

Dear Quilters,

Do you dread making double-fold bias binding strips? There are certainly many ways. What if, when sewing the strips, you **NEVER** needed to draw a diagonal sewing line across the corner of your fabric again? And, what if, there was an easier way to cut the strips? Why not give my approach a try? I think you'll like it.

I've included pictures and descriptions for each step: cutting, sewing, pressing, and storing. If you decide you like my approach, please share my website with your quilting tribe.

Have a lovely quilting day,

Cheryl A. Matzen

Owner, Quilt-N-A-Flash, LLC

GETTING STARTED

I'm a big fan of prewashing my fabrics. Although optional, here are some of the benefits you may want to consider:

- ▲ When the finished quilt is washed, bright colors are less likely to run or bleed; especially when the quilt is stored.
- ▲ Because prewashed fabrics shrink and relax into their normal woven shape, your finished quilt will not distort.
- ▲ And for those with sensitive skin, infants, or have a compromised immune system, you have removed the sizing, chemicals, and dirt introduced at the manufacturer.

Once washed, dry the fabric in the dryer until it's damp dry. Spray the wrong side of the fabric with a clear starch or sizing product like Best Press[®], and iron the fabric before you begin to cut. You are ready to make your double-fold bias binding strip.

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STEP 1:

Cut the selvage edges off of the fabric.

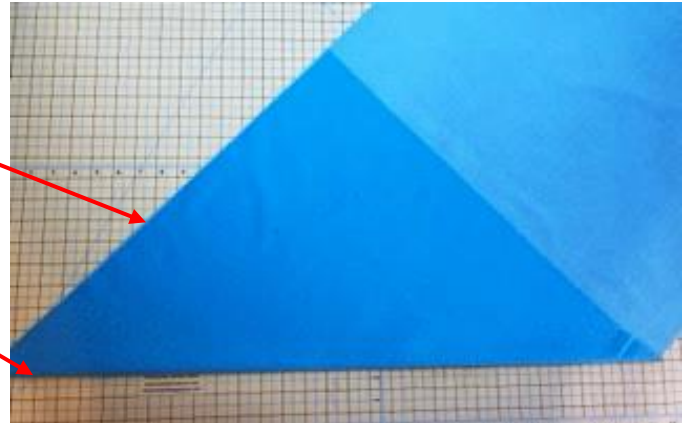
STEP 2:

Fold the fabric making a triangle with the cross and straight grains aligned as shown. The fabric is folded on the bias grain forming a triangle.

Make sure your fabric lays smooth with no puckers.

Cross and straight of grains aligned

Fabric folded on the bias grain



STEP 3:

Fold the triangle in half again making an even smaller triangle.

Triangle folded again along the bias grain (makes 4 layers of fabric)

Note: Before making the first cut, check the fabric again to make sure your fabric lays smooth with no puckers.



Continue folding the fabric, until both these points are aligned together forming a smaller triangle.

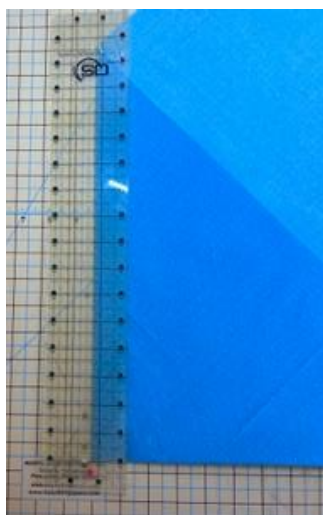


STEP 4:

Because you are cutting through 4 fabric layers on the fold, your first cut is **always** cut at a different width than the remainder of your cuts. To determine the width of your first cut strip, divide desired strip width by 2. For example: ♦ a 1.5" strip \div 2 = a .75" first cut strip; ♦ a 2" strip \div 2 = a 1" first cut strip; ♦ a 2.25" strip \div 2 = a 1.125" (1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ") first cut strip and so forth.

