

How to Cut Continuous Bias Binding

Why?

Durability - Cross-cut binding ends up with one or two threads on the edge that take all the wear-n-tear. Bias binding has many threads wrapping around that outside edge making it much more durable.

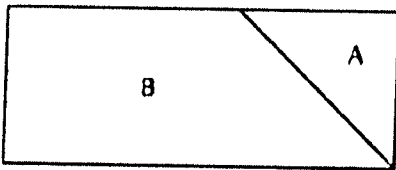
Flexibility - You need to cut binding on the bias if you are going around curves.

Eye-Appeal - Cutting plaids and stripes on the bias is a much more interesting way to finish up the quilt.

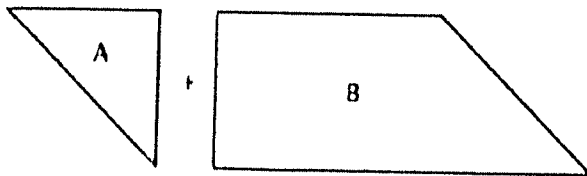
Step 1: Determine how much fabric you need for your binding strip. Measure the perimeter of your quilt and add 12". Divide this number by 42 (assuming about 42" of usable fabric on a 44/45" wide fabric) and round up to an even number. Then multiply this number by your strip width (including seam allowances). This final number is the length of the rectangle needed to make your continuous bias binding strip. Here's an example:

- Quilt measures 71" x 90"
- Perimeter = $71+90+71+90 = 322$ and add 12" for a total of 334"
- $334/42 = 7.95$ Round up to 8
- 8×2.5 (for 2.5" binding strip width) = 20
- You'll need 20" x 42" piece of fabric for the binding

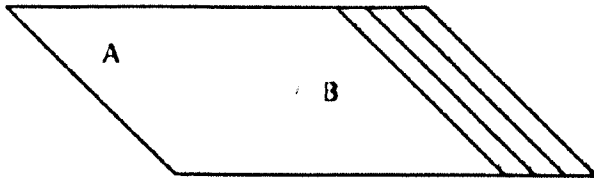
Step 2: After cutting the rectangle to size, fold down one corner of the fabric to create a right triangle (A) and cut along fold.



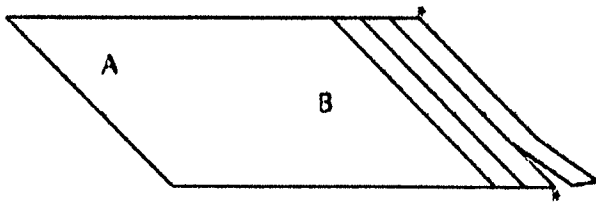
Step 3: Sew A to B using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (right sides together) and press the seam open.



Step 4: On the wrong side of your fabric, mark cutting lines parallel to the bias edge that are the width of your binding strip (e.g., 2.5" in the above example). I also like to mark a line $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each long edge to help with pinning.



Step 5: Cut about 6" down the line at the "pointy" end of your fabric. Then fold the fabric in $\frac{1}{2}$ right sides together lining up the long straight edges so that the * and all of your marked lines are aligned. Pin through where the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam line and the diagonal line intersect through both sides, and then sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to create a long tube. Your tube will be twisted. Press seam open.



Step 6: Continue cutting the fabric along your marked line, which will now be a spiral running the complete length of your fabric. Be careful to only cut one thickness of fabric at a time. This will result in one long bias strip of fabric, with all of your seams perfectly aligned!