



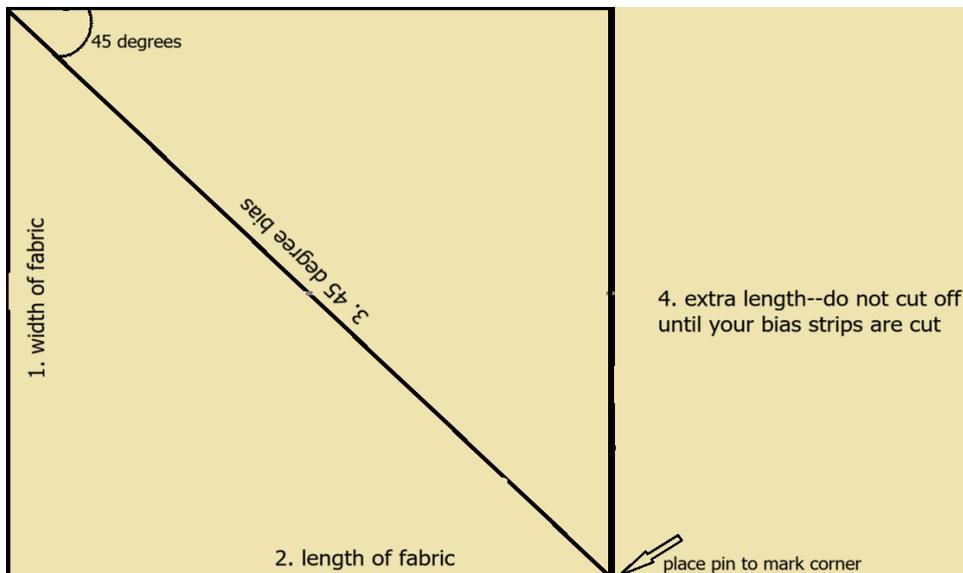
How to Cut and Press Bias Tape

How much bias tape do I need? $2(W + L) + 18$

Begin by measuring the width of your finished quilt. Write it down. Now, measure the length of the quilt. Add these two numbers. Multiply the answer by two. Then add 18 to that. You now know how much bias you need. For example, your quilt is 25 inches wide and 35 inches long. $25 + 35 = 60$. $60 \times 2 = 120$. $120 + 18$ is a total of 138 inches.

Cutting your bias fabric

If you don't have a ruler with a 45-degree line on it, you can still find the cutting line. Measure the width of the fabric, most cottons are 44 inches. Measure down the length of the fabric so it matches the width (44") and place a pin at this point. Make sure the fabric is straight and draw a line from corner to corner. There's your 45-degree angle.

