



Embrace Twill Tape

If you've examined any new casual shirts lately, especially knit ones, you're likely to have encountered treatments like those above, in which twill tape is used to reinforce and bind, even create entire plackets. Any truly woven, selvedge-edged tape or ribbon will serve, as will bias binding, but with more effort—and there are plenty of options. The source with the most real variety that I've found is etsy.com.



Pressing Gear, Bought and Made

Here are the pressing tools that I rely upon every day sitting upon the most useful one of all: a homemade pressing board (plywood, woolen layers, wrapped in heavy linen) that sits where needed as needed. It is as useful as a pinnable surface as a pressing one (see it at work when scanning garments in the Dress Block chapter). Don't make it too big to toss around, or too small for a couple of collar pieces: mine is 16 x 24 inches (40.5 x 61 cm). A clapper is more than a pressing tool; it's also a much-used pressing surface. Nothing is better for a hard crease, as at the end of a placket, so bigger is better. With the sleeve board and point presser nearby, I almost never open my regular ironing board, or expose the pressing surface (made the same) that covers my entire cutting table, under the cutting mat. A cotton twill and a Teflon press cloth complete the kit. I don't like the holes in steam irons and don't miss having one, and sometimes a little stiffing from starch or sizing is just what's needed to make a sewing process become easy.



My first sewing book, *Shirtmaking*, is everything I figured out about dress-shirt making over ten years of testing and research, disguised at the last minute into looking like a general shirtmaking book. It's not; this one is more like that.

There's plenty of unique shirt-making skills and tips in both these books, by Marcy Tilton and Nancy Zeiman—two Giants among the Sewing Giants of my boomer era. Don't miss!

Neither should any shirtmaker miss Margaret Islander's classic video workshop on pinless, industrial sewing techniques applied to classic sport-shirt making. It's definitely an essential, and many say, a life-changing experience.

Master shirtmaker Anna Gorbatenko is the featured designer in the dress-shirt chapter. I once asked her to outline her collar-making process for me via email, because it's a variation of my technique, but with heavy fusibles instead of medium-weight sew-ins as I'm used to and describe in my other book. She astounded me with a gloriously put-together sew-along with more than seventy huge, clear photos of her entire process—from drafting to the final hand stitches—that are her trademark. The whole thing is now in your hands, via this book's online content. Thank you, Anna!



Clappers

Material Things

[Angela Wolf's Tailors Clapper for Pressing - seen on It's Sew Easy TV](#)
[Pressing Accessories | Ironing Accessories | Manhattan Wardrobe Supply](#)
[\(969\) Sewing - Pressing Tools & Notions by clairesews on Pinterest](#)
[How to Make a Tailor's Clapper](#)
[Wooden Clappers -musical pressing sewing - Google Search](#)

Starch and Sizing

[starch and sizing sewing - Google Search](#)
[Quilters using starch & sizing for easier piecing, cutting, applique part 1](#)
[To Starch or Not to Starch - The Sewing Loft](#)
[Starching Fabric for Quilting & Sewing: Good or Bad?](#)
[Starch & Sizing « modafabrics](#)
[Spray and Liquid Starch | Laundry Starch and Sizing Products Sewing](#)
[With Trudy: Cleaning Clothing Iron - Getting off Starch & Sizing How To](#)
[Make Your Own Spray Starch - One Good Thing by Jillee sizing vs](#)
[starch - Google Search](#)
[best press starch - Google Search](#)

Tailor Boards and other pressing boards

[TAILOR BOARD AND PAD SET \(TBST2\) - Ironing - Supplies - Nancy's Notions](#)
[june tailor boards - Google Search](#)
[june tailor pressing board alternatives - Google Search](#)
[\(529\) Collapsible Tailoring Board | A Fashionable Stitch | Sewing Tools | Pinterest](#)
[\(529\) TAILOR BOARD on Pinterest](#)
[Non-Stick Pressing Sheet, 18" x 18" - Walmart.com](#)
[teflon pressing sheet - Google Search](#)
[sleeve board - Google Search](#)

More Twill Tape

[Black Twill Tape in Tapes, Ribbons and Velcro: Sewing Supplies & Alteration Supplies by Sew True.com](#)

[purl soho | products | item | 14-mm cotton twill tape \(purl soho\)](#)

[Standard All-Cotton Twill Tape from Wooded Hamlet Designs](#)

[Worsted "Llama" Braid from Wooded Hamlet Designs](#)

[Dutch Linen Tape from Wooded Hamlet Designs](#)

[Fine Cotton Twill Tapes from Wooded Hamlet Designs](#)

[Tapes and Braids from Wooded Hamlet Designs](#)

[100%-Worsted Wool Twill Tape from Wooded Hamlet Designs](#)

[1 1/2" Black Cotton Twill Tape](#)

[Cotton Twill](#)

[Cotton tapes](#)

[Results for Lightweight Cotton Tapes](#)

[Tapes, Ribbons and Velcro: Sewing Supplies & Alteration Supplies by Sew True.com](#)

[cotton ribbon - Google Search](#)

[1.25" HEAVY APRON TAPE M&J Trimming](#)

[Amazon.com: Schiff Ribbons 4977-5 50-Yard Organic Cotton Ribbon, 7/8-Inch, Natural: Arts, Crafts & Sewing](#)

[Richard The Thread - Twill Tape BEST PRICE!](#)

[Tapes & Trims | Corset Making](#)