

Using Bias Tape

6.186

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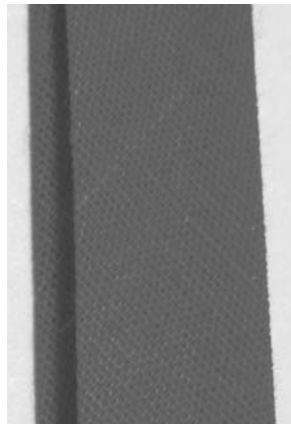


Whether you're using purchased bias tape or making your own, there are tricks to applying it to be sure it's pucker-free and hugs the edge you're covering.

Simple Solutions

Double-fold bias tape comes in a huge assortment of colors and several different widths. Some brands offer bias tape by the yard in both solid and prints. At the holidays, you can often find bias tape in metallic and seasonal prints, like Christmas plaids or Halloween pumpkins.

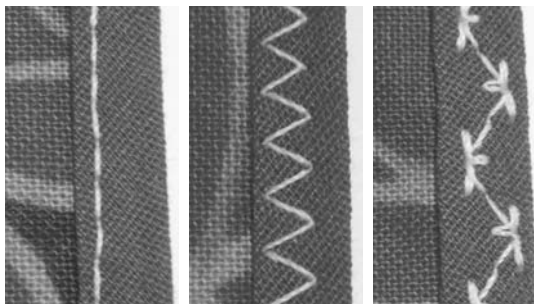
Double-folded bias is perfect for encasing a raw edge. The tape itself is folded such that the underside is just slightly longer than the upper side (1). This allows for the thickness of the cloth edge that you're binding, and assures that you'll catch the lower folded edge when applying the binding by machine.



1

To bind an edge, begin in an inconspicuous place around the project perimeter, away from a corner to reduce bulk. Slide the raw edge into the bias opening and pin in place.

Use a straight, zigzag or decorative stitch to sew the binding in place, catching both the upper and lower folded edges (2).



2

Curves Ahead

If what you're binding is curved, it's helpful to pre-shape the bias by pressing it into a curve before applying it (3). This process works for both inside or outside curves. The bias grain allows the binding to shape to the curve without puckering.

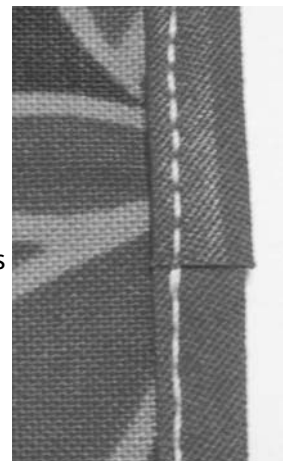


3

Back to the Beginning

Ideally a bias-bound edge would end in a perpendicular seamline, so the tape ends can be hidden. But, if you're binding the perimeter of a project, you will ultimately come back to where you began. What to do?

Bias doesn't ravel, so you can simply cut the tape to the length you need and continue stitching, overlapping the original end about 1/2" (4). Some sewers prefer to turn under the overlap 1/4" and press, then continuing the stitching line.



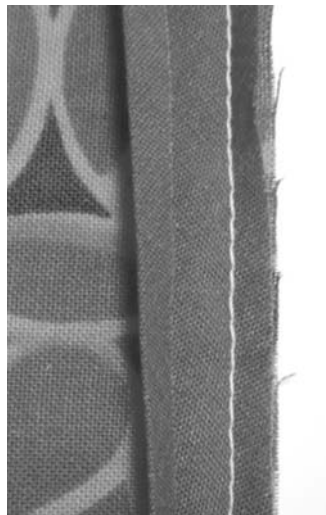
4

If you're binding a potholder, begin at the top and when you get back to the point of origin, simply lap over the tape end and continue stitching to form a hanging loop. The machine will stitch only on the bias tape to form enough length for a loop, and then you can tuck under the raw edge to finish on the underside. Or stitch a bartack to hide the raw ends and reinforce the loop at the same time.

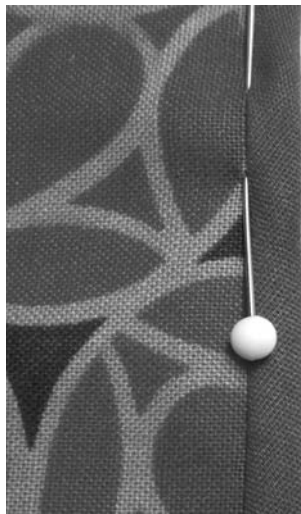
An alternative finish for the bias ends is to turn under the beginning end 1/4" and as you come back to the beginning, turn under the other end, abutting the finished ends.

Another Way

If you don't want to see the stitching on your bias binding, apply it using a two-step method. Unfold the narrow edge of the bias to expose the pressed creaseline and match the raw edge of the binding to the project raw edge; pin in place. Straight stitch exactly in the creaseline (5). Fold the bias over the project raw edge and pin in the well of the seam (6). Stitch in the ditch to catch the underside of the bias tape lip. All you see with this method is a bias binding with no visible stitching.



5



6

Bias Facing

Single-fold bias tape can be used to make a narrow facing, like at a neckline or armhole. Unfold the tape and place the pressed creaseline along the garment seamline. Stitch in place and trim the garment seam allowances narrower than the bias. Turn the bias to the garment wrong side, press to shape and hand- or topstitch the remaining bias folded edge in place (7).



7

For more information on making bias tape, see Guideline 9.230 Making Bias and Bias Binding.

For more information about ready-made bias tape, see Guideline 6.185 Bindings & Tapes. 📖