

# Let's Patch



Does it feel drafty in here?

If you're shivering in a draft, you could blame your office or barracks. On the other hand, the problem just might be all those small rips and holes in your BDUs.

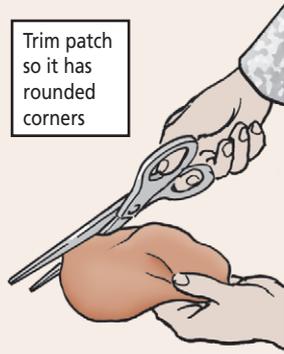
Until BDUs are no longer authorized for wear, you need to patch things up. Get iron-on patches, NSN 8305-00-460-4200, to repair desert, woodland temperate and woodland enhanced hot weather BDUs. The patches are made of olive drab cotton cloth with adhesive on one side. You order the patches by the yard and cut them to size.

HERE'S HOW IT'S DONE...



- Cut the patch to a size and shape so that it covers  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in all directions beyond the tear.
- Trim the patch so that it has rounded corners.
- Turn your BDUs inside out and put them on an ironing board.
- If the edges of the tear are frayed, trim away loose threads. Smooth out the area to be patched so that the tear is closed. Make sure to smooth out wrinkles, folds and seams.
- Set an electric iron to the cotton setting. Make sure the iron is used dry. You don't want steam because the patch won't stick well to a moist surface. Warm the area on the BDUs for about five seconds.
- Immediately center the patch adhesive side down over the tear and press it against the cloth.

Trim patch so it has rounded corners



# Things Up



- Press the iron on the patch for about 12 seconds. Keep constant pressure on the patch and slightly rotate the iron.
- Remove the iron. Let the patched area cool for several seconds.
- If you've done a good patching job, the patch will have bonded tight to the BDUs. It'll be hard to peel off. That tells you two things: You've used the right iron setting and you've heated the patch the right length of time.

For more information on patching and repairing BDUs, see Chapter 15 of TM 10-8400-201-23, *General Repair Procedures for Clothing*.

Press iron on patch for 12 seconds



## Know When to Sew

Never use iron-on patches to repair tears at stress points, such as crotch seams or pocket seams. Patches can't hold up under the strain. Always sew tears at stress points. And also sew tears closer than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to any seam.

## TAKE COVER

Protect yourself from airbursts, mortar rounds and small arms fire. Get the fighting position overhead cover (FPOC), NSN 5450-01-430-2081, to put over your foxhole. The FPOC is a steel tube frame with a polypropylene cover. It weighs 25 pounds. When unfolded, it measures 40 x 48 inches. Put soil or sandbags on top of the cover to absorb blast and fragments.