



Fabric Cheat Sheet

A quick, comprehensive guide of woven fabrics, for use in apparel sewing (and the best patterns to use with them.)

Fabric Weight/Thickness Guide:

Lighter weight fabrics are usually most suitable for tops while you'll find pantleg up better with a bottom-weight woven that is thicker like twill, denim, etc. Lighter is generally around 4-5oz per yard and bottom-weights around 8-16oz per yard.

Fiber Guide:

Cotton: Breathable **Polyester:** Warmer, usually slicker
Rayon: Soft, Drapey

Weave:

Weave is how tightly the fabrics are weaved together. A looser weave, like linen and flannel are better for a looser garment so the weave isn't strained. Looser weaved fabric can't stand up to high strain without fraying even when the fabric is finished properly.



Fabric Cheat Sheet

Sheers

Fabric Type	Description	Usual Fiber Content	Best P4P Patterns
Chiffon	lightweight, sheer, some can be slicker, highly twisted fibers that create super soft drape	Varies	Summer Kimono, Everyday Elegance, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless) that are Lined.
Georgette	lightweight, semi-sheer, crepe-like texture, highly twisted fibers that create a very soft drape	Varies	Summer Kimono, Everyday Elegance, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless) that are Lined, Brunch Blouse and Timeless Tunic depending on how sheer.
Gauze/Double Gauze	lightweight, looser/open weave, semi-sheer	Usually cotton, sometimes silk	Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, and I also love baby blankets for warm weather from this.
Voile	lightweight, semi-sheer, stiffer/crisp, "cotton-like" but lightweight	Cotton	Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless)



Fabric Cheat Sheet

Drapey not Sheer

Fabric Type	Description	Usual Fiber Content	Best P4P Patterns
Rayon Challis	super soft drape, lighterweight, very breathable	Rayon	Everyday Elegance, Summer Kimono, Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless)
Crepe	textured, lightweight, soft drape	Varies	Everyday Elegance, Summer Kimono, Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless)
Crepe de Chine	smooth face, slight sheen, lightweight,	Silk, Poly	Everyday Elegance, Summer Kimono, Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless)
Charmuse	very lightweight stain, shiny, soft drape		Often used for slips/lingerie, binding on baby blankets, You could make Timeless, Everyday Elegance, Brunch Blouse.
Onion Skin	saddle texture on back side that resembles an onion's skin, soft drape, lightweight		Everyday Elegance, Summer Kimono, Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless)
Peachskin	soft drape, soft feel with saddle brushed texture on right side		Everyday Elegance, Summer Kimono, Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blouse, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless)



Fabric Cheat Sheet

Structured

Fabric Type	Description	Usual Fiber Content	Best P4P Patterns
Quilting Cotton	stiff/crisp, wrinkles easily	Cotton	Sweet Bow Dress, Lumberjack Shirt, PJ Pants,
Muslin	looser weave, low thread count	Cotton	Used to make "mock up", trials for fit
Shirting	has slight stretch	Cotton, Spandex	Classically used for button up shirts. Sweet Bow Dress, Lumberjack Shirt
Oxford	lighterweight shirting, looser weave	Cotton	Lumberback Shirt
Madras	Madras describes the dying technique. Often plaids pieced together in a patchwork look	Cotton	Pirate Playground, Lumberjack Shirt, Sweet Bow Dress, Sporty Shorties
Lawn	lighterweight cotton, softer but still crisp, wrinkles less than a regular cotton, "hankiechief linen"	Cotton, Linen	Timeless Tunic, Brunch Blous, Sweet Bow Dress, Lumberjack Shirt
Chambray	varies in weight, has a color warp (usually blue, but not always), stiff/crisp depending on fiber content	Usually Cotton, but sometimes has Rayon, Silk	Timeless Tunic, Sweet Bow Dress, Lumberjack Shirt, Sporty Shorties, Linen Loungers, Pirate Playground
Seersucker	textured/woven pucker, breathable, stiff/crisp	Cotton	Lumberjack Shirt, Sweet Bow Dress, Sporty Shorties, Linen Loungers, Pirate Playground
Flannel	Brushed, warm/good for colder weather	Cotton	Lumberjack Shirt, PJs, Timeless Tunic



Fabric Cheat Sheet

Bottom Weights

Fabric Type	Description	Usual Fiber Content	Best P4P Patterns
Denim	Classic blue jean fabric, twilled with 2 colors weaved in	Cotton, some contain some spandex	Cpt. Comfort Jeans
Twill	Tough like denim, appears very close to a denim	Cotton	Cpt. Comfort Jeans
Corduroy	Vertical rows of raised waling, wales will tell you how wide those rows are, warmer/good for colder weather	Cotton	Cpt. Comfort Jeans
Suiting	Classically used for suits		Cpt. Comfort Jeans
Poplin	Ridges run across face, close to a denim/twill in feel	Cotton	Cpt. Comfort Jeans, Linen Loungers
Linen	Rougher weave appearance, crisp, but has slight drape depending on content, breathable/good for hotter weather	Flax, blends tend to have Poly and Rayon mixed in	Linen Loungers, Pirate Playground, Sporty Shorties



Fabric Cheat Sheet

Lets Get Fancy

Fabric Type	Description	Usual Fiber	Best P4P Patterns
Taffeta	stiff/crisp, sheen, usually used in formal wear for a fuller skirt, does wrinkle easily	Silk	Sweet Bow Dress
Organza	lightweight, sheer, stiffer/crisp, usually used in more formal	Silk, Rayon, Poly, or Nylon	Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless).
Satin	shiny, smooth face	Silk, Rayon	Sweet Bow Dress
Silk	shiny, can be rough or smooth face, drape also varies	Silk	Generally used in formal wear.
Chiffon (I placed this in both everyday wear sheers and fancy as it can be styled both ways very easily).	lightweight, sheer, some can be slicker, highly twisted fibers that create super soft drape	Varies	Summer Kimono, Everyday Elegance, Gathered Skirts (like the Boundless) that are Lined.