

# Make and attach bias tape

To make finished bias tape with the bias tape maker, cut the bias strips twice the desired finished bias tape width—a 1/2-inch-wide bias tape starts with a 1-inch-wide bias strip.

## CUT, FOLD, AND FUSE

**1** Stiffen the fabric with spray starch or fabric stabilizer. To prevent torquing, rippling, or stretching, be sure to starch or stabilize fabric before cutting it. This is especially important when using a slippery fabric such as silk charmeuse.

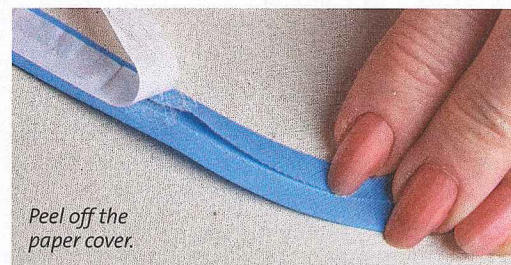
**2** Cut bias strips from a fabric rectangle, and use a stiletto to guide them into the bias tape maker's wider opening. Each strip end has a point, which makes it easy to feed into the tool.

**3** As the fabric comes out of the tape maker's narrow end, place an iron on the folded end to anchor the strip. As you pull the tape maker along the bias strip, slide the iron close to the narrow end to press the folds neatly.

**4** Iron narrow strips of paper-backed fusible web to the wrong side. Fusible web holds the folded bias tape in place while sewing and is a better choice than pins, which can cause rippling.

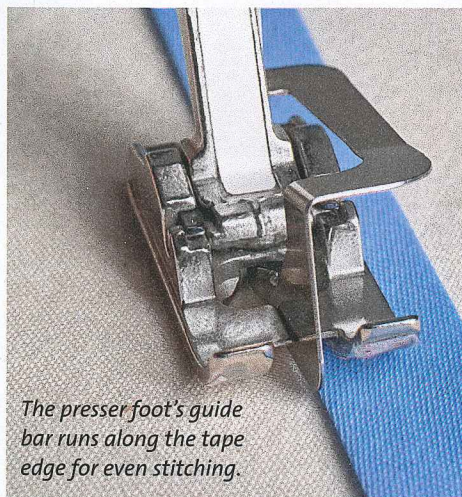


**5** Remove the paper covering the web. Then fuse the strips in place.



## ATTACH THE BIAS TAPE

**1** Attach a presser foot with a vertical guide bar. Position the needle to stitch close to the strip's folded edge. The guide bar helps you to edgestitch evenly.



**2** End the bias strip neatly. Either plan the design so that an end is inserted into a seam, or, to end it in the middle of a garment piece, fold the end under the trim and stitch across the termination.

## web extra

For a video that shows how to use a bias tape maker, visit [ThreadsMagazine.com](http://ThreadsMagazine.com).



## Outline a pocket

You outline shapes, such as a pocket, preshape bias tape.

Place the original pattern piece on your ironing surface. Carefully arrange the bias strip around the pattern's curved edge.

Slowly steam and finger-press the bias to follow the pattern shape. Let it dry before moving it.



Prepare the pocket by finishing the top hem. Press the remaining seam allowances under.

Apply the fusible tape to the wrong side of the steamed pocket. Place the bias on top of the pocket.

Thoroughly fuse it to the outer edges of the pocket. Start and stop about 1/4 inch from the top.

Apply a straight strip across the top of the pocket. Fold the top end under to finish the top strip and cover the pocket's curved trim. Apply fusible web tape to the pocket's seam allowances.

Remove the paper covering and fuse the pocket in place. Topstitch along each side of the bias trim to attach the pocket permanently.

