

Deonn's
five Tips for
sewing with
TOP LAMINATES

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Laminated Cotton Fabric (Cotton Laminate, or Laminate for short): Regular cotton fabric with a thin vinyl coating. Not stiff like oil cloth or regular vinyl. And there is no fraying, no need to zig-zag, serge or clean-finish the edges. It's flexible, supple, soft, great for crafts and easy-to-sew with just a few tricks.

#1 YES, You can PIN laminate!

Use fine pins such as [glasshead patchwork pins](#) for best results. You can reduce pin holes by spritzing the back lightly with water, then press on the cotton side. If you prefer not to use pins, try paper clips, or Clover's binding clips. Or you could use a glue stick or double-stick fabric tape (works perfect for zipper installation!) as an alternate method of holding your fabric in place while you stitch.

#2 YES, You can PRESS laminate!

Use a slightly cooler-than-normal iron, press from the back, or use a press cloth (a square of muslin works well) when pressing on the laminated side. You can use a little spritz of water or a bit of steam. Just don't overdo or you will dull the laminate coating.

#3 YES, You can FUSE laminate!

Fusible products can be adhered to the wrong side of the laminate. Follow manufacturer's directions and press for about 7 seconds at each spot, overlapping the iron and using a little steam. Be careful not to over-press as it can reduce the adhesive properties of your fusible product.



#4 YES, you can SEW laminate!

Many sewing machines offer a Teflon foot for use with vinyl and laminates, which helps the foot glide over the laminate without pulling. Price can range from pennies to around \$100. If you don't have a teflon foot, try putting some removable painter's tape over the bottom of the foot! Works like a breeze. Another option is to lay a sheet of paper tissue over the top and stitch through the tissue. Tear off the tissue when the seam is complete. Here's another option - rub a tiny dot of machine oil on the bottom of the regular presser foot. Then just wipe off the laminate when it's stitched.

If you are having trouble feeding the laminate through the machine or if it's sticking on the sewing machine bed, here are a couple more ideas: 1) Lift the fabric off the machine bed slightly so it comes in contact with the machine only at the feed dogs/presser foot. 2) Try sprinkling a little corn starch or baby powder on your hands, then wipe your hands over the sewing machine bed to reduce the "stickiness".

Use a new, sharp needle in the sewing machine. Set stitch length between 2.5 and 3.0. Try not to "re-sew" too many times. Polyester or cotton-poly thread seems to have less breakage than 100% cotton thread.

#5 YES, you can CLEAN laminate!

The laminate coating will wipe clean with a damp rag. You can also hand-wash and air dry. Best not to throw it in the dryer - it may dull/diminish the vinyl coating.