

Fosshape™

Buckram alternative! Fosshape is a unique non-woven, heat activated fabric. This soft, pliable fabric can be formed and shaped into fantastic permanent objects when exposed to steam, heat or dry heat. It remains fully permeable and breathable following heat activation, making it safe and easy to use. It's the "Buckram" alternative without the mess.

Fosshape activates in the range of 212° - 265° F (100° - 130° C) with no long setup time.

Fosshape is easily painted, dyed or decorated with a variety of artisan coatings and paints. It has superior strength and flexibility, yet is wonderfully light weight and mildew resistant.

You can produce hats, headpieces, sub-structures, masks, props and scenic materials.

Fosshape can be worked with a steam iron or steamer with or without molds. The level of stiffness is achieved by adjusting heat, time and pressure. The material can be sewn and cuts with a knife or scissors. Fosshape bonds to itself and can be hot glued or stapled to paper, wood or cloth.

Instructions for Use

Cutting

Cuts easily with scissors and will not fray. Depending on the amount of heat and pressure applied, it can shrink over 30%. You may want to pre-shrink the material before cutting.

Sewing

Fosshape can be sewn to itself or other fabrics. It's great on its own as an outer shell surface for 3D figures. It's also an ideal hidden stiffener or support.

Layering

Fosshape will stick to itself, but not to you. It may be layered to achieve required rigidity and density. A steam iron with hand pressure will create an adequate bond between layers and provides more surface smoothness.

Heating

With a gentle waving motion, apply heat with a steamer over the fabric's surface, allowing it to shrink around the form or stuffing. Keep the heat source 6 – 12" away from the fabric to start. Slowly, bring the heat source closer, maintaining the waving motion to better control the shrinking factor. After steaming and shaping, remove the form or stuffing.

Note: It looks like felt but does not function like felt. It does not stretch, it shrinks.

You can use dry or wet heat. Steam heat will give you more control of the product.

Have fun experimenting!

Dyeing

Fosshape dyes beautifully, however, the saturation level and intensity of the desired color will effect the method and timing of the dyeing.

To get a dark or intense hue, it is best to use a hot dye bath. Dye the pieces while they are still attached to their forms as the heat of the water can cause the fosshape to become warped.

Light and pastel colors are easily achieved in a cool dye bath.

