



## Beautiful Bias Binding With Carla Macklin of Clever Charlotte

It's so very easy to customize your apparel patterns and use bias binding to finish the raw edges! Carla Macklin from [Clever Charlotte Clothing Patterns](#) shows you how to apply bias binding to the peek-a-boo shoulders on the [Galena Dress Pattern](#).



### Step 1: Prepare the Pattern

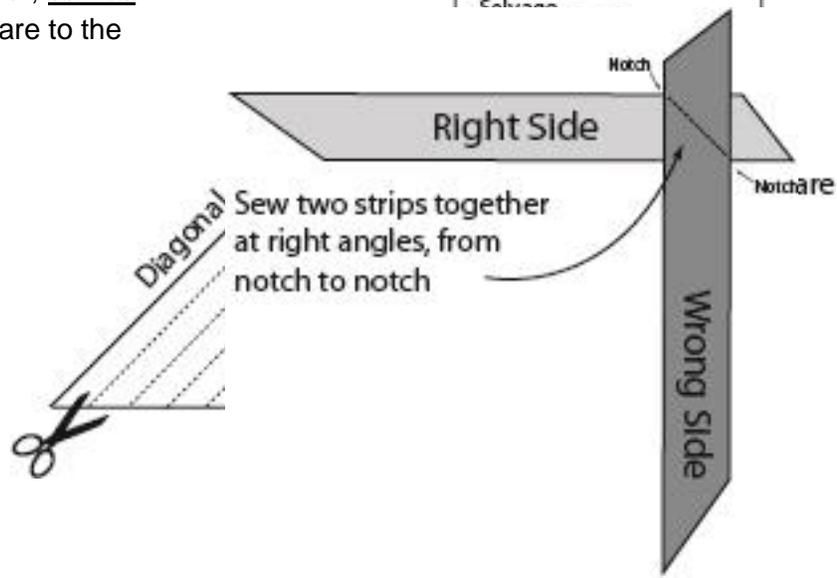
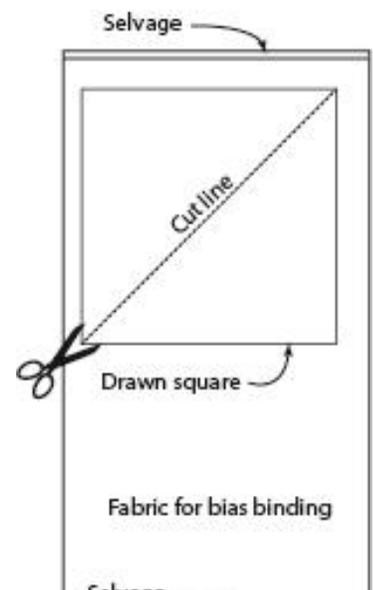
Select a pattern on which you would like to use the bias binding technique. You may wish to apply bias binding to the neckline, armholes, hem or make some pattern modifications to the sleeve as shown in this example. The best edges for bias binding are straight or have gentle curves. Very tight curves may be difficult to bind with the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " binding described below, requiring a decrease the finished width of your binding to less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". On the edges you've chosen to bind, cut the paper pattern to remove the full seam allowance or hem allowance along that edge, reducing the edge to the finished edge of the garment. Follow the steps on your pattern to cut out the pattern pieces from the fabric you've chosen.

### Step 2: Cutting the Bias Binding

Select a fabric you would like to use for the bias binding. This technique works well on quilter's cotton but avoid choosing a fabric heavier than a quilter's cotton. Lighter weight fabrics such as china silk or cotton voile also work well.

Draw a perfect square on your fabric where two of the sides of the square are parallel to the selvage edge of the fabric. The size of the square should be dependent on two factors: (1) the width of the piece fabric you have of the chosen for the bias binding and (2) how many inches need to be covered with bias binding on your fabric. A 20" square is good for many projects and produces over 100 inches of 2" wide bias binding. Cut out the square of fabric along the lines you have drawn. Using a ruler and a roller cutter, cut the square into two triangles from one corner of the square to the other.

