

The Embroidery Backing Guide



Backing Is Backing, Right? Wrong!

Using the proper backing is vital to quality embroidery.



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Nothing can enhance — or ruin — embroidery more than the selection of your backing.

There are many types of materials manufactured as embroidery backing, and even more that are mistaken for backing. Do you and your embroiderers know which backing to select for your application? This guidebook from Hollingsworth & Vose will help you select and stock StitchBackers® backing, the best brand for your embroidery needs.



Using the wrong backing can be expensive. So remember to meet these four standards for quality backing:

- Highly stable
- Perforation-resistant
- Application-specific
- Washable and dry-cleanable

H&V StitchBackers embroidery backing meets and exceeds these standards.

Tearaways

A tearaway is the backing of choice for most embroiderers using stable fabrics. Tearaway material makes removing excess backing faster, cheaper, and safer than using backing that must be cut with scissors.

H&V's wetlaid nonwoven StitchBackers backing uses natural and synthetic fibers that are short enough to be easily torn, but long enough to be trapped under each embroidered stitch. Other backing brands made with fibers longer than 2 inches are difficult to remove, leave long strings of fiber behind, and tear in only one direction. Remember, to avoid any chance of distortion, we recommend tearing the backing as close to the stitches as possible.

Applications

- Most stable and non-delicate fabrics

Key Advantages

- Safety: eliminates risk of cutting a garment with scissors
- Speed: quick and easy to remove

Our StitchBackers Brand

- Provides excellent hoop stability
- Will not perforate during the stitching process
- Tears easily and cleanly in both directions



Tearaway Products

#1525 1.5 oz/yd²

A general-use tearaway. Medium-firm hand. Available in black.

#1825 1.8 oz/yd²

A heavier, multi-blend tearaway. Medium-firm hand.

#1885 1.8 oz/yd²

Soft-hand tearaway. Perforation-resistant.

#3020 3.0 oz/yd²

Our heaviest tearaway. Perfect for caps and other heavy-duty embroidery.



Tearaways/Washaways

If you can stock only one type of tearaway, choose a washaway! This unique product line is one of several innovations from H&V, a long-standing world leader in materials testing and manufacturing.

Our exclusive StitchBackers washaway products offer superior stability and tear exceptionally well in all directions. Even difficult designs and fabrics are left unharmed. When laundered, any excess backing simply washes away while the stitches remain firmly locked in place!

The result — a very soft embroidered design with no visible backing.

Our specially formulated dissolvable, easy-tear backing often replaces two layers of tearaway, providing thread loop stability and superior stitch performance on high stitch-count designs. It is also a good problem-solver for difficult applications including socks and bathing suits.

Tearaway/Washaway Products

#1720 1.5 oz/yd²

A popular lightweight tearaway/washaway backing.

#2020 2.0 oz/yd²

A best-selling tearaway/washaway backing for general use. Medium- to heavy-weight.

Cutaways

Stretchy and delicate fabrics require the stability of a high-quality backing. Cutaways are the favored choice for maintaining the design's detail, as tearaways can often distort the design on fragile fabric.

In general, cutaways have more bulk than tearaways and are more resistant to needle perforations. Soft cutaways can be especially helpful for garment control. This is contrary to prior belief that softness, ease of cutting, and stability are mutually exclusive. Today, we offer H&V StitchBackers backing in an exclusive Soft-n-Stable® style that achieves all three objectives.



Applications

- Delicate and stretchy fabrics
- High stitch-count designs

Key Advantages

- Stable base: stability both during and after embroidery
- Smooth production: cutaways prevent fabric from being forced down the throat plate of the machine
- Design integrity: design's shape retained after repeated washings

Our StitchBackers Brand

- Is easy to cut
- Remains stable after repeated washings
- Provides excellent hoop stability
- Resists perforations
- Is machine-washable and dry-cleanable (low shrinkage)

Tips for Working With Cutaways

- Be careful not to cut too close to the design
- Employ a gliding motion with scissors
- Avoid blunt-end scissors that can cause snags; use 3.5- to 4-inch double-sharps for general utility
- Use a stable backing
- Forgo nippers and clips

Cutaway Products

StitchBackers cutaway products range between 1.5 and 3.5 oz/yd². Popular products for regular stocking include:

#9915 1.5 oz/yd²

A lightweight, economical alternative.

