

Ironing Surfaces

By Cyndi Messick

Materials needed:

- Table, shelf, or board you want to cover. If making a Big Board, wood can be $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. I have used plywood, but I really like $\frac{3}{4}$ " MDF. It's heavy but will last forever. Use a 4x8 sheet split lengthwise (tip, share with a friend and make two), and cut rail pieces from one end. You will also need screws, and depending on size, PVC pipe and caps for legs on one end.
- Aluminum Foil
- Cotton batting (I use Warm & Natural, but you can use any 100% cotton batting), enough for 2-3 layers
- Fabric for surface. You can use quilt fabric, or something sturdier like cotton duck (canvas)

Tools:

- Cutting tools if wood needs to be sized
- Staple Gun and extra Staples
- Screws if making a Big Board
- Hammer (possibly, to make sure staples are fully seated)
- Scissors to cut fabric and batting

1. If using wood for an ironing board, it will be a little more work in the prep phase. See me for help with this. Using your ironing board, mark rail positions on the bottom, and attach from the top with screws.
2. First layer of covering is aluminum foil. This serves two purposes. It reflects heat back up to the ironing surface, and also protects the wood underneath from moisture. My very first big board, using $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood, warped from excess water (no judgements, I may have had a water spill or two!).
3. Second layer, 2 or 3 layers of batting, enough to give a little padding to the board. Lay the batting on a flat surface. Lay board/table upside down, with the bottom facing up. Attach one long side of the batting by wrapping around the edge, and staple to the underside of the board. Pull batting from the other side, making it tight and smooth, then do the ends. It sometimes helps to work from the free side and the two ends at the same time to smooth it and get it to lay nicely. Be sure to miter or otherwise fix the corners to lay as flat as possible. Trim extra batting with scissors.
4. Third layer, your top fabric. This is your decorative layer, your top surface. Lay it face down on your flat surface, and staple the first side, then smooth, pull, and staple all around to complete it. I like to do the staples past the edge of the batting layer, in order to completely cover the batting. Don't forget to miter or fold the corners neatly.
5. If desired, add wheels to the bottom of a shelf, or PVC legs to the far end of a big board. See me for help with this.
6. And that's all there is to it, you're done!