

Bias Binding



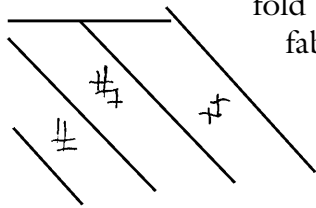
Shirley Adams



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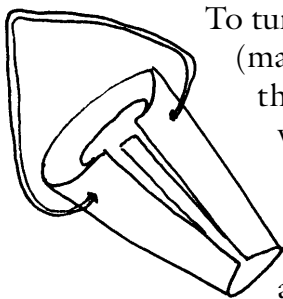
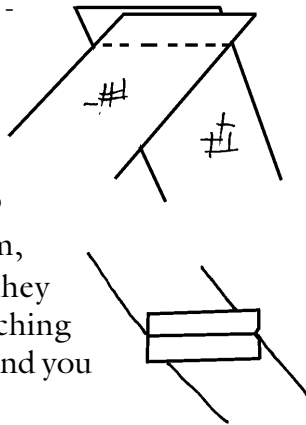
The beauty of designing and creating your own wardrobe is that you can keep up with current trends or create your own with ease and confidence. The house of Chanel immortalized the simple edge binding. Imagine what you might do.

Bias binding shows on both the garment right and wrong sides. In other words it wraps around the raw garment edge. To cut these bias strips that need to be true bias (cut at 45° angle),



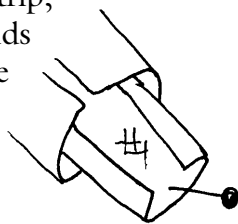
fold a corner of your fabric over so lengthwise and crosswise are parallel. The lengthwise forms a right angle. The resulting fold is true bias. Cut as many strips of this as are needed to join

and equal the edge of the neck and two armscyes - somewhere between 5' and 6' long. The width of the strip should be about 48mm or 2" wide. Right sides together stitch the two straight ends in a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, offsetting the corners so they exactly coincide at the stitching line. Press these seams open and you have a long piece of bias.



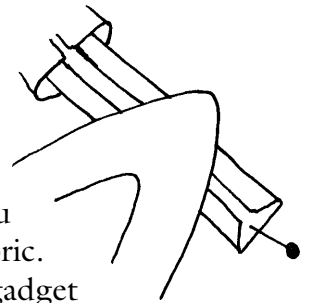
To turn under the edges (making it into a 1" wide bias tape that's absolutely uniform in width), use the indispensable bias tape maker found in any notions department. These come in four different widths and you need a wide one for this binding. It might have 25mm

printed on it. You insert the bias strip, right side down, into its large ends and push until it comes out the small end. Pin the end of the tape down to your ironing board.



The bias tape maker folds the fabric edges over as they pull through. With the point of a steam iron, smooth it down flat, following the maker as you pull it along the length of fabric.

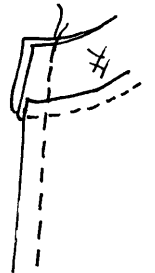
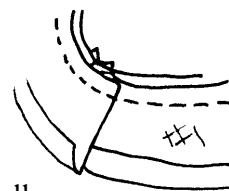
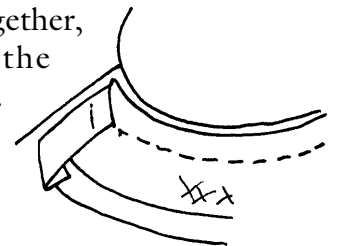
This is a really effective little gadget and I'm grateful to its inventor for creating it!



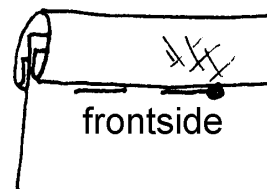
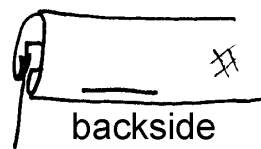
Open up one folded edge of the bias and right sides together, pin then stitch it to the neckline of the shell.

Before starting, fold over the end so later when turned right side out, no raw edges will show. Stitch the seam in the little pressed crease.

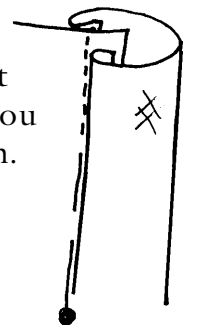
When you get all around the neckline, overlap the top raw end over the folded-over start.



On the armscye, leave the side seam open until after this first step is done, then stitch the side seam with the bias edges opened up.



