

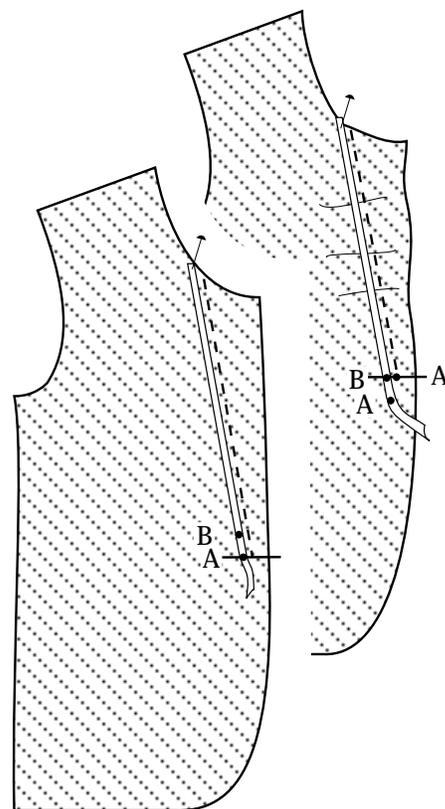
Taping the Roll Line Using Fusible Stabilizing Tape

A straight grain fusible stabilizing tape can be used to improve the fit of many garments. On jackets and coats with lapels, it holds the lapel area snug to the body, prevents the bias area from stretching and encourages the lapel to begin its roll. On cardigan-style jackets or vests, the tape holds the garment snug to the body in the chest area and prevents the bias area from stretching. It can also be used to prevent stretching of V-necklines, slant pockets, patch pockets and shoulder seams.

The tape from Japan, available from Unique Techniques, is extra fine, 3/8" wide and comes in 22 yard rolls in white and black. It is easy to apply with an iron, can be applied over a stitching line without adding bulk, requires no preshrinking and holds up in laundry and dry cleaning.

Using stabilizing tape as a roll line tape: As demonstrated in the video *Japanese Tailoring* by Judy Barlup, this method is used in conjunction with fusible interfacing. It works best with natural fibers, which allow the fabric to be molded and shrunk by pressing. If synthetic or densely woven natural fibers pucker, remove the tape and apply a longer piece to ease in less fabric.

1. Interface the garment front with fusible interfacing. Trace the roll line from the pattern onto the interfacing. Mark the breakpoint (point A where the stitching line and the roll line intersect at the top buttonhole.) If there is a neck dart, stitch it.
2. Place the garment front wrong side up on the ironing board. Pin the end of the fusible tape to the front and to the ironing board at the neck edge about 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch from the roll line towards the armscye. (The tape will be cut to size later.)
3. Gently lay the tape along the roll line, keeping it 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch away from the roll line, in an even 1:1 relationship with the roll line. Don't stretch the tape. Use a pin or marking tool to mark the tape where it meets the breakpoint (point A.)
4. For styles with the breakpoint near the waistline, place another mark on the tape 3/8 inch to 5/8 inch above the first mark (point B). Use 3/8 inch for an A or B bra cup or for a man's jacket, 1/2 inch for a C or D bra cup, and 5/8 inch for larger cup sizes. For a higher breakpoint (i.e., a shorter roll line), shorten the tape a lesser amount.
5. Shorten the tape by lifting the tape and the front, then match point B on the tape to point A. Pin the tape to the front at this point. It is important to ease the garment to the tape; do not stretch the tape. Press each end of the tape for about an inch to secure the ends. Remove pins. Cut the tape even with the front edge.
6. Use your fingers to ease the excess fabric to the tape, placing most of the ease in the bust area. For a man's garment, place the ease higher in the chest area to accommodate a hollow chest.
7. Fuse the tape in place with a lift and press motion. Press again from the right side.



Using stabilizing tape to hold in the front edge of a cardigan jacket or vest: Follow the method above but apply the tape over the stitching line from the shoulder to the center front on the wrong side of the facing. This makes the facing shorter than the garment. To ease in the excess fabric, stitch the facing to the front with the front against the feed dogs. Note: If your machine has an even feed, disengage it to allow the feed dogs to ease in the lower layer.

Using stabilizing tape to prevent stretching: Place the tape on the fabric evenly (make the tape the same length as the seam or the area to which it is being applied.) Press it in place over the stitching line then stitch. For v-necklines in silky fabrics, take the fabric with the pattern still attached to the ironing board and apply the tape to the neckline immediately after removing the pattern.

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