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Londa Rohlfing, a designer and teacher, shows how to make your own bias embellishments.



Londa's Creative Threads

New Ways with Bias Cut Chenille Embellishment

Londa Rohlfing

Londa's Creative Threads

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Opulent, furry bias strips create wonderful, textured embellishment when created with the elements and techniques I've developed as I design my unique stylish jackets on a sweatshirt base. From my Magic Bias Folding Technique and fabric selection hints to stitching and handling techniques, you'll learn twists on an old idea that will inspire new creative adventures in your own sewing and quilting. AND, this technique is executed with less layers AND without washing to 'fluff'!

Fabric Selection

I've learned almost any fabric has the potential to become great fabric chenille! Everything from rich hand wovens to inexpensive polyester crepe, re-cycled denim, menswear suits and ties, home dec silks and tapestries, wool crepe and my favorite...silk dupioni, make excellent 'fur' trim when cut on the bias and roughed up with the stiff [Fabric Chenille Brush](#).

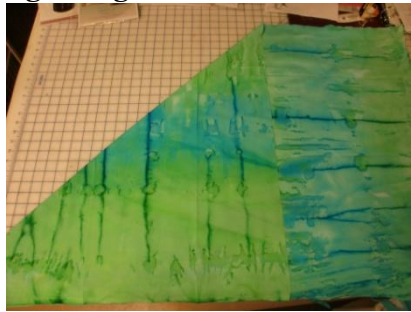
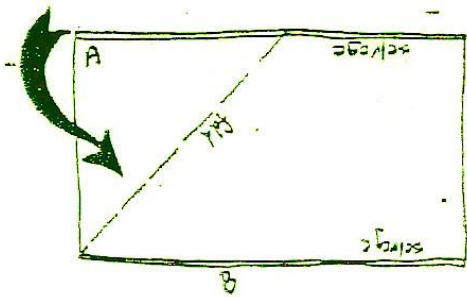
Especially wonderful are iridescent fabrics – with different color yarns running in the warp (lengthwise) and weft (crosswise) directions.

What do NOT work are high thread count, tightly woven fabrics (batiks) and ‘regular’ printed quilting cottons with ‘whitish’ wrong sides.

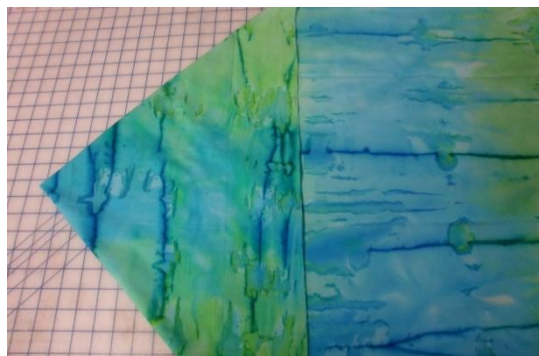
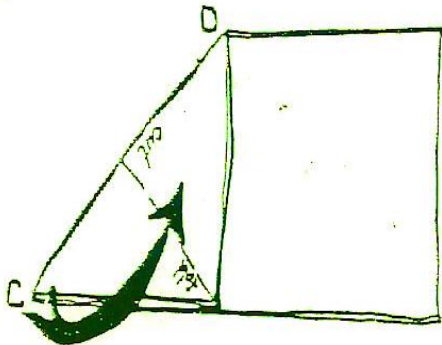
Magic Bias Folding & Cutting Technique

Take the time to ‘stamp’ this technique in your brain, and you’ll use it over and over and OVER! This magic folding will yield the very longest strips of perfect bias grain strips without awkwardly cutting on the bias across large pieces of fabric. AND, it works on any shape piece, any width, any length!

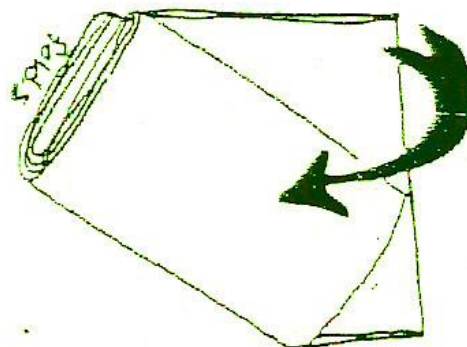
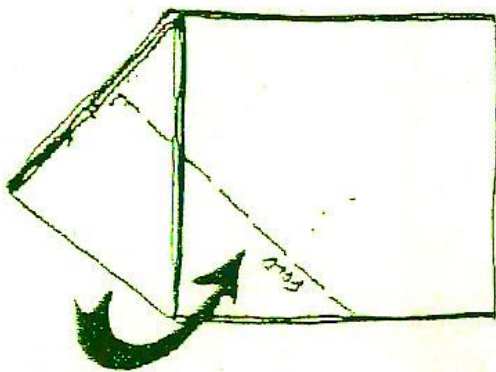
1. Fold Northwest corner at a 45 degree angle down to the southeast so that the west straight edge now lies along the bottom, south straight edge.