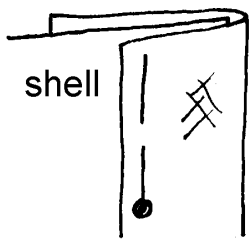
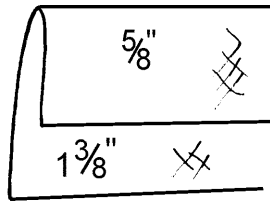
The second step is to fold the bias over to the wrong side so its back fold edge just slightly covers the original stitching line. From the front side, pin the layers together, catching the bias fold on the back side. Still from the front side, stitch-in-the-ditch, pulling out pins as you approach them.



Frayed Bias Binding

Here's a variation on the binding process that works well for a decorative finish when using easily raveled fabric for the bias strip. Linen is a good fabric example.

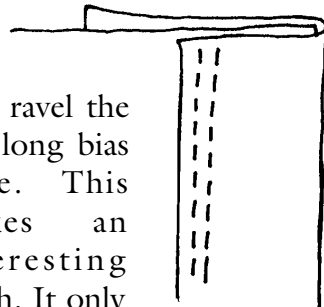
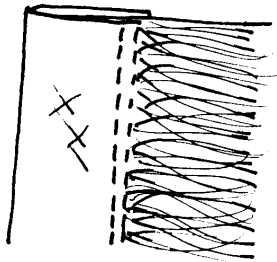
Cut the same 2" bias strip as above, but use no tape maker. Instead with your steam iron, press the bias not quite in half. Fold the short side down $\frac{5}{8}$ "; longer strip will be $1\frac{3}{8}$ ". Press the crease along the entire length.



Sandwich this over the raw edge neckline, short side to the inside, pinning the three layers together, wrong side up. Stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ " from fold all around, removing pins as you approach. Stitch a second line $\frac{3}{8}$ " in from fold. Repeat this

on both armscyes. Run it through the washer and dryer in a load of bath towels to help agitate and ravel the

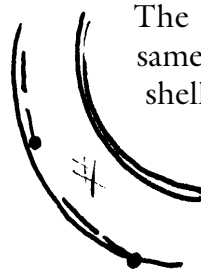
raw long bias edge. This makes an interesting finish. It only frays up to your stitching line.



Bias Facing

Use a bias facing when you don't want the bias edge to show, only cover the raw shell edge and finish it on the inside. Remember that, as opposed to the above binding, this will open up the neck and arm openings a little larger, so plan accordingly. I make this edge only a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam so it makes the opening only slightly larger.

Use narrower bias strips (cut only 24mm - $1\frac{1}{4}$ ") and use a narrower bias tape maker. When edges are pressed over, the tape will be $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide (12mm).



The first step is then the same as binding. Clip the shell edge around all the curves. Turn tape to the wrong side and pin in place. Stitch, removing pins as you approach. Press. This one, that does not show, could be commercial bias if you prefer.

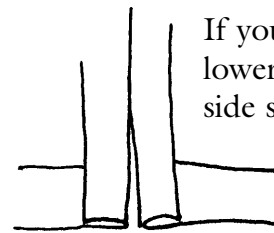
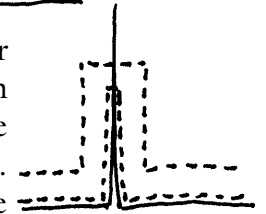
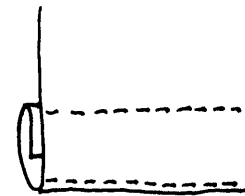


Hem

Upper area decided upon, let's move on down. Some of us are always cognizant of the fact that we could gain a little weight. Typically the hips are affected first. If that contingency is at the uppermost thinking, get ahead of the game. Instead of stitching the side seams all the way down, stop a little below your waist and backstitch. Leave the lower part open to produce vents. They are forgiving and if you put on an inch, a vent says "so what?" There's room.

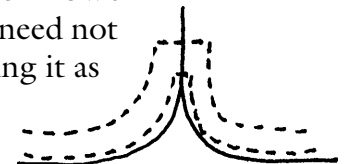
For that hem, if it will be tucked into a skirt or pants, nothing special needs to be done.

Press lightweight fabrics under twice, then merely machine stitch for flattest result. For a little heavier fabric, turn it under once. Serge the raw edge to finish before machine stitching it in place. Added to a side vent, that means stitch up and around the opening when you reach the side seams.



If you should wear this outside your lower garment, turn up the hem first, side seam allowances last, before you stitch.

That lower line need not always be straight. If wearing it as an overblouse, outside the lower garment, it would be perfectly acceptable to curve it to add an interesting note.





Denim and gold brocade using a denim bias binding around cording.

Bias binding in royal blue ultra suede microfiber which *did* match a lovely pencil skirt, until someone borrowed the suit and returned only the jacket. The dangers of fashion are legion.



This home decor fabric became an instant summer outfit with bias binding made of the fashion fabric on a simple knit t-shirt.

An Origami jacket with suede bias binding.



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