

## How to Finish Linen Fabric by Chris Hammel

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil, and then turn the temperature control to simmer. Optional: add a small amount of soap.
2. Fill your sink with very hot water. Place the cloth in the water until completely wet. Do not place the cloth in the water with folds – if necessary, loosely roll the cloth so that it fits into your sink. Avoid squeezing or handling the cloth in a manner that will produce creases.
3. Transfer the cloth to the pot of simmering water. Simmer for approx. 10 minutes. Stir frequently.
4. Three Options:
  - a. Fill the sink with very cold water. Place the cloth in the water for several minutes.
  - b. Place the cloth in an empty sink, and run very cold water over the cloth for several minutes. Move the cloth around as you do this.
  - c. Place the cloth in the freezer for several hours or overnight.
5. Repeat Steps 3 and 4a or 4b again, or as many times as desired. (I usually repeat these steps two times, and then I repeat Step 3 again.) If soap was added to the pot, a new pot of water should be prepared for the final Step 3 so that no soap remains in the cloth. If one places the cloth in the freezer (Step 4.c.), it is unnecessary to repeat the steps multiple times; when the cloth is removed from the freezer, repeat Step 3 again.
6. Place one or two thick bath towels on your ironing board. Place the cloth (quite wet) on the towels. Set your iron to the highest setting with the steam option on. Do not move the iron back and forth over the cloth as one usually does when ironing. This sweeping motion can distort the shape of the cloth because at this time the cloth is quite wet and malleable. Instead, use a press and lift motion. Concentrate on one area and gradually move outward until the entire cloth is damp. Then iron the cloth in the usual manner (with a sweeping motion) until you are satisfied with its appearance.