SIMPLE FABRIC FINISHES

Fabrics finishes are treatments given to fabrics after construction. These finishes help to improve the appearance and handle of the fabrics. They can also affect the care required by the fabric. These include:

1. Lustre or Sheen Finishes: these give a glossy lustrous appearance to fabrics. Example are mercerization: treating cotton with caustic soda to make it lustrous; glazing: treating fabrics (e.g. cotton) with stiffening agents such as gums or starches in order to produce shiny or glazed surface.
2. Drip-dirty Finishes: this is an easy-care finish. It helps to prevent creasing or wrinkling. Fabrics given drip-dry finish do not require ironing.
3. Crease-resistant Finishes: these are given to fabrics that crease easily. They prevent creasing.
4. Shrink-resistant Finishes: these control the amount of shrinkage which a fabric will undergo when it is washed.
5. Water-repellent Finishes: these make fabrics resist wetting by water.
6. Flame-resistant Finishes: these prevent fabrics from flaring and burning up quickly.
7. Moth-proof Finishes: these prevent fabrics from being attacked by moths.

Pre-shrinking of Cotton and Linen (washable fabrics)

Any washable fabrics that is likely going to shrink should be pre-shrunk before sewing, as follows:

1. Fold the fabric several times, obtain a suitable size.
2. Immerse the folded fabrics in warm water until it is wet throughout.
3. Ensure uniform wetness by checking in between the fold of the fabrics. Leave for one to two hours.
4. Lift the fabric from water.
5. Remove excess water by pressing with the hands or wrapping in a clean towel. Do not wring.

6. Lay fabrics if possible on a clean surface to dry. Hanging on a line may distort the fabric.
7. Press the fabric when dry.