

Making Bias-Cut Binding

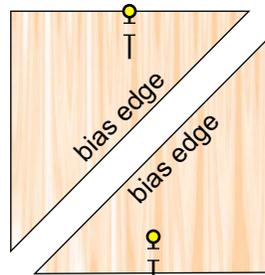
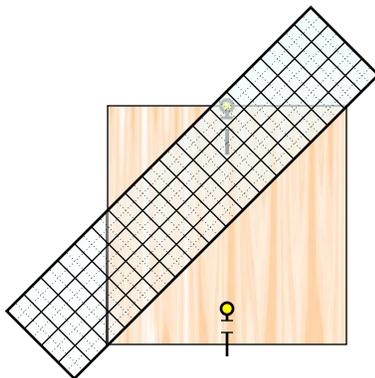
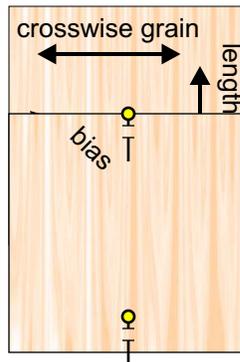
By Maria Hrabovsky

Method A

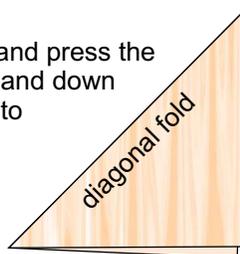
Start with a square of fabric cut on the straight grain. Remove any selvages. Do not include them in the square. Squares are usually cut at 18", 27", or 36". Anything smaller than an 18" square will create too many seams and too much bulk.

With the right side up, mark the top and bottom with safety pins or straight pins.

If your square is small enough and your ruler long enough, position the ruler from one corner to the opposite corner and use your rotary cutter to cut the square in half on the diagonal. See diagrams below.



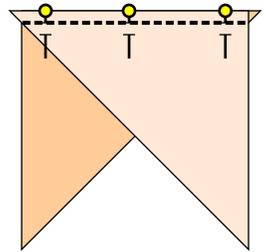
For a larger square, fold in half and press the fold, remembering to use an up and down motion with your iron, so as not to stretch the bias.



Cut on the pressed-in line.

Note: Handle bias edges carefully. Do not stretch them or hold them in a way that allows them to hang and therefore, stretch.

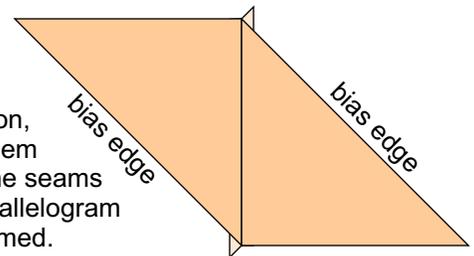
Flip the bottom triangle up and over the top triangle. The two crosswise edges marked with the pins will meet. Right sides will be together. Pin.



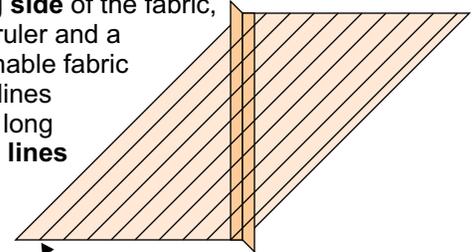
Stitch together where indicated using a 1/2" seam or the size seam required. See note below. Remember to backstitch at the beginning and end of the seam.

Note: As shown in the diagram above, the seams should start and end right at the angle where the two fabrics meet on each side. If the measurement from those points to the raw edge is more or less than 1/2", use that measurement for your seam allowance.

Press the seams in the closed position, then press them open. Trim the seams to 1/4". A parallelogram has been formed.

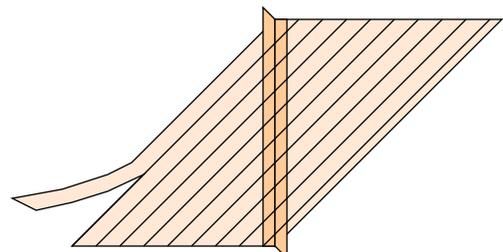


On the **wrong side** of the fabric, using a clear ruler and a pencil or washable fabric marker, draw lines parallel to the long edges. **These lines must be the desired binding strip width apart.**

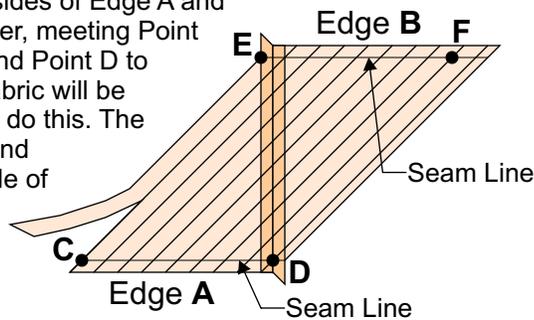


Example: Mark lines 2-1/2" apart for a finished 3/8" binding or 2" apart for a finished 1/4" binding.

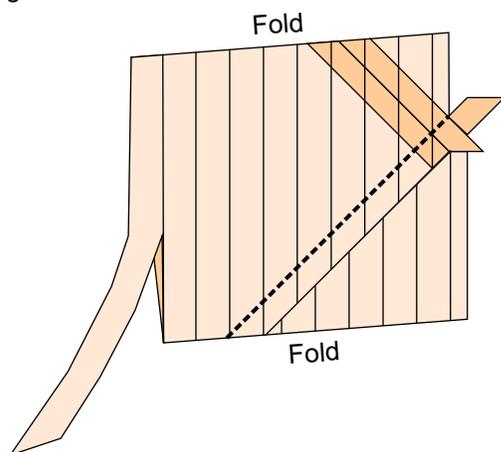
Make a 6" long cut along the first line drawn. See diagram below.