The examples in the following instructions result in 2.5" strips, therefore, my **first cut** will be 1.25". Cut the **remaining strips** at 2.5". Refer to the following illustrations to cut the strips.

Cutting the first cut strip:



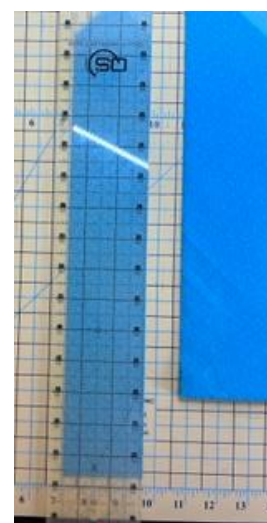
Align your ruler along folded edge with 4 fabric layers.



Make sure the ruler's marks for 1.25" are positioned on the fold as shown above.



After the cut, your strip appears as shown above.

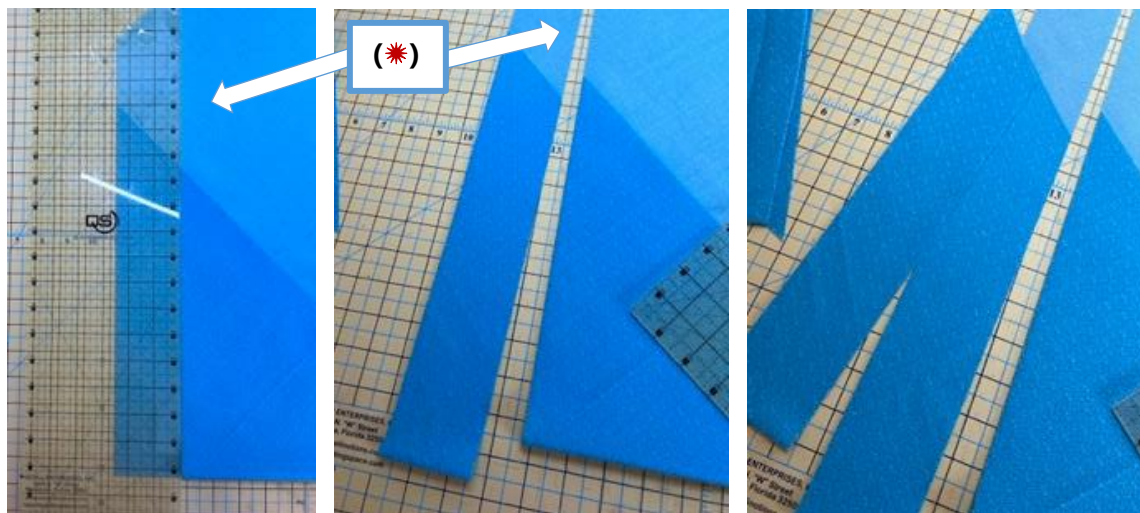


Unfold the strip. Your strip should measure 2.5" wide.

Cutting the remaining strips:

Align your ruler on the same cutting edge at 2.5" and cut. Notice that I have cut the fabric beyond my folded fabric (*).

