

# Pressing Techniques: Silk Organza Press Cloth

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A few months ago, when i was just starting on my high couture exploration adventure I would have never thought of using relatively expensive silk organza as a press cloth. I've seen intricate blouses and dresses on runway made of organza, but I have never sewed with it – it was too sheer and too difficult to control. Now, it's one of mine most important fabric staples – I use it a lot for underlining and interfacing. But it is since recently that I learned all the advantages of using 100% Silk Organza as a press cloth.

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## Step 1 — When to use Silk Organza Press Cloth

Many experts recommend using organza press cloth with silks and lace, because its sheerness makes it convenient to control layers underneath. I also learned that you can use organza for pressing iron-on interfacings (see some helpful hints below).

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## Step 2 — Why Silk Organza?

Like any other press cloth, it helps avoid shine that appears from over-pressing or pressing directly on the fashion fabric. But what makes silk organza press cloth very convenient is that it is sheer and withstands heat. Just make sure it is 100% silk and not polyester â' you donâ' t want the press cloth to melt and ruin your garment, especially if you are working with expensive fabrics.

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### **Step 3 — Do you need to dampen it?**

No, silk organza cloth will not hold moisture well. Also, if you are working with silks, avoid steam iron as the risk of having a water stain on the fashion fabric is relatively high. Some seamstresses recommend using water spray, however, if you decide to use water or steam test it on a scrap fabric first.

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### **Step 4 — Making Silk Organza Press Cloth**

I recommend making your own press cloth — you can get the size you feel comfortable with, and you can make two press cloths for the price of one. All you need is approximately half a yard (or half a meter) of white or ivory silk organza, which you can get at around \$20 per yard. Cut a rectangle of 14" (35cm) by 20" (50cm). Finish the seams if you like with a serger or leave it the way it is. In fact, I have never serged mine.

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### **Step 5 — Using Silk Organza Press Cloth for Iron-on Interfacing**

write "Iron-on Interfacing" on a border of the cloth to prevent the contact of the interfacing residue with the iron surface. Make sure the writing is up every time you press, so the glue residue will always be on the same side of the fabric.

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