*Bias trim serves to finish and accentuate edges and seamlines.*



TAKE  
through  
with it



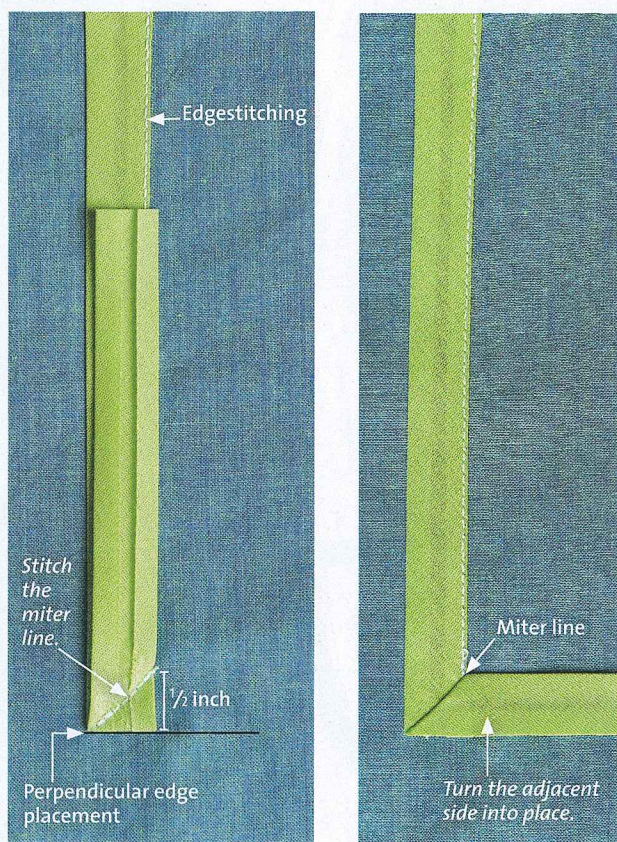
## Make a miter

Here's how to turn a 90-degree corner with bias tape.

**1 Edgestitch the trim to the garment along the inner edge.** Stop stitching  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (or the width of the finished trim) from the perpendicular edge.

**2 Fold the trim back on itself.** Align the fold with the desired perpendicular edge placement.

**3 Draw a diagonal line from the last stitch on the inner edge to the upper fold at the tape's opposite edge.** Sew along this line. Turn the adjacent side into position.



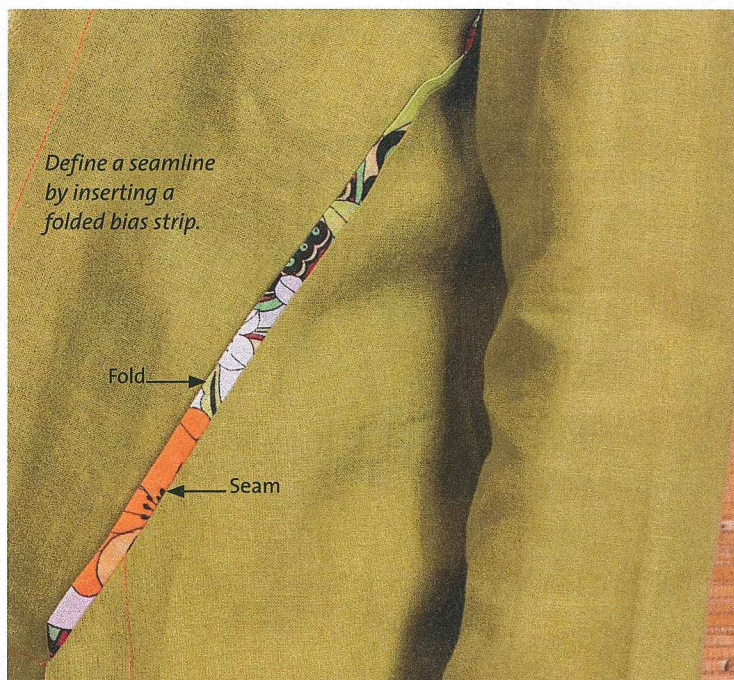
**4 Continue sewing the inner trim edge to the next turning point or the end.** To complete the application, topstitch along the tape's outer edges.