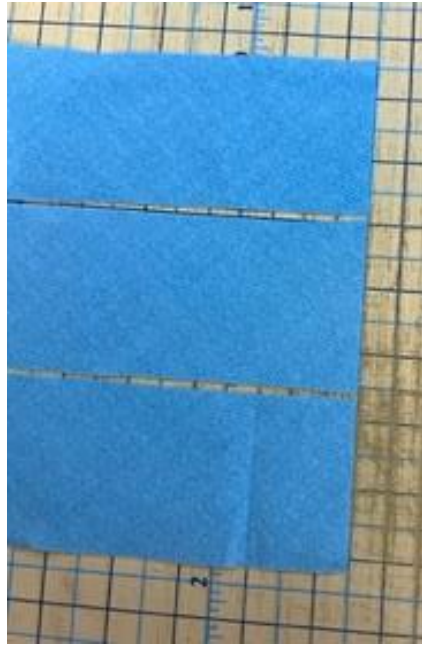
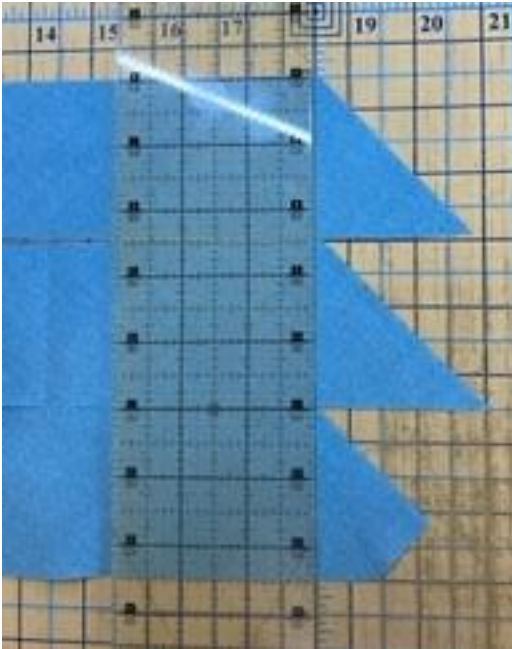
Continue cutting 2.5" strips until you have enough strips to make your binding. Each 2.5" cut yields 2 bias strips.





STEP 5:

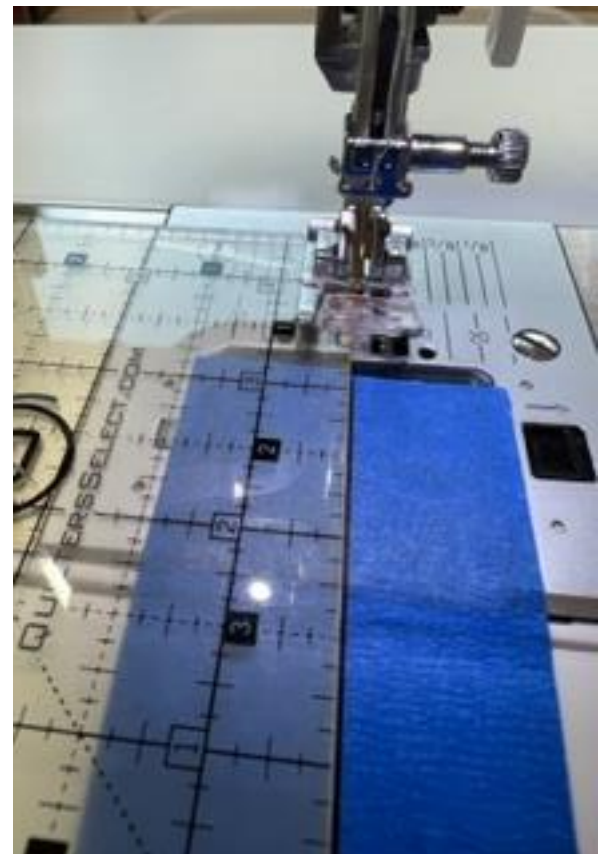
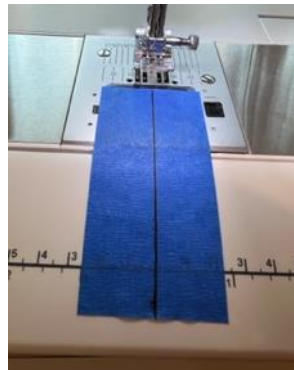
Trim off (square up) both ends of the cut strips as shown below.



STEP 6:

You need a 4" to 5" strip of painter's tape, a fine line black marker, and a small ruler.