#9920 2.0 oz/yd²

A lightweight version for medium stitch-count applications.

#9925 2.5 oz/yd²

Our most popular, all-purpose cutaway for medium to high stitch-count applications. Available in black.

#9930 3.0 oz/yd²

Our heaviest cutaway for high stitch-count applications.



Soft-n-Stable Cutaways

This premium line of high-quality, stable backings is uniquely soft to the touch, delivering a comfortable and wearable final product.

Soft-n-Stable Cutaway Products

#8815 1.5 oz/yd²

A lightweight, economical offering.

#8820 oz/yd²

A lightweight version for low to medium stitch-count applications.

#8825 2.5 oz/yd²

The most versatile soft cutaway for use in medium to heavy stitch-count applications.

#8830 3.0 oz/yd²

A heavier soft cutaway.

#8835 3.5 oz/yd²

Our heaviest soft cutaway.





Cap Backings

Not all cap backings are created equal. Some are simply all-purpose buckram labeled as cap backing, while others are specifically designed for use in headwear. H&V's StitchBackers backing combines polyester and cellulose to provide a heavy, stiff material that tears exceptionally well in all directions, leaving a fuzz-free edge. Additionally, these cap backings provide superior stitch performance.

Applications

- All caps, particularly popular low-profile and unstructured caps

Key Advantages

- Fewer slowdowns: backing maintains bobbin tension, allowing embroiderers to switch projects without changing machine settings
- Smooth operations: backing prevents cap fabric and fiber from being forced down the throat plate of the machine

Our StitchBackers Brand

- Tears cleanly and easily from all directions
- Won't pull stitches
- Provides good cap structure
- Hoops easily

Cap Backing Products

#2520 2.5 oz/yd²

Medium-weight cap backing recommended for low to medium stitch counts.

#3020 3.0 oz/yd²

A heavy tearaway for medium to high stitch counts. Perfect for caps, hats, and other heavy-duty applications.

#3045 3.5 oz/yd²

Our heaviest tearaway, suitable for higher stitch counts and caps.

Specialty Backings

H&V StitchBackers offers superior backing that meets the most stringent requirements. For children's sleepwear and other fire-safe garments, our materials are tried and tested to ensure their premium quality.



Children's Sleepwear

All components in children's sleepwear must be fire-retardant. For this application, ask for binder-free StitchBackers backing whose fiber composition meets this requirement! Our offering achieves a Class 1–Normal Flammability classification in compliance with current Standards for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear (16 C.F.R. Parts 1615 and 1616) under the Flammable Fabrics Act.

StitchBackers Fire-Retardant Products

#6315 1.5 oz/yd²

Lightweight, soft cutaway.

Kevlar — Heavy-Duty, Fire-Retardant

This backing meets fire-retardant standards necessary for use in firefighting suits and turnout coats. This Kevlar material holds stitches very well and delivers high-quality design registration.

8-69 2.2 oz/yd².



H&V Product Guide

Style	oz/yd ²	Type	Comments
1525	1.5	Tearaway	General use
1525B	1.5	Tearaway	Black for dark garments
1720	1.5	Tearaway/Washaway	Lightweight tearaway
1825	1.8	Tearaway	Medium-firm tearaway
1885	1.8	Tearaway	Soft tearaway
2020	2.0	Tearaway/Washaway	Best-selling tearaway
8815	1.5	Cutaway	Lightweight soft cutaway
8820	2.0	Cutaway	Medium soft cutaway
8825	2.5	Cutaway	Medium soft cutaway
8830	3.0	Cutaway	Heavy soft cutaway
8835	3.5	Cutaway	Heaviest soft cutaway
9915	1.5	Cutaway	Lightweight cutaway
9920	2.0	Cutaway	Lightweight firm cutaway
9925	2.5	Cutaway	Medium-firm cutaway
9925B	2.5	Cutaway	Black for dark garments
9930	3.0	Cutaway	Heaviest firm cutaway
2520	2.5	Tearaway	Medium-weight cap backing
3020	3.0	Tearaway	Heavy cap backing
3045	3.0	Tearaway	Heaviest cap backing
6315	1.5	Specialty	Children's sleepwear
8-69	2.2	Specialty/Kevlar	Fire-retardant