Join the right sides of Edge A and Edge B together, meeting Point C to Point E and Point D to Point F. The fabric will be twisted as you do this. The 6" cut will extend beyond the side of the tube. The other side will have about the same amount of excess fabric.



Read the notes on pinning (to the right), then pin raw edges together matching where drawn lines intersect. Once pinned and sewn together, shake it out and you will have an untwisted tube. See diagram below.



Use scissors to cut along the drawn lines of the tube starting at the end of the 6" long cut already started. The result will be one very long bias strip.

Note: A small cutting mat can be inserted into the tube and a rotary cutter and ruler can be used to cut the strips.

Note: Sometimes the end of the strip is not quite the right size. Either trim or remove that section.

Press the binding in half lengthwise. Remember to use the up and down motion with your iron and be careful not to stretch the seams.

Note on Pinning

Use the following method of pinning whenever seams or lines must meet and align perfectly. The illustrations shown are for joining blocks, but the method is the same whenever accurate pinning and joining is necessary.

Place the pin right on the seam or line.

Push the pin straight through the fabric.

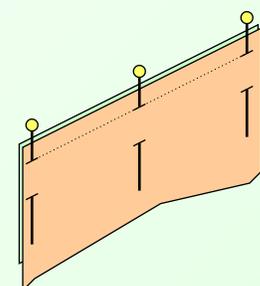
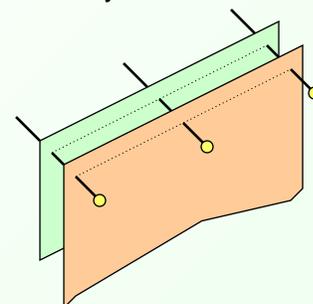
Separate the two layers and push the pin straight through the matching point on the second piece of fabric (or block).

Check to see that it goes exactly through the matching line, point, or seam on the back side as well.

If necessary, reposition the pin until it is exactly in place. This ensures perfect, accurate piecing.

Now push the point down and through the fabrics in a vertical position.

Stitch with a 1/4" seam. When stitching, stop in the needle down position just before each straight pin. Pull the pin out slowly and gently to avoid moving the fabrics out of place. Continue sewing.

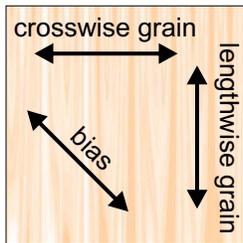


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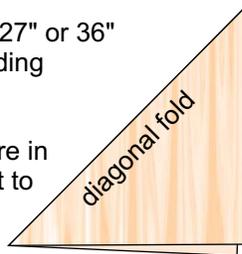
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Method B



Cut an 18" or 27" or 36" square, excluding selvages.

Fold the square in half from point to point on the diagonal.



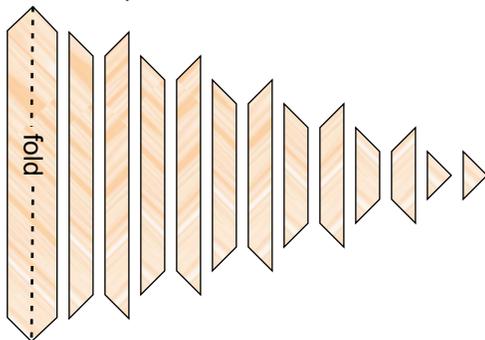
Fold in half once more by meeting the bottom and top points of the diagonal fold.

Using your ruler and rotary cutter, the first cut will be measured from the fold at half the width of the desired strip.

Example: For a 2-1/2" wide strip, cut a 1-1/4" strip. When unfolded, it will measure the required 2-1/2".

Use your ruler and rotary cutter to continue cutting strips at the desired width. Your end cuts will be triangles or strips too small to use. These can be saved for future scrap projects or appliqué.

When you open these strips, you will find a variety of lengths and edge shapes. For example:

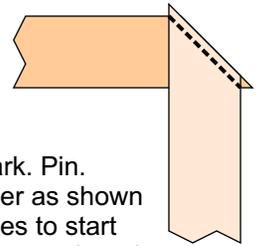


These strips are sewn together in the same way as the aforementioned **Straight Grain French Binding** instructions.

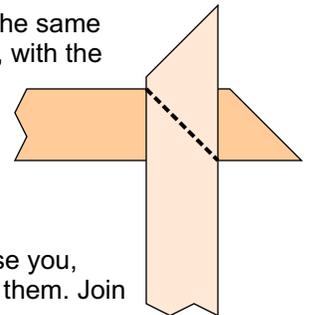
Note:

The end angles of some of these strips are already cut on a perfect bias. Pin them together as shown.

These strips meet perfectly on the bias. Align the raw edges with the front strip higher than the back strip as shown. The angles where the strips meet are exactly at the 1/4" seam mark. Pin. Stitch from one angle to the other as shown in the diagram. Use small stitches to start and end seams. Follow the aforementioned pressing and trimming instructions.



These strips are placed in the same position as the ones above, with the top strip's left edge 1/4" above the other. As you can see, they are pinned and stitched in the same way, then trimmed.



If these angled ends confuse you, use your ruler to straighten them. Join them as described above.



Press the binding in half lengthwise. Be careful not to stretch the seams. Remember to use the up and down motion with your iron.