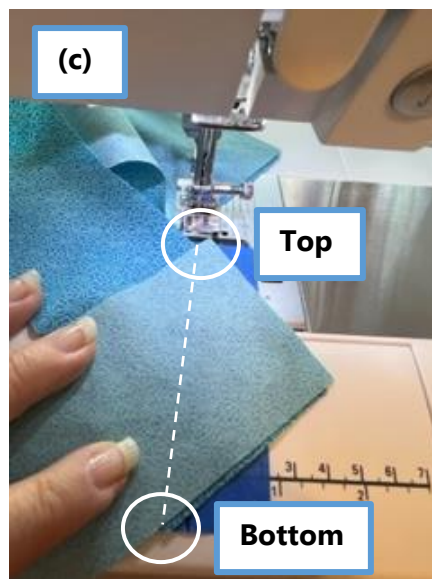
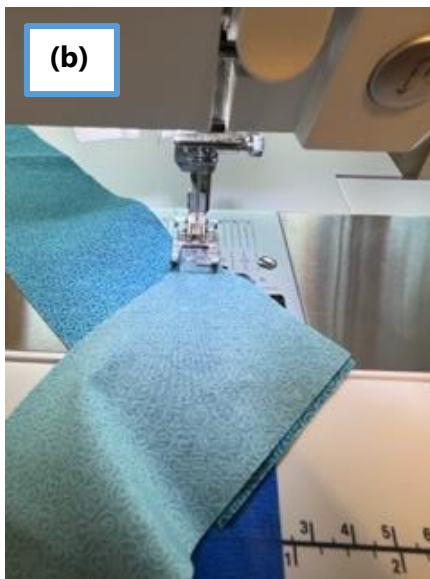
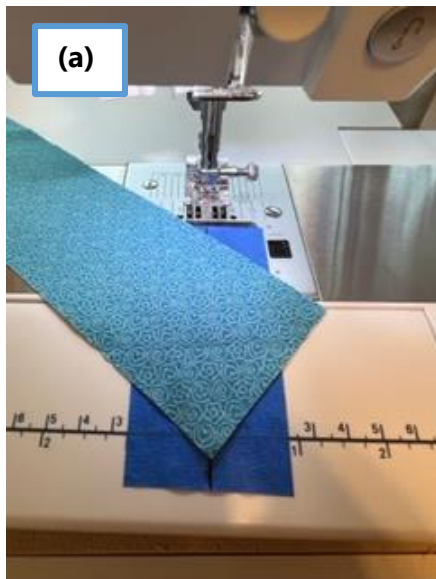
1. Attach the tape on the machine's sewing surface as pictured. The tape should be positioned straight up/down.
2. With the needle down, align a small ruler up with the left edge of the needle and with the tape's edge.
3. Once aligned, gently lower the presser foot down onto the ruler to help stabilize it.
4. Using the black marker, draw a line along the ruler's edge as shown. The drawn line should be aligned with the needle's straight stitching line.
5. Lift the presser foot and needle and remove the ruler. Your tape should appear as shown.



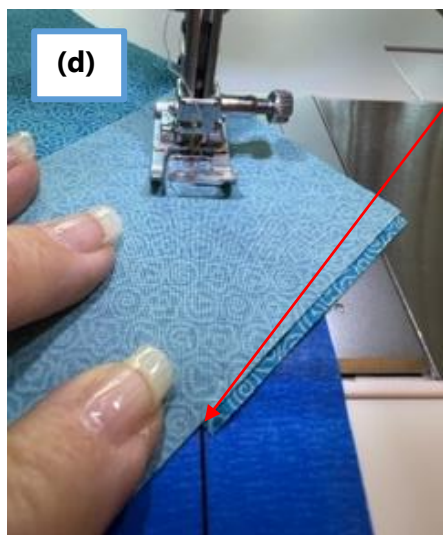


STEP 7:

1. Move your strips next to your sewing machine and set the stitch length to 2.0 to 2.3 mm.
2. Position a strip with the right side facing up at the angle as pictured in **(a)** below.
3. Place a second strip on top of the first strip (right sides together) as pictured in **(b)**. Notice that both corners of the two fabrics point to the right and that there are two **V**'s (top and bottom) of the layered strips **(c)**. The **V**'s are circled in the picture.



