

About...

Dupioni Silks

Description

Dupioni (sometimes spelled 'doupioni' or 'dupion'), is a lustrous silk often woven from two different colors of threads, so that it shimmers or changes color in the light. Dupioni is made from an irregular, rough silk reeled from double cocoons or cocoons spun side-by-side which are interlocked, making it necessary to reel them together. Usually brightly colored, it has a moderately crisp drape, fairly reflective luster, and a nubby texture. It is crisp to the touch and doesn't wrinkle badly or hold a crease well. It is reversible, not particularly stretchy, and relatively easy to sew.

General Uses

Dupioni is most often used for loose fitting blouses, jackets, suits, skirts, dresses, bridal gowns and draperies for home decoration. White dupioni often used for bridal gowns due to its lustrous sheen and relatively low cost. Avoid tight fitting garments as seams may pull apart due to the weave. Sews relatively easily, but pins leave marks, so pin carefully.

Fabric Care

Dupioni is marked 'Dry Clean Only' but it can be washed IF you wash it before you cut it out. Silk dupioni loses much of its stiffness when washed, and just a bit of its sheen, but it still looks great. It will shrink up to 12% - 5 inches (13 cm) per yard - when washed, but it is very difficult to wrinkle after that. And no dry cleaning bills! Pre-made or lined dupioni garments should most likely be dry cleaned.

Routine hand washing

Soak the garment in lukewarm water and a mild soap solution. Rinse in clear, cool water until all the soap is gone. **DO NOT WRING!** Silk is weaker when wet! Then fill the sink again and add a quarter cup of white vinegar to the final rinse. Vinegar neutralizes any remaining soap, and allows it to rinse out completely restoring the fabric's natural sheen, it can make a dramatic difference. Give the fabric a final rinse in clear, cool water to remove the vinegar smell. Roll up in a towel to remove moisture, then dry flat on a towel or on a padded hanger. **AGAIN, DO NOT WRING!** Iron with a low-medium temp iron while still slightly damp.