

Quilter's Notebook

Continuous Bias

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Printed in Quilt World

Next to beauty, the goal of the quiltmaker should be durability. Since the first sign of wear will appear on the edges of your quilt, it is wise to use double bias binding. When the first layer of fabric has worn away, you will still have time to replace it before major damage occurs. If making bias is one of your least favorite chores, you will want to use this easy method for making continuous bias.

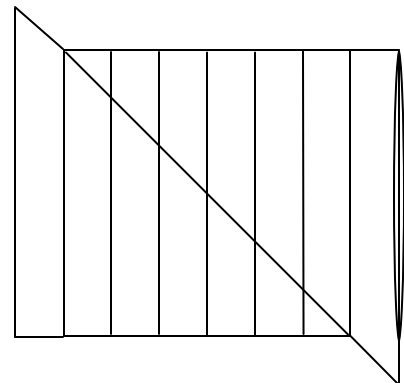
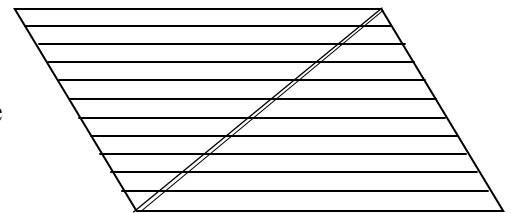
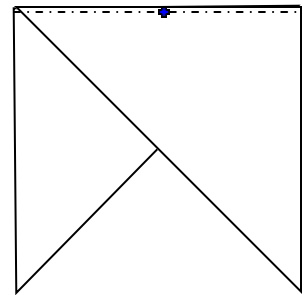
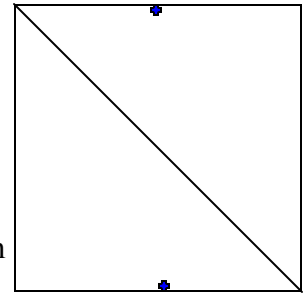
Very little fabric is needed. A thirty-two inch square will yield approximately sixteen yards of bias, one and three-fourths inches wide.

Begin by putting a small mark at the top and bottom edges of a square of the fabric, then cut the square in half on the diagonal, forming two triangles. Place the marked edges together—right sides together, and machine stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. Press the seam open.

Next, beginning at one of the longer sides, mark lines $1\frac{3}{4}$ " apart (some quilters prefer a 2" width.) If the last section is not the same width as the rest. Trim it. Bring the ends of the lines together but match the first line with the edge rather than another line. The line will job off one width. Stitch together using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and press the seam open. This will form a tube. (Be sure that both seams are on the same side of the tube.) Begin cutting on the line nearest the edge and continue to the end. You will have one long, continuous bias strip. Fold the strip in half lengthwise, (seams on the inside), and press.

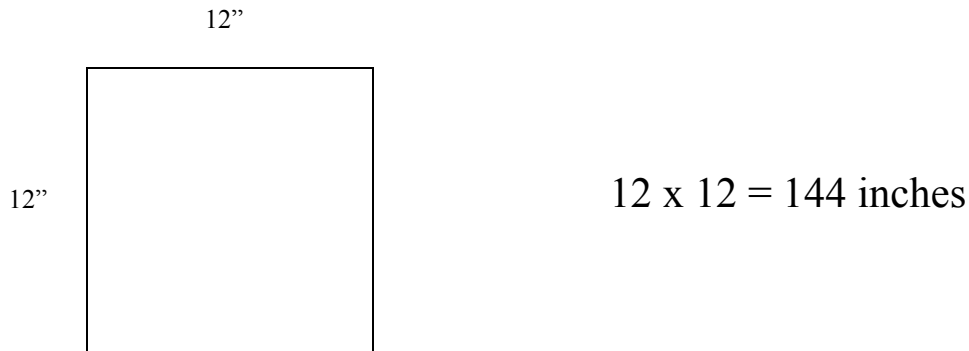
Bind the edge of your quilt by matching the raw edges of the bias with the edge of the top and join with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, curving the bias at the corners. Slip stitch the folded edge of the bias to the back.

You can easily figure the amount of bias a square will yield. Simply divide the width of the strips into the side of the square and multiply that number by the side of the square. Once you learn this method, you will be using it for all your bias needs.



How Much Bias Will I Get From A Square of Fabric?

- ◆ Multiply length by the width of the square.



- ◆ Divide the answer above by the width desired for the bias.

$$144/1.5 = 96 \text{ inches of bias}$$

- ◆ Divide this by 36 (1 yard = 36")

- ◆ $96/36 = 2.66$ yards of bias