

# HOW TO FINISH A GARMENT WITH BIAS TRIM

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Do you have a garment pattern that suggests the use of a facing for the armholes and neckline? Would you rather have a different option to finish those edges? Follow these steps to create a stable and decorative technique that is easy to do!

## SUPPLIES:

Fabric (preferably a fabric that is equivalent in weight to what the garment is made from)

Rotary Cutter, Ruler, & Mat

Scissors

Straight Pins (optional)

[Sewing Machine](#) (preferably one that has a free arm feature)

[Polyester Thread](#)

Sleeve Board



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To determine if this technique will work with the garment pattern you have chosen, take a moment to look at the pattern. If the neckline is curved or cut at an angle (such as for a wrap dress), this method will work well. This technique is **NOT** recommended for a V style neckline.
2. Stitch the garment together at the shoulders so that the neckline is continuous. To stabilize this edge, it is recommended that a line of staystitching be completed, 1/4" from the raw edge. This stitching will remain after the bias has been added and will ensure that the neckline will remain stable during wash and wear.
3. Cut a series of 2" wide strips on a 45 degree angle, relative to