

Ironing Tips and Way-Cool Ironing Gadgets!

1. BUILD A BETTER IRONING BOARD:

- a. Have Lowe's or Home Depot cut a $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick piece of plywood or particle board to 24" x 48". Cover this with a thin layer of batting and a sturdy fabric (if you pick one with even stripes it will help you iron strip sets straight).
- b. Cover your ironing table with a specialty ironing cover like Bo Nash to reduce the amount of time spent pressing.



2. GET A BETTER IRON:

- a. Use a heavy iron to press your seams rather than pushing them with your iron which can distort them.
- b. Consider an Olisio iron that raises and lowers by itself to reduce arm and wrist fatigue
- c. Prolong the life of your iron by using a spray mister rather than making steam in your iron.



3. USE STARCH OR MAGIC-SIZING THE RIGHT WAY:

- a. Using starch or products like Magic Sizing help make your fabric pieces more like paper – less stretchy and more willing to feed evenly – very important when working with curved pieces, bias edges, applique, and unlike fabrics (batiks with printed calicos for example). But make sure you manually work the starch into the fibers – don't just spray and iron – it will just flake right off



4. USE A STRIP STICK:

- a. Rather than ironing seams open on a flat board, use a strip stick (or make your own) to press just the newly sewn seam– it will reduce the distortion that often happens when you are ironing strips and accidentally re-iron previously ironed seams out of place

