

Chapter 10

Mitering

Obtaining clean square corners effectively can be a daunting task unless you have the correct formulas and techniques. In this chapter we explore two techniques for mitering corners that eliminate the fabric bulk and look professional every time. We begin with the single miter, most often used for pockets, hems, napkins and tablecloths. This technique is quick and accurate. The double-miter technique includes a simple formula that produces a binding that is perfectly mitered on both sides of the project.

**Pattern Pieces needed for
the exercises in this chapter:
#18 (cut 2) & #19 (cut 1)**



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Double-Mitered Binding

This technique must to be very precise to be successful. It can be applied to any width of binding desired, and is extremely accurate when you follow the formula exactly.

For our sample only, you are instructed to begin attaching the binding in the middle of one of the sides, then go around 2 corners just to get the feel of the method. When using the double mitered corner for an actual project, remember that the binding must ultimately form a continuous binding all the way around. There must be a seam attaching the 2 ends together. Therefore, begin stitching an inch or two from the edge of the fabric so that seam can be stitched when you have finished attaching the binding! Use any method you are familiar with to connect the binding ends together.

Begin by determining the finished width of the binding. Cut the fabric strip 2 times the finished width of the binding +1/2 inch. The 1/2 inch accommodates the two 1/4 inch seam allowances.

For our sample:

Finished Width	1 1/4 inches
2 X Finished Width	2 1/2 inches
Add 1/2 inch Seam Allowance	3 inches
Cut Binding Width	3 inches

If the fabric to be bound is thick or bulky, add an additional 1/4 inch to the cut width of the band. This measurement varies according to the thickness of the individual project. For best results, make a small sample before the actual pieces are cut.

Once the width of the band has been determined, cut the band several inches longer than needed, just for security.

Press the band in half lengthwise to make a crease. If desired, use a chalk line instead; it simply needs to be a sharp, precise line. Our photos and text use a creased line.



For our sample, crease the fabric square 1 inch in from all edges.

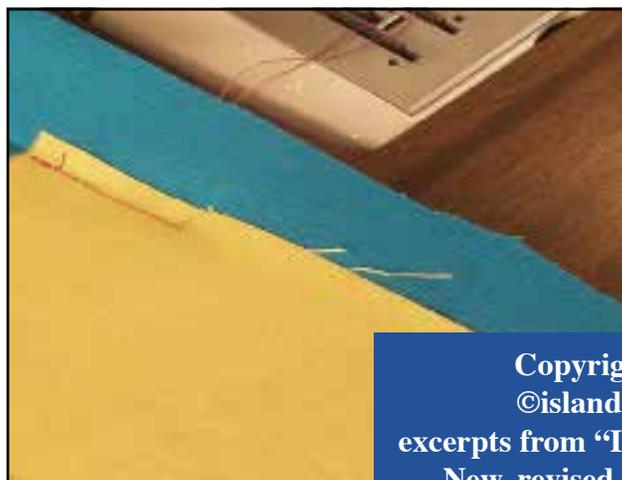


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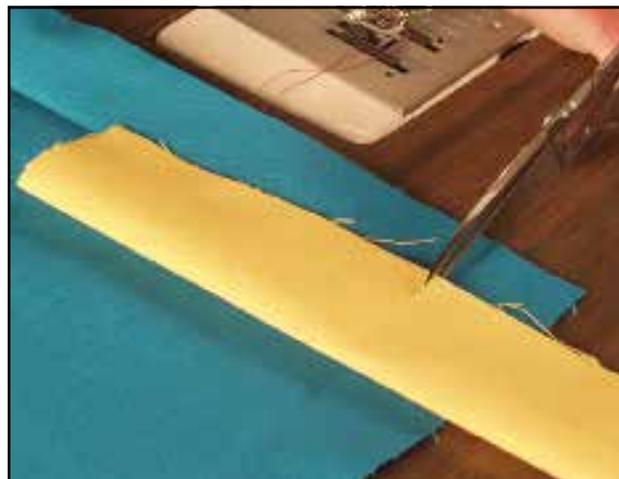
Beginning in the center of one side of the square project, with right side of binding to wrong side of project, sew one edge of binding to marked or creased line using 1/4 inch seam allowance. Remember - the crease is the seamline. In other words, the binding strip should be set 1/4 inch over the crease line.