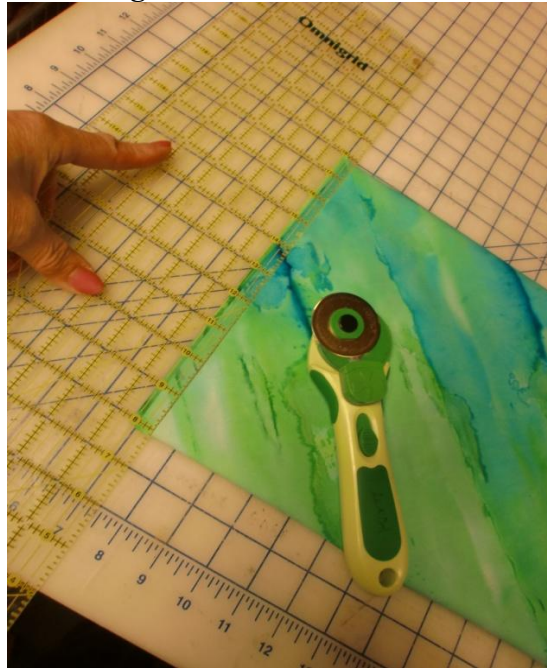
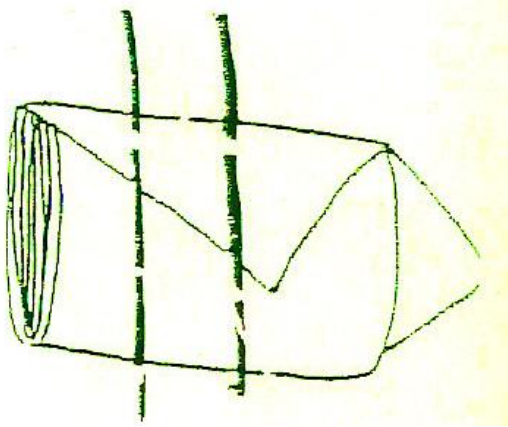
2. Fold Southwest corner up to the new folded angle corner at the northeast (where there is a diagonal fold of 2 layers of fabric, NOT a single layer). The fold you make at the left edge will lie on top of the original diagonal fold.



3. Repeat Step 2 until fabric ‘tube’ is a width convenient for cutting across. Fold any small remaining top point down onto the tube.



4. Align left folded edge with vertical lines on cutting mat.



5. Set straight edge rotary ruler $\frac{1}{4}$ " in or so over left folded edges and cut off. Throw away.
6. Cut desired width* strips across tube of fabric. Assemble colors in 'piles' of bias.

Fabric Fur Creation Techniques

Always make tests to decide 'look' preferred before cutting lots of strips! Consider color of top layer so it contrasts with optional center couched yarn.

Equal Width 'Fur'

1. Cut strips approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " wider than desired. I find 3 to 5 layers is plenty.
2. Layer strips and stitch down center, cutting off any selvage ends as they won't 'fur' up.
3. Simply overlap additional strips as needed. Use 'needle down' function on sewing machine to hold everything in place as you add additional strip layers.



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4. Subtle width difference can easily be accomplished by pulling uppermost layer a bit to narrow.
 5. Trim equidistant from each side of center stitching with rotary cutter and ruler.



6. 'Attack' with [Fabric Chenille Brush](#), brushing both directions and from front AND back sides.
7. Attach to garment. Bias easily accommodates curves, swirls, etc.

Layered Width 'Fur'

1. Cut strips in different widths varying by 1/8". Example: lowermost layer 3/4", next 5/8", next 1/2".
2. Stitch down center.
3. 'Attack' with [Fabric Chenille Brush](#).
4. Attach to garment.

Couch Yarn Down Center

Yarn in contrasting color to top Fabric Fur layer adds just that extra 'touch'.

1. Couch yarn down center of Fur strip using monofilament thread. (Smoke for darker colors, Clear for lighter colors).
2. Use zig zag stitch about 3 long and whatever width just encases the yarn.
3. Lower needle tension until no hint of bobbin thread is seen on right side.

Partners



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