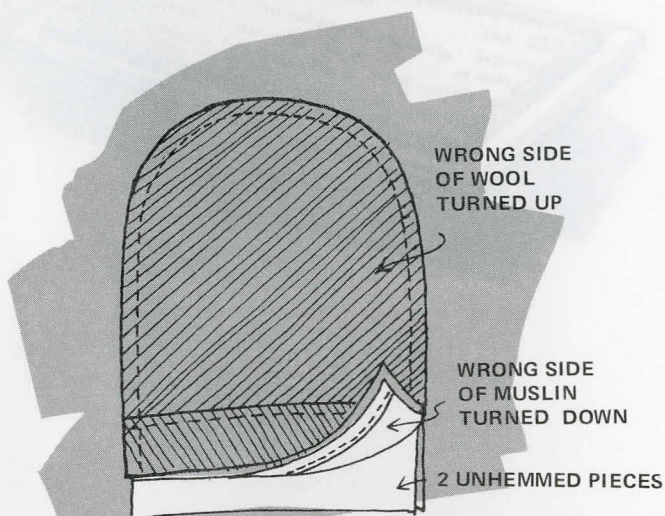
Seam Roll

The seam roll is a long, narrow cushion which gives an area to press open seams without leaving an imprint on the garment.

The seam roll can be made by removing the handles of a rolling pin and covering it tightly with cotton, then with light-colored, smooth-surfaced wool. Sew the fabric into place along the seam and ends with tight handstitches.

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

Another method is to cut two 15" long by 6" wide pieces of fabric, one of cotton and one of wool, for the covering. Construct in the same manner as the tailor's ham.

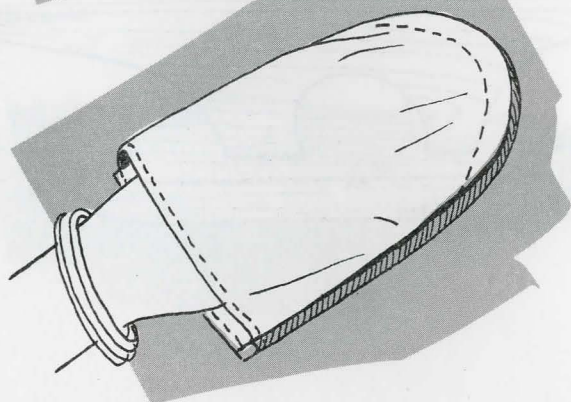


Press Mitt

The press mitt fits on the hand and is convenient for pressing shoulder seams, sleeve caps or small details that do not fit over a ham. Cut four pieces of fabric 8" long by 7" wide. Three pieces should be of heavy muslin or similar fabric and one of smooth-surfaced wool. Round off the upper corners. Put 1/2" hems in one cotton piece and the wool piece.

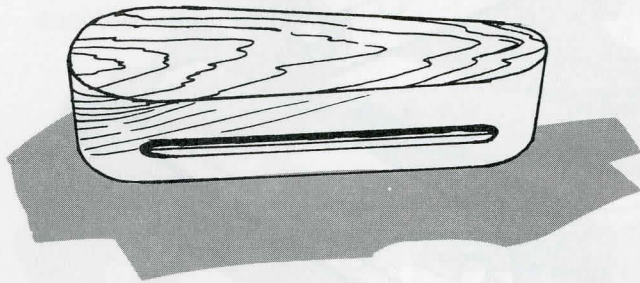
Lay the two unhemmed portions flat. Place the other muslin section on top with the wrong side of the hem down. Place the wool piece on the other three with the wrong side of the hem uppermost. Pin, then stitch a 1/4" seam allowance through all four layers. Stitch a second row just inside the seam allowance for reinforcement. Leave the lower edges open.

Holding the three muslin pieces in one hand, the wool piece in the other, turn the mitt right side out. The two hemmed pieces should be on the outside. All seams will be enclosed. Stuff the center portion with tiny wool scraps, cotton or polyester batting until it is about 2" thick. Finish the lower edge with a zigzag stitch or turn the raw edges inside and make two close rows of stitching across the end.



Clapper

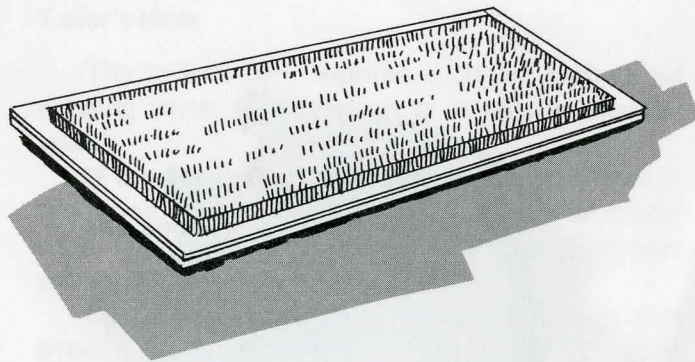
The clapper or pounding block is used to obtain sharp edges on collars, facings, hems, pleats or pant creases. A pounder may be made from a piece of hardwood, 2" thick, 4" wide and 12" long. The ends and edges are rounded and sanded smooth. Finger grooves along the sides make it easier to hold the clapper.



Needle Board

The needle board is a length of canvas covered with fine, upright wires. It is used for pressing napped, heavily textured or pile fabrics. The pile side is placed face down on the needle board so that it is not crushed in pressing.

The needle board is almost impossible to duplicate at home. Self-fabric or heavily-textured bath toweling can be substituted for the needle board.



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. The pointed end can be pushed into corners of lapels. A point presser is made from a piece of hardwood 3/4" thick and 4" wide, about 10" long. The board, pointed at one end, 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.

Sometimes the point presser is mounted on a clapper to give two tools in one.