Stitch to within 4 inches of the corner.
Cut the thread.



With the binding folded, lay it straight down along the seam line. Locate the horizontal crease line on the strip and make a full 1/4 inch clip through both layers of the band. Be sure to clip a full 1/4 inch as this will be a seam allowance.



From this set of clips, measure a distance of twice the width of the finished binding. Make another 1/4 inch clip through both layers of the binding at this point.

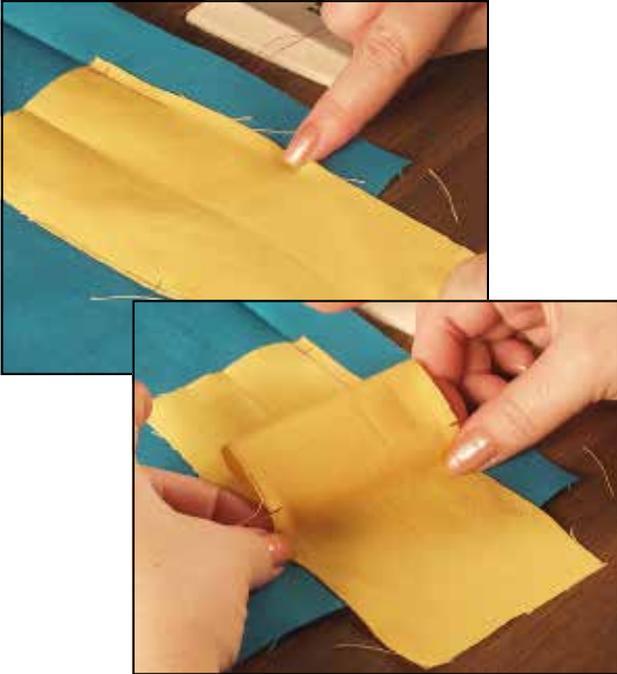
For our sample:

2 X (our finished width of 1 -1/4 inches)
equals 2 -1/2 inches



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Lay binding flat and fold with wrong sides together, so that the second set of clips meet the first clips.



Keep the folded band free of the square.



Starting 1/4 inch in from the raw edge, stitch from one set of matched clips ending at the center of the folded band right on the crease line. For a perfect mitered corner it is important that stitching hits exactly at the fold in the center crease line.

At the crease line, stop with the needle down. Raise the presser foot and pivot. Lower the presser foot.



Stitch to the other set of clips and stop 1/4 inch from raw edge and backstitch to secure.



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Trim the corner seams to 1/4 inch.



Leave the needle down, lift the foot and swing the binding around under the foot.

Resume stitching the band to the square starting a few stitches in back of where the previous stitching ended.



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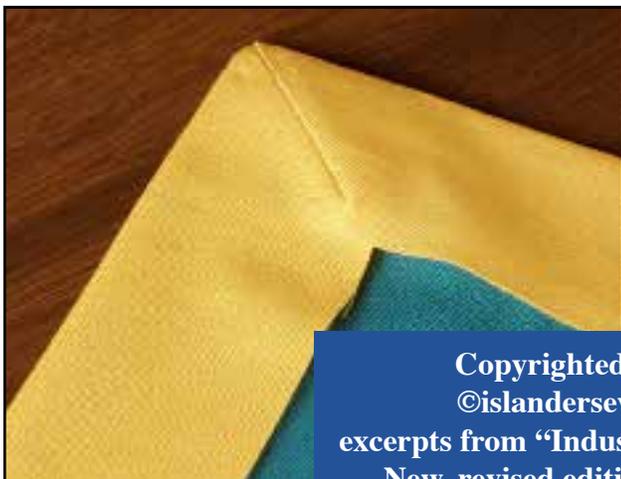
Continue sewing the binding to the fabric square until you come precisely to the corner intersection. Stop with the needle right in the corner of the binding, catching just a thread of the corner of the clip.



Continue stitching the binding down the next side to within 4 inches of the next corner and repeat these steps all the way around the square. Since this is a practice piece, only one corner is included in this sample.



Press open the mitered seams. Turn the corners right side out using a point turner.



On the right side of the square turn under the 1/4 inch seam allowance and stitch a "needle width away" from the folded edge.



With a little practice this stitching will land in exactly the same point on both sides of the square making it reversible if desired.



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