

Creating a Xmas Banner

Part Four ----- Bias Binding

Our flags are not going to hang from the roof by magic, they will need to be attached to something. This could be cord, ribbon, or, in the case of this tute, bias binding.



You can purchase bias binding in packs of 3-5 metres. You can also purchase pre-made bias binding off the roll from your quilting store. Widths of bias vary, from 12mm, 25mm (circled), up to just about any width. Keep in mind that you will be folding this bias in half, meaning that the 12 mm will end up very narrow. Better to go for the 25mm or larger.

There you go that's our tute for the week. ☺

Wow its seems a bit short. Hmmmmm, Ok so how about we imagine that you have looked for bias, and not found the EXACT colour/pattern you want.

Choose some fat quarters of quilting cotton, the exact colour/pattern you want, and then press it flat.



Using a ruler and pen, mark lines along the length of the fabric, approximately 60mm wide (can you see them? They are a bit faint, goodness that pink is bright).

*** This will not be true bias binding, which stretches slightly, but it uses the same process***

Cut along the lines, creating strips of fabric.

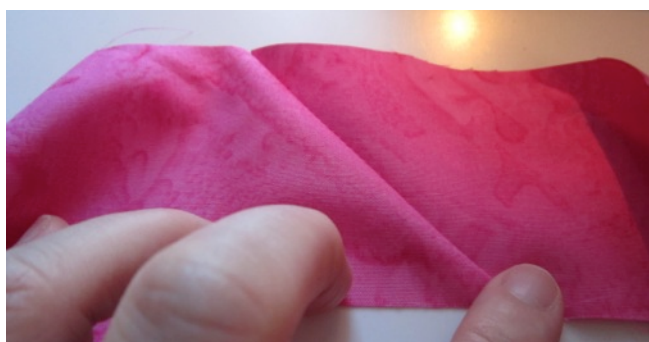


Move to the sewing machine. Take two strips, and place them right sides facing, at right angles. To assist with your sewing, draw a diagonal line from the top left corner, to the bottom right corner.



Sew along this line and then trim away the excess.

Continue attaching strips together using this method, until you have one continuous length of fabric.



Move back to the ironing board (here is where you are going to wish you had Teflon fingers).

You can buy special tools to assist with this step. One type is called a clover tool, and while they help, they are a bit expensive, and only useful if you plan to do this sort of thing a lot.

There are also electric bias makers Again, lots of dollars.

I am showing you how to do it the old fashioned way.



Take your bias strip, and fold it in half along the length. Using an iron on the cotton setting, press along the entire length of the strip.



Open out that fold, and turn in one long edge, lining it up with the middle fold, and then press along the entire length of the strip.



Repeat the process with the other side of the fabric strip (I tried to be super clever and do both at once, but soon realised that not even I am that coordinated).

***note, I don't have 3 hands, hubby helped by photographing this moment ***



Fold your strip along the middle fold again, and press again. You should be left with the two long edges folded into the middle. Just for luck, give it another press.



And there you go, you have a couple of metres of binding, ready for the next step next week.

