

## Stabilizers:

- The basic rule of thumb on non woven stabilizers has been the lighter the fabric, the heavier the stabilizer but this can cause puckering in the design so a better rule is to match the weight of the backing to the fabric depending on the stretch.

- Usually backing is applied underneath the fabric you are embroidering on. It's goal is to prevent distortion or stretching of the fabric during embroidery.

- **TEARAWAY** stabilizers are used on fabrics that require support during the embroidery stitching but don't need support after the design has been stitched. It is used for woven or non stretchy fabrics and is removed by tearing away after the design is completed. Creative Styling carries lightweight, and heavyweight which tear away easily in all directions and 2 specialized tearaways: Rinsaway and Press N Tear/Peel & Stick. Since these tear away after use, they also cut down on production time. RinsAway Tearaway washes away after several launderings. See below for more information on Press N Tear/Peel & Stick stabilizer.

- **CUTAWAY** backing is used for fabrics that stretch such as knits and the excess is meant to be cut away after the embroidery is finished. Cutaways give permanent support to the fabric and embroidery. Many prefer the softness of cutaways on wearable items and they also help maintain a design even after many washes. There are several cutaways including the NoShow Nylon Meshes which do not show through the fabric on a left chest logo and they are available in fusible or non-fusible in several colours. Different weights are available. These all have a great soft feel. The light weight fusible cutaway is most popular (see FUSIBLE below for more information).

- **FUSIBLE:** Fusible non woven backing can be easily ironed on to the fabric before embroidering for a nice stabilization to a fabric that has a lower frame tension. NoShow Nylon Mesh also is available in fusible in several shades. This can be fused in several layers crosswise for added stability. The fusibles also release if you wish when heat is reapplied so you can cut away remaining stabilizer.

- **TOPPING FILM** is used on the top of a fabric to prevent fabrics with nap such as toweling, fleece, or velvet from being crushed while embroidering. It allows the fibers embroidered on, to be pressed flat for a nice clean design. Cold water embossed water-soluble topping film is water soluble and washes out after washing with a damp sponge. Also works well to make lace embroidering on several layers together.

- **Hot Melt Film and Trick Film** stabilizers are great for lacemaking, patches, applique, sweatshirts, toweling and t-shirts as well as many other items. You can embroider directly onto these films. The film can be removed with an ordinary non-teflon household iron - 120o C/230o F. After embroidering, tear away excess film and touch iron quickly to remaining pieces. They will disappear immediately! For embroidered items with dense stitching, use a piece of terry underneath for a "bed" to iron on. It's easy to use, it doesn't pucker, doesn't shrink and won't change the colour of your fabrics.

- **WET & STICK:** WetNSet in tearaway or cutaway which is the answer to hoopless backing on fabrics that are difficult to embroider such as smaller items or items too hard to fit in a standard hoop. This is the perfect solution instead of using messy spray adhesives which will gum up your needle, hoop and projects. Simply hoop the stabilizer shiny/adhesive side up, brush a moist (not wet) sponge across the surface, and stick your item down to it. Dries right away and avoids any gummy adhesives. Make an oops in positioning? Run your sponge along the glue line as you peel back the fabric and reposition if needed.

- **PRESS N TEAR / PEEL & STICK** - Press N Tear which has a paper release backing and pressure sensitive adhesive. It is used for items that are difficult to hoop that are too small,

delicate or bulky for your hoop. Just hoop your stabilizer, peel back the paper and stick your item down to it. Eliminates the use of spray adhesives.

- **WATER SOLUBLE** Non woven Water Soluble 70o C can be dissolved in 70o C degree hot water (almost boiling). For a cooler washing temperature variation, try H2OGone which can be dissolved under tap water or in your laundry. These stabilizers can be useful in giving firm backing to lacework or freestanding embroidery and then dissolved without harming your delicate work.

Here are some fabric/stabilizer suggestions:

Tearaways - nylon jackets, satin jackets, canvas, corduroy, cotton sheeting, denim, shirting, terry

Cutaway or Nylon Mesh - Lycra, Spandex, golf shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, t-shirts.

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