

STABILIZER INFORMATION

Basically there are four different types of stabilizers. These can be differentiated between by how the stabilizer is removed whether it is torn away (tear-away), washed out (wash-away), cut back (cut-away) or heated with an iron (melt-away or heat-away).

Deciding which one to use will depend on your type of project or technique, the fabric weight/type, the type of 'support' required and which method of removal is going to be most suitable. The general rule is the denser the stitch count, the sturdier the stabilizer.

TEAR-AWAY Stabiliser

Normally about 100cm wide and is very low cost. Tear-away comes in many different weights and some will tear 'more cleanly' than others. It also comes in both fusible and non-fusible options. Usually just black and white is available. This type of stabilizer provides temporary support and is torn away to remove (support the stitches with your hand as you tear), although some may be left in the stitching depending on the design.

USES:

- For machine embroidery it is ideal to be used underneath woven fabrics and in particular natural fibres.
- Ideal to slip underneath when sewing Applique designs to achieve a nice flat finish, particularly when sewing a heavy satin stitch.
- Great to support your fabric when sewing buttonholes and other areas that require stabilization and removing by tearing will work.
- The iron-on tear-away is ideal for backing knit fabrics however, it can often be best to cut the excess back rather than tearing to reduce stress on the stitches.

WATER Soluble – WASH-AWAY – Stabilizer

There are many versions of wash-away on the market. We stock the two types; a white Vilene looking one and a clear plastic type. The white type is stable enough to sew directly onto it without the support of a hoop whereas the clear type is much more supple and unstable. The wash-away stabilizer is completely removed with water. We normally use warm water and let the piece soak for a while, rinse until it does not feel sticky to the touch and pat dry with a towel. Or follow the directions given when purchasing.

USES:

- For machine embroidery the clear type is perfect as a topper when stitching fabrics with a nap or pile such as toweling and polar fleece and will provide the stitches with a nice flat surface to create a much more professional finish.
- The white type is ideal for machine embroidered free standing lace – normally two layers is required to give enough support to the stitching.
- You can also use the white type when making the scarves with bits of yarns and ribbons or to create interesting 'arty' projects using your machine.
- The liquid wash-away (we stock Perfect Sew) is also very useful for stabilizing hems, seams and similar when stitching.

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CUT-AWAY Stabilizer

There are many different types of cutaway stabilizers available from the very thickest weight to the softer pliable types such as Floriana No Show Mesh. Cutaway stabilizers provide permanent support; it is not removed, except for cutting away the excess. Take care when cutting back so you do not accidentally snip a small hole in your fabric!

USES:

- For machine embroidery it is normally used on thin fabrics, knits or synthetics.
- Anywhere that you need permanent support and the fabric is not transparent enough that the stabilizer will be seen from the right side.

HEAT-AWAY Stabilizer

Heat-away stabilisers can be used when the fabric is too delicate for a tear-away, too sheer for a cutaway or is not washable. To remove, do not use steam and keep the iron moving in a circular motion. You can sandwich in between a paper towel, baking paper or similar and press following the instructions given when purchasing. This type of stabilizer also provides temporary support as it is completely removed with care.

USES:

- For delicate, mesh-like and difficult-to-mark fabrics.
- Cutwork and embroidered appliques.

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