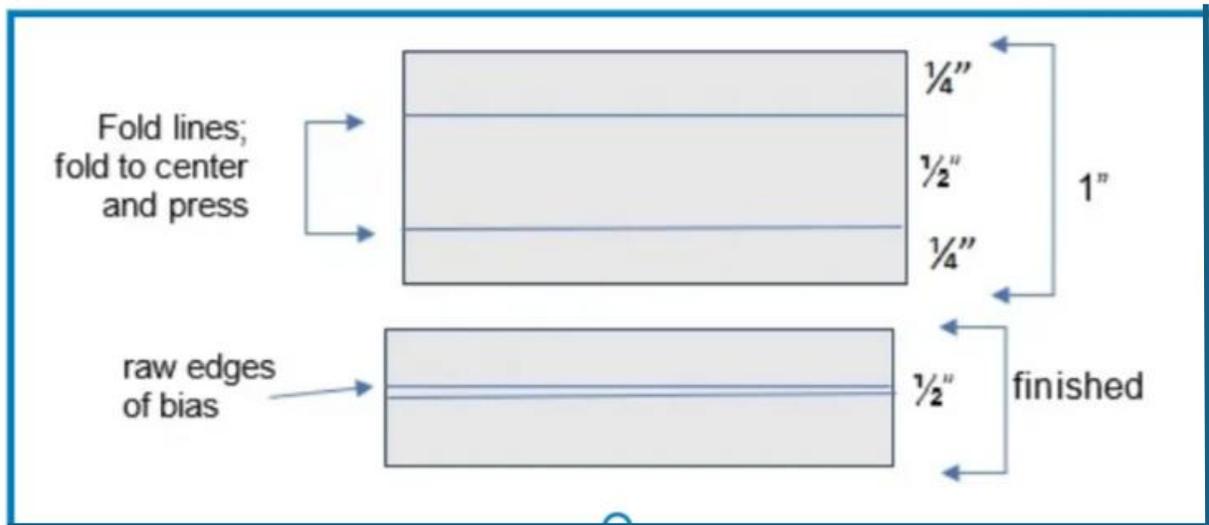


Now that you have the angle you need, you can begin cutting your strips. I make my first cut directly on the 45-degree line. From there I simply measure from the cut to the next line (cutting lines are in red). Note that you can get long pieces on one side of the 45-degree angle—just don't cut that piece off!

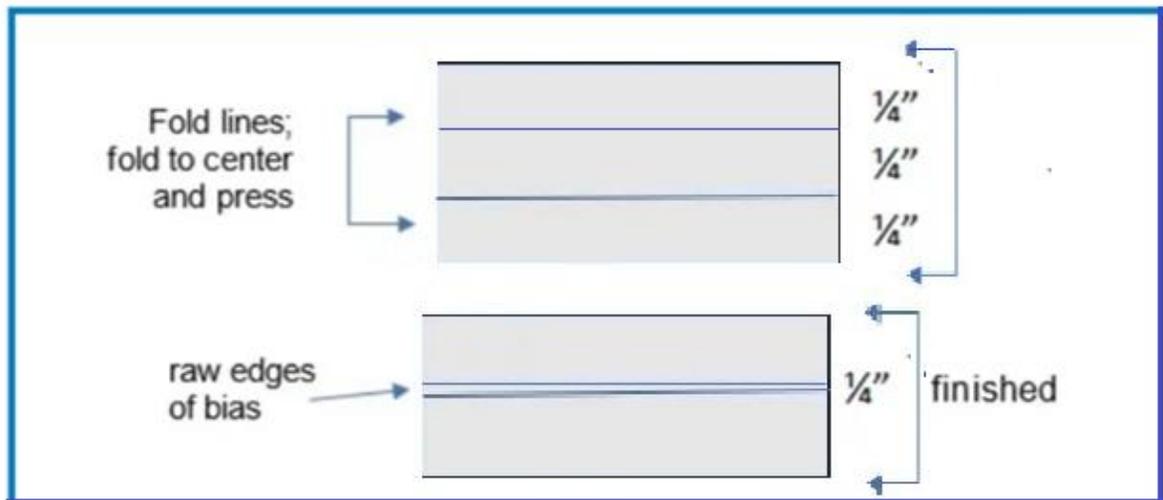


Folding the bias strips for single-fold bias

For 1/2" bias. Press the strip flat. Fold the strip in half on the length. This will give you a mark so you will know how wide to fold each edge. Fold the raw edges in, toward the center line and press.



For 1/4" bias. Fold one raw edge about one-third of the width. The second raw edge over the first one. Avoid letting the second fold stick out beyond the fold of the first one.



Folding the bias strips for double-fold bias

A double-fold bias tape is simply a single-fold which has been folded in half again. And doing so makes the tape only half of the size of the single fold. So, a one inch single-fold will make a 1/2" double-fold by simply pressing in one more fold in the center.

IMPORTANT Do NOT create a double fold for the stained-glass class. Double-fold bias is much too thick. In fact, because the 1/4" bias has three layers, I recommend that you use this bias only for small areas on your quilt. It is too narrow to cover the raw edges of crossing biases. Also, for a clean, neat look, make sure that both edges are covered with a half inch bias.