



### holding steady!

In the hands of a master, the iron is a fabric fiend's best friend. But for many a freshman quilter, proper pressing becomes the hill you die on. From fabric distortion and stretching to seams that aren't pressed crisply enough, the iron can easily affect how your quilt comes together.

In comes The Steady Betty pressing mat. Steady Betty is designed just for ironing/pressing your blocks and pieces as you go along. (And yes, there is a difference between pressing and ironing. One motion has you moving the iron back and forth while you manically chant a Seven Dwarfs' tune, and the other has you carefully landing your iron onto the fabric like a 'copter on a helipad.) With Steady Betty, your iron's heat transfers to fabric but not to the surface of this foam-covered board. The specially designed foam also grabs your fabric pieces so there's no movement as you press and iron unless you cause it.

We played with the 12" x 12" version—perfect to stick in a traveling bag—but it comes in larger sizes too. And, even better, The Steady Betty has two ironing board versions: one you make with a kit or one that's custom designed from a tracing of your ironing board. The Steady Betty, \$38 for 12" x 12"; Ironing board cover kit starting at \$32.95

[www.steadybetty.com](http://www.steadybetty.com)

### it's about time!

Maybe some vibe was running through the q-universe or maybe we're just psychic, but we swear to you that several weeks ago, one of us was pondering the leftover scraps of batting lying around her sewing room floor when a random thought popped into her deadline-bruised brain: Wouldn't it be great if someone could figure out a no-sew way to join all of these pieces of batting so that she wouldn't have to make an emergency run to Joann's for a big enough piece of batt?

Well, our wish has been granted! Sewing Genii Jeanne Harwood developed HEAT Press Batting Together for the sole purpose of cleaning up the sewing room floor. This 1½" fusible tape is ironed onto the seam line of two pieces of batting, and from there the batting is used as normal. It doesn't shrink or bunch up in the wash, and it can be hand and machine quilted.

A word of caution: Test the tape on the batting you'll be joining. Because every iron has its own personality, testing will save you heartache later. But, Jeanne says that every kind of batting has worked with HEAT Press. And her website has video tutorials and tons of tips. HEAT Press Batting Together, \$8 for a 10-yard roll

[www.heatpressbattingtogether.com](http://www.heatpressbattingtogether.com)