4. The strips are sewn together from **V** to **V**. Align the needle in the point of top **V** and the bottom **V** aligned with the line you drew on the tape. Pictured in **(d)**.
5. As you sew watch the bottom **V**, **always** keep the bottom **V** lined up with the drawn line.
6. Once you've sewn to the bottom **V** of the two strips, flip the opposite end of top strip over (right side up). Position it as shown in Step 2 **(a)** and sew a third strip as described in Step 3 **(b)**. Repeat Steps 4 and 5 until all of the strips are chain pieced together. Your strips will look like those pictured in **(e)**.



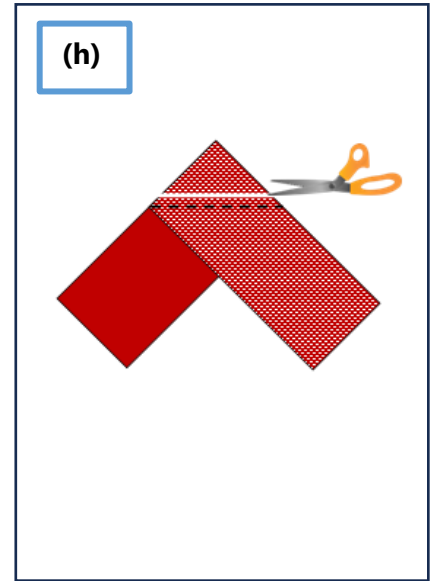
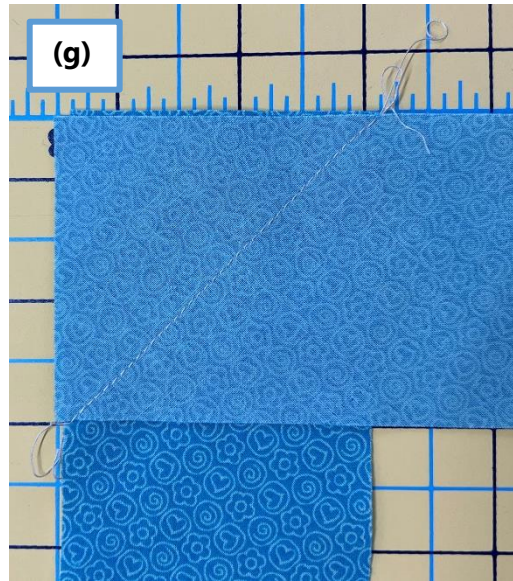
Watch the **V** and the line as you sew. Use a stiletto if it makes it easier for you. See below.





STEP 8:

1. Snip the threads between the chained strips as pictured in **(f)**.
2. Each seam forms a corner made of two triangles as pictured in **(g)**.
3. With your scissors, trim the off the corners leaving an approximate $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance as illustrated in **(h)**.
4. Press the seams open.

