Supplies:
Your project, in process
2-in-1 Tailor Board / Clapper
Optional: Press Cloth

Pressing is a vital part of successful sewing. Without pressing, your projects will have puckered seams and lack an expert quality. This versatile tool can be positioned in multiple ways to press points, seams and hard-to-get-at edges. Set the Tailor Board on a stable surface such as a table. Use with your steam iron to press to perfection.

The 2-in-1 Tailor Board / Clapper has the following pressing surfaces:
- Flat side for general pressing of small seams and touch-ups
- Curved Edges for pressing sleeve caps, armholes, princess seams or children’s wear
- Points for pressing corners, collars, cuffs and other small hard-to-reach areas
- Clapper - this piece stores under the Tailor Board. It pulls free and is designed to pound bulky seams to smooth and flatten them
Supplies:
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1. PRESSING FLAT SEAMS

Place Tailor Board on your work surface with the large flat side up. This pressing surface is about the size of an iron’s sole plate, so it is perfect for small seams and touch-ups as you sew!

TIP
Place the Tailor Board next to your sewing machine. Press directly on it. No ironing board is necessary!

TIP
Always press as you go. Don’t wait until the project is complete to do your pressing. Pressing as you sew keeps seams in the correct position for the next part of the project. This helps prevent unwanted pleats and puckers.
2. PRESSING CURVED EDGES

Long curved seams such as princess seams:
Place the Tailor Board so that the long softly curved edge is up.
Position your garment so the seam to be pressed is centered on this long curve. Use your fingers to position the seam, and press. Move the fabric along the wood curve as you continue so that any curved part of the seam can be pressed on the wooden edge.

TIP
Keep your press cloth handy. Use it when pressing delicate fabrics or fabrics that shine easily (such as gabardine or crepe).
A Sheer Press Cloth is best when pressing on a Tailor Board because you can see where all your edges are!

Shaping a curved seam:
A row of stitching on the seam line is part of most techniques to shape a sleeve cap. But unless it is an actual gathered sleeve the stitches should not cause gathers or puckers. The cap should be smoothly rounded. Stitches should ease in the fabric without gathers.

To easily press in the rounded shape, stand the Tailor Board up as in the diagram. Drape the sleeve cap over the top round edge so the fabric edge just covers the edge of the wood. Gently place the tip of the iron on the cap, smoothing out the fabric from the row of stitching. A bit of steam will help.
3. PRESSING TIGHT CURVES AND HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

Peter Pan collars or doll clothes and stuffed animals all have hard-to-reach seams. Some require both a point to help push them out and a curve to press.

Stand the Tailor Board on end as shown. Open up the item to be pressed and position it over the curved point. This point will help separate the seam. Place the iron in small sections at a time as you turn the fabric along the wooden curve.

TIP
When you have finished using the Tailor Board on a curved piece such as a Peter Pan collar, finger press the edges while it is still warm. This will aid in shaping the collar without over pressing. No bumps from seam edges!

The tight curve is perfect for curved collars and hard to reach shapes.
Technique Tutorial
How to Use a Tailor Board / Clapper (continued)

4. PRESSING A POINT

Pocket or collar corners need special attention. Here’s how to press them perfectly:

Place the Tailor Board so that the flat side is down. This gives you a choice of two pointed ends to use for pressing.

Turn the item right side out. A point turner is ideal to push out the corner safely and evenly.

Slide the fabric over the point, so the wood extends as far as possible inside the item. Seam allowances can produce a bump when pressed, so position the inside seam fabric so it drapes over the edge of the wood, not on top where the iron can press it. The actual seam should run along the sharp edge of the wood. Press.

TIP
Bevel the seam allowances of a collar or pocket before pressing. To bevel a seam allowance, trim each layer to a different width. The one that will fold against the top, outside of your collar should be 1/4” to 5/16” wide. The seam allowance underneath should be trimmed slightly narrower – to about 1/8” – 3/16” wide. Beveling helps prevent a ridge when pressed.

TIP
Trim corners diagonally to remove excess fabric before pressing.

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Be Crafty.

Technique Tutorial

How to Use a Tailor Board / Clapper (continued)

5. POUND PRESSING

Sometimes a seam just won’t lay flat. Fabric fibers make it spring back. Wool is one of those fabrics that must be trained with steam and pressure. Use the clapper to pound press these seams.

To use the clapper, first pull it free of the Tailor Board. It stays in place with only a magnet.

Place your garment flat on a sturdy ironing surface. Press the seam lightly with steam and heat appropriate to the fabric. While the fabric is still warm, slam the clapper against it. Yes, pound it. Slam it! This aggressive pressing technique trains the fabric into submission! It is used for tailored jackets including lapels, pockets and basic construction seams.

TIP

Don’t forget to use your pressing cloth when using the clapper. Seams and fabric edges can still get shiny with pressure.

TIP

Make sure you have a sturdy, flat ironing surface before pounding!

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