### tip

**Reduce bulk at the corner.** Trim any excess tape before turning the adjacent side into place.

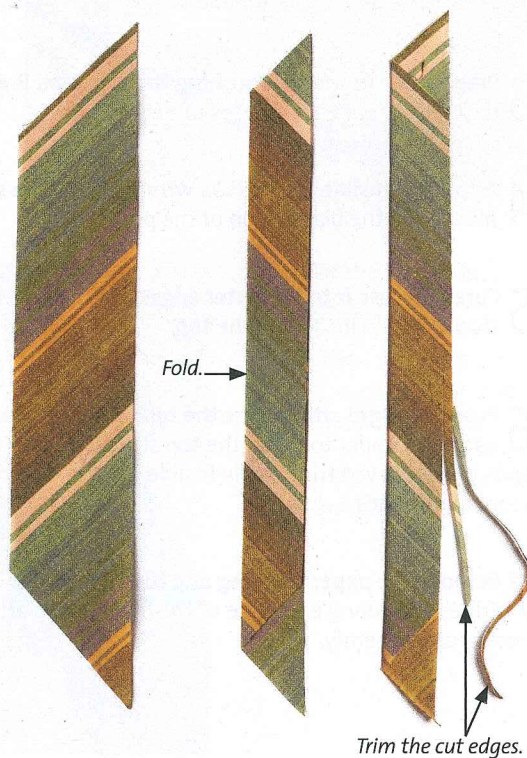
## Enhance a seam

Some garment styles have interesting seam placements just waiting to be accented. This bias strip is folded once lengthwise and is inserted into a seam as flat piping.



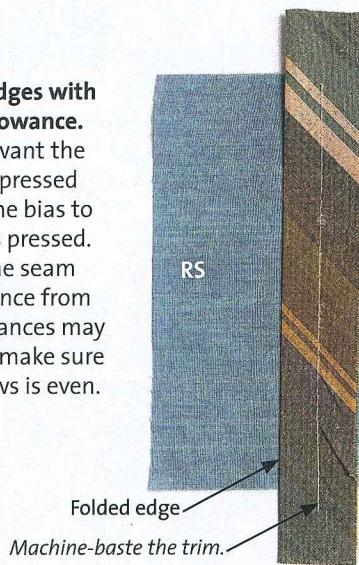
**1 Determine the exposed finished bias strip width.** Multiply that width by 2 then add two seam allowance widths, plus a little more. For example, for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide finished trim with  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowances, cut the bias  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide.

**2 Fold the bias strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.** Using a rotary cutter and straight edge, trim the folded strip to an even  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

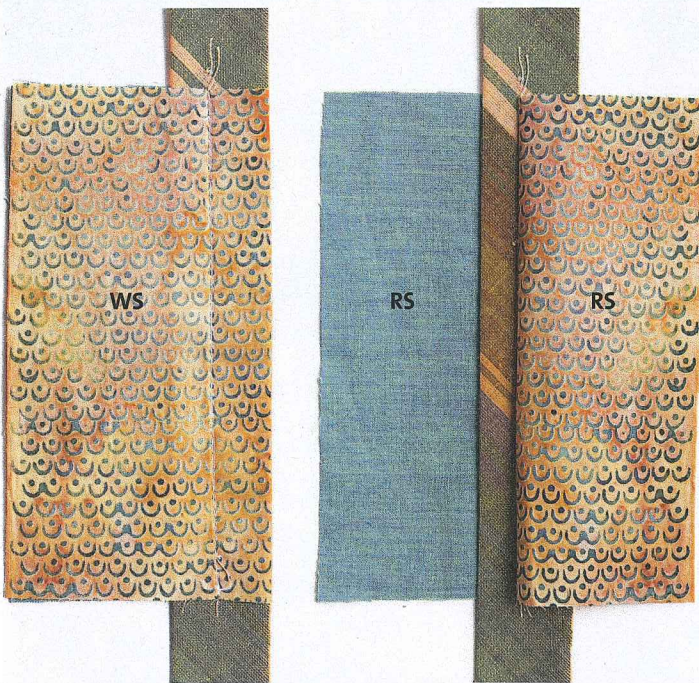




**3** Align the folded strip's raw edges with the raw edge of one seam allowance. Consider the direction that you want the trim to lie and seam allowances pressed when finished. You don't want the bias to be folded back when the seam is pressed. Machine-baste the trim along the seam allowance keeping an even distance from the folded edge. The seam allowances may vary, but it is more important to make sure the portion of the trim that shows is even.



**4** With right sides together, sew the garment pieces together, stitching slightly to the garment side of the previous basting and using the stitching as a guide, to make sure the trim stays even.



With right sides together, complete the seam.

Open the seam, pressing the trim to one side.

**5** End the trim in a seam before an edge or another seam allowance. Turn the trim's end inside the seam allowance at a 45-degree angle. The raw end is caught in the seam as you sew it.

*Make your own bias tape from the same fabric as other interesting details, such as the collar and cuffs.*