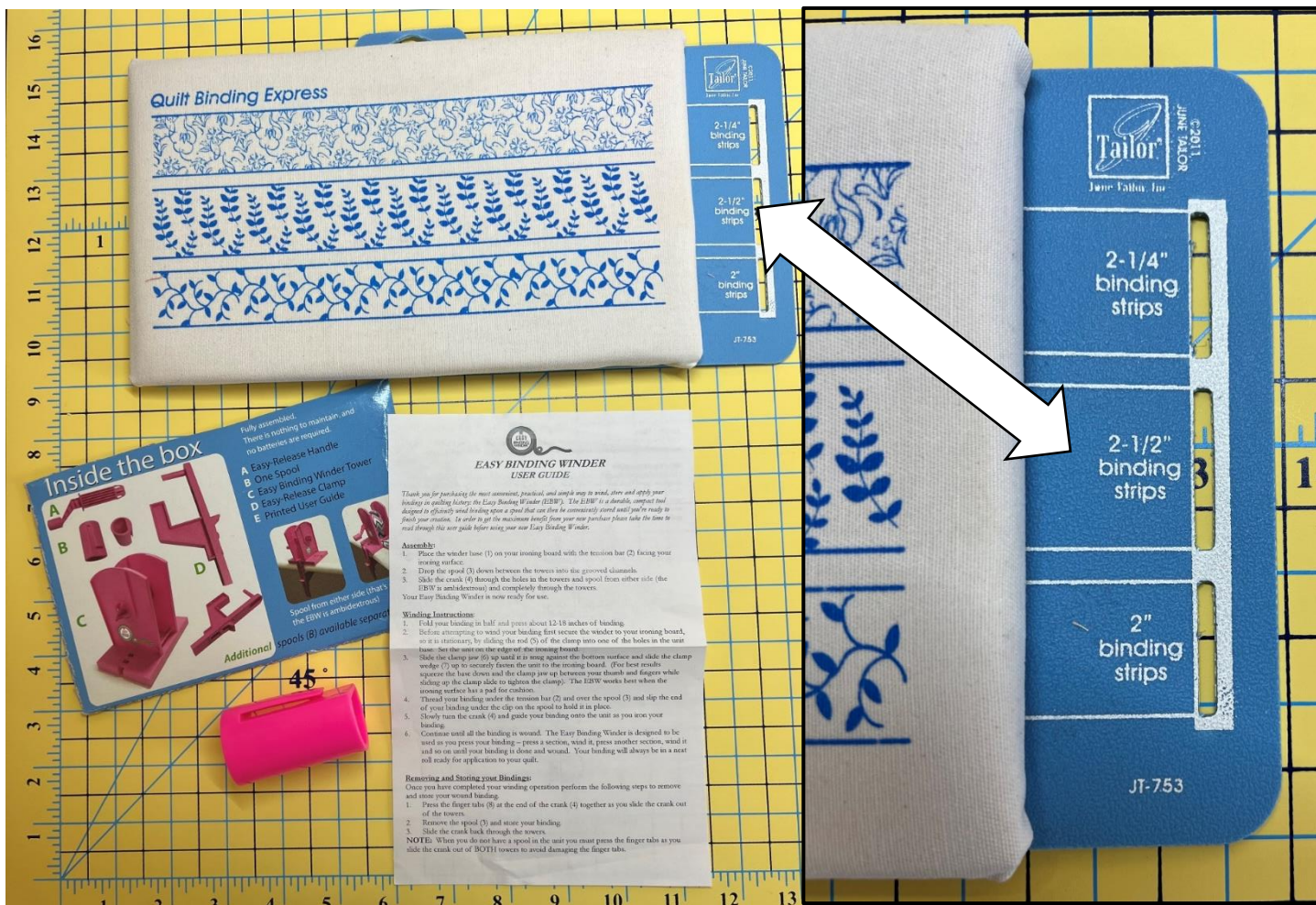




STEP 9:

You're ready to press your bias strip in half lengthwise to make a double-fold bias binding strip. Pictured and listed below are a couple of helpful notions that I use when pressing and storing my bias strips.

- ▲ **Quilt Binding Express** — I love this little ironing surface. The pressed strips line up and fit within the board's markings. You will be assured of perfect width for your binding.
- ▲ **Easy Binding Winder and Spools** — There are similar products on the market if you have difficulty finding this specific winder. I ordered extra spools with this one for storing my completed binding.





Here's my double-fold binding completed and stored on the spool. Pictured to the right of the spool is the binding sewn to my quilt, Butterfly Bouquet; the pattern for this very fun quilt is available on my website.



I hope this information was helpful for you and has made your quilting task easier. If so, please pay it forward.

Thank you,

Cheryl A. Matzen

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