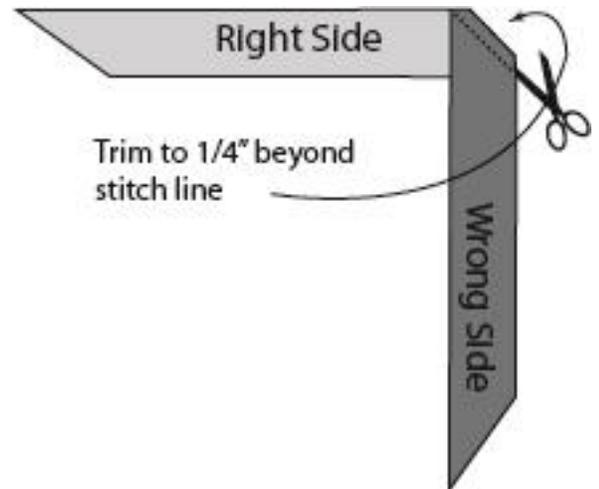
Using this diagonal line as a guide, cut strips that are 2" wide parallel to this cut edge.



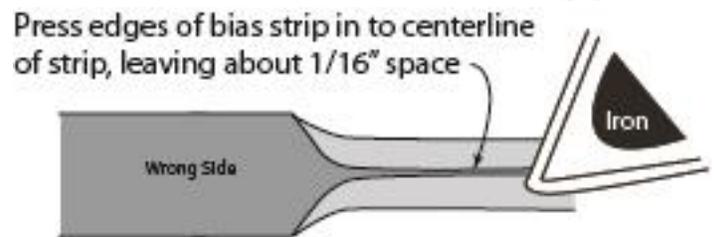
### Step 3: Assemble the Bias Strips

Unless the strips you cut are longer than the edge you plan to bind, you will need to join the bias strips together. With the right side of one strip facing up, place a second strip at a 90 degree angle from the first, with the right side facing down. Sew across the strips where they overlap from “Notch” to “Notch”. Take care to start and stop your stitches right where the two strips notch together or the edges of your bias binding will be irregular.

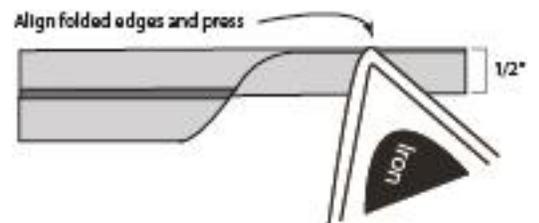
Trim the excess bias strips off the ends to produce a  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam allowance on the seamline and press the seam allowance open. You should have a longer linear strip of binding.



With the strips adjoined to the appropriate length, press the edges of the bias strip to the centerline, leaving a gap of approximately  $\frac{1}{16}$ ” at the centerline.

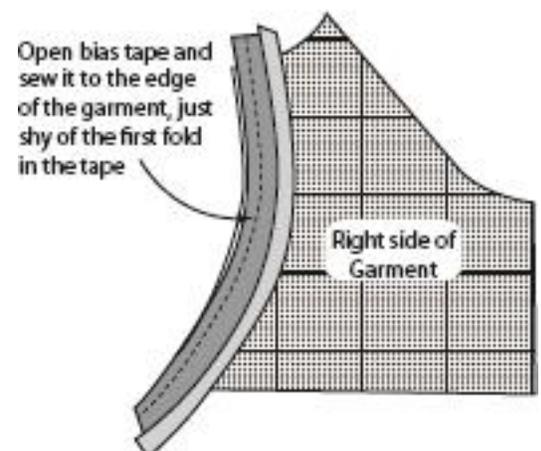


Once the raw edges of the entire length of the bias binding are pressed towards the center, align the folded edges of the bias strip and press, producing a “double fold” bias binding of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” width.



### Step 4: Apply bias binding to garment

Open up the folded bias binding and place the right side of the bias binding against the right side of the edge of the garment, aligning raw



edges. Sew the bias binding to the garment's edge just inside of the first fold about 1/16" (toward the raw edges). Your stitch line will be 7/16" away from the raw edges of the bias binding and garment. Sewing just inside the first fold allows the bias binding to fold around the raw edge of the garment nicely. Trim 1/16" from the raw edges of the bias binding and the garment.

Wrap bias binding around raw edges of the bias binding and the garment, enclosing it. From the right side, pin immediately next to the bias binding on the garment through the garment layer and the bias binding layers on the wrong side of the garment. "Stitch in the Ditch" in the seam adjoining the bias binding to the garment on the right side with thread that will match the garment and disappear into the seam. Make sure to catch the back side of the bias binding when you "Stitch in the Ditch". Trim excess bias binding from the edge.

Finish your garment according to the pattern instructions.

For more fun sewing patterns and helpful tips, visit <http://www.clevercharlotte.com>!

