

Tunnel Tip #19

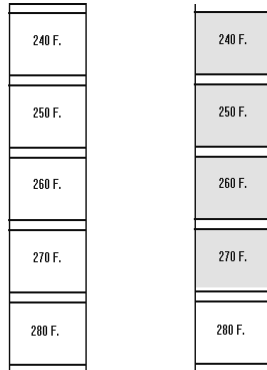
Start with *accuracy*, finish with *quality*

USING TEMPERATURE TAPES

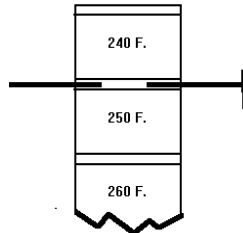
Users are continually warned not to have garments exceed 300°F when finishing in a tunnel finisher or pressing. How can you tell what the fabric temperature is? The solution: "temperature tape."

This handy-dandy tape gives a rather good indication what temperature the fabric is actually reaching when exposed to the press head or the heated air of a tunnel finisher.

The most common temperature tape used in the industry is manufactured in strips with five squares per strip, graduating in 10°F increments. For example, a strip will cover from 240° through 280°F. If the tape reaches 260°F, all the squares from 240°F through 260°F will turn dark. The darkening happens when the tape reaches the temperature indicated in the center of a temperature sensitive area on the tape.

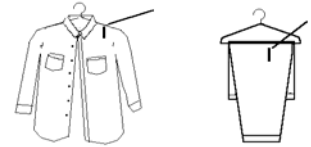


There are several styles of tape. Colmac has used a self-adhesive type (peel and stick) over the years. There is a disadvantage to this type of tape when processing wet garments; the adhesive does not always stick on the wet fabric. To prevent the tape from being blown off in the finishing chamber, Colmac uses a straight pin stuck through the gap between two sections on the tape, then



through the fabric and back out through the gap. It is important not to let the pin make contact with the heat sensitive area as the heat, conducted by the steel in the pin, may give an erroneous reading. On dry fabric, Colmac has found the tape sticks quite well and makes the trip through the tunnel finisher fine.

The placement of the tape is important to assure a useful reading. It should be placed in an area exposed to the highest temperatures in the finishing process. On shirts and similar garments, the shoulder area just below the hanger is the best location. On pants, the best location would be just below where they are draped over the hanger. Never place the tape directly over the hanger wire as the wire conducts heat and will give an incorrect reading.



In both instances, the recommended location of the tape is closest to the source of the airflow that is the hottest part of the system. The temperature indicated here would be the hottest the fabric should achieve.

Properly used, the temperature tape is a very useful tool that can help you prevent garment damage due to overheating.

One source of temperature tape is:

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