

Fast & fab ideas... ...with bias binding

Turn to page 21 for our guide to adding ruffles

FROM ELEGANT FINISHES TO QUICK UPDATES, WE SHOW YOU HOW ADDING BIAS BINDING CAN ELEVATE YOUR PROJECT

With so many lovely styles of bias tapes available, now is a great time to add lashing of this inexpensive hobby essential to your projects for a finish that oozes the wow factor! Here are a few easy ways to add binding into you latest makes.



1 Ruffle

Work a row of gather stitches along the length of a strip of binding and pull up to create a full ruffle. Stitch in place on collars and necklines, or even to curtain edges and lampshades.

2 Wrap

Twist sections of bias tapes to create a smooth even covering, securing in

place with dabs of fabric glue or small hand stitches. Perfect for covering bangles or bag straps, or to inject colour into your home.

Check out the piping bowl design on page 46!



sewsmart.

What is bias binding?

Bias tape or bias binding is a narrow strip of fabric, cut on the bias (across the grain of the fabric). The fibres that make up this strip are at 45 degrees to the length of the strip, which makes it stretchier and gives it more drape compared to if it were cut along the grain of the fabric. Many strips can be pieced together into a long tape. The width of these can vary from about 1.3cm (1/2") to about 7.5cm (3") depending on applications. Bias tape is used in making piping, binding seams and finishing raw edges. It is often used on the edges of quilts, placemats, and bibs, around armholes and necklines instead of a facing, and as a simple strap or tie for bags or clothing.

How to...

Make your own bias binding

This may sound really rather fiddly, but with the right tools you can easily make this versatile trim at home, with ease.

This handy little gadget is used by feeding bias cut strips of fabric through the opening and pressing with an iron.

Bias binding maker, £5.03,
www.tailormouse.co.uk, 01423 313004.



The Simplicity bias binding maker enables anyone to make their own customised bias tape and quilt binding tapes at home. It comes with a standard single fold bias tip, but others are available. The neat unit comes in its own portable case, which opens up to reveal a winder, heated plate and bias tip. Turn the machine on, feed the tape through the bias tip and between the heated section, press go and folded and pressed bias tape comes out automatically! You can quickly make metres and metres of tape for even the biggest double quilt. RRP £89.99, additional tips £8.99 each. Available from Simplicity stockists nationally 0161 480 8734.



3

Edge

Following the edging of the fabric, bias tape can be used to add a vibrant border. Stitch along the edges of napkins and placemats or fold over to conceal raw edges on a quilt.



4

Embellish

Pleat, twist, fold and add buttons and bling to create on-trend corsages that can be stitched to clothing, bags, cushions and more!



"Bias tape might look like a simple piece of habby, but this sewing staple has so many uses and applications. With a wide range of shades and printed designs available it is a quick and easy way to inject a flash of colour or design flair to your latest creation."

Sew Editor, Laura Cruickshank

shopping inspirations

The new selection of bias binding over at Crafty Ribbons will leave you spoilt for choice! Whether you like dotty, glitter, floral or plain, there is something for whatever your next project might be! Priced from 60p - £1.60 per metre, www.craftyribbons.com, 01258 455889.