H&V Applications Guide

Item Type	Backing (in order of preference)
Aprons	2020, 1525
Baby Bibs	2020, 1720
Bandanas	2020, 1720
Black Leather Jackets	1525B, 9925B
Black Sweats & T-Shirts	9925B, 1525B
Blankets (Baby)	6315
Blankets (Horse)	2020, 1720, 1885
Blankets (Stadium)	2020, 1885
Blouses (Silk/Polyester)	1720, 1525
Caps (Canvas, Cotton)	3020, 2020
Caps (Knit)	8820, 9920, 3020, 2020, 3045
Children's Sleepwear	6315
Coat Linings	1525B, 2020
Double Knits	8825, 9925

H&V Applications Guide (cont.)

Duffle Bags (Cotton/Nylon)	2020, 1720, 1885
Emblems (Heat Seal)	6315
Felts	2020, 1525, 1885
Fleecewear (7 oz. Light)	8825, 9925, 2020
Fleecewear (9 oz. Medium)	8825, 9925, 2020
Fleecewear (12 oz. Heavy)	2020, 9925, 9920, 8820
Fleecewear (Promotional)	8825, 9925
Golf Shirts (Herringbone)	8825, 9925, 2020
Golf Shirts (Interlock)	8825, 9925, 2020
Golf Shirts (Light)	8820, 9915, 2020
Golf Shirts (Loose)	8830, 8825, 9925, 9920
Golf Shirts (Pique)	8835, 8830, 8825, 9925, 9920, 2020
High-Density Stitching Designs	8835, 8830, 9930
Jackets/Baseball (Satin)	2020, 9925, 8825
Jackets/Windbreaker (Nylon)	2020, 8820
Jackets/Varsity (Wool)	8825, 9925
Karate Belts	2020
Leather/Suede/Vinyl	1720, 2020, 1525
Scarves	1720, 2020
Sheets/Pillowcases (Percale)	1720, 2020
Sheets/Pillowcases (Satin)	1720, 2020
Shirts (Denim/Twill)	2020, 1720, 1525
Shirts (Linen)	2020, 1720
Shirts (Oxford Cloth)	1720, 2020
Shirts (Turtleneck)	8820, 9920, 2020
Shorts (Bicycle)	2020
Shorts (Cotton/Nylon)	2020, 1720, 1525
Socks	1720, 1525
Sweaters (Fine/Tight)	9925, 9920, 9915
Sweaters (Shetland)	8825, 8830, 9925, 9930
Swimsuits	2020
Tablecloths/Napkins/Placemats	1720, 2020
Ties (Knit)	2020, 1525
Ties (Silk)	1720, 1525
Tote Bags	1720, 1525
Towels (Bath)	2020
Towels (Golf)	2020
T-Shirts (4 oz. Medium)	9915, 9920, 8820, 2020
T-Shirts (6 oz. Heavy)	2020, 1720, 9925
Turnout Coats	8-69
Umbrellas	2020, 1720
Webbing/Belting	1720, 1525



**Hollingsworth
& Vose**

www.hollingsworth-vose.com

H&V sells its embroidery backing only through authorized distributors. For the distributor nearest you, call the number below or visit our Web site. To request product information and samples, or to inquire about becoming a distributor, contact:

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 **Stitch
Backers**®
Better Backing. Better Embroidery.