Fabrics Chooser Chart

Fabric	Performance	Feel	Appearance	Cost
Medium calico (undyed cotton)	strong dyes easily	crunchy	neutral/plain	low
Cotton drill	strong hard-wearing	quite stiff	plain/coloured	medium
Cotton poplin	absorbent biodegradable	cool	coloured/patterned	medium
Polyester cotton	crease-resistant lets moisture through	smooth	coloured/patterned	medium
Cotton T-shirt jersey	absorbent stretchy	soft	coloured/plain	high
Cotton corduroy	absorbent hard-wearing	soft ribbed	coloured/plain	very high
Wool light- weight tweed	insulator	warm quite hairy	coloured/patterned	high
Wool crepe	insulator stretchy	soft	coloured/patterned	high
Ripstop nylon	waterproof strong, does not tear	smooth	highly coloured	high
Acetate lining	dries easily frays easily	silky	coloured/plain	medium
Net	stretchy non-absorbent	scratchy	coloured/plain see-through	low
Polyester satin	crease-resistant frays easily	very silky	coloured/plain	high

Fastenings Chooser Chart

	Ease of use	Ease of fitting	Variety of types	Strength	Ease of care	Cost
Buttons	• •	••••	•••	• •	• •	A A
		holes ●				
Toggles	•••	•••	•	• •	• •	A A
Zips Control	•••	•	••	••••	••	* * *
Velcro	****	••••	•	••••	•••	A A
Hooks/eyes	•	••	••	•	•••	A
Eyelets and laces	••	•••	••	••••	••	A A
Press studs	•••	•••	• •	•	•••	A
Clips/buckles	••	•••	••	•••	•••	* * *
■ = few blobs for wo▲ = cheap, ▲ ▲ ▲			bs for better			

Fabric Decoration Chooser Chart

Technique	One-off or repetitive	Time needed	Simple or complex	When to do it
Tie dyeing	one-off	quick (check for dyeing and drying)	very simple	before cutting, when in parts, or on the finished item
Batik	one-off	varies depending on the detail of motif and number of colours to be dyed	varies, needs practice	before cutting or onto cut parts
Fabric marker pen	one-off	quick for simple motifs, slower for more fiddly ones	simple	onto cut parts or finished items
Transfer painting	one-off	quick for simple motifs	simple, lettering must be reversed simple	onto cut parts or finished items
Block printing	repetitive	slow – block must be prepared first, but printing is quick	simple	before cutting
Appliqué	one-off	slow – for careful cutting, positioning and stiching	complex, needs practice	onto cut parts
Embroidery	one-off 	varies depending on the detail	simple with practice	the finished item
CAM Embroidery	one-off and repetitive	varies depending on the detail	simple with practice	the finished item
Screen printing	one-off	slow – screen must be prepared first, but printing is quick	varies – depends on complexity of screen	before cutting, when in parts, or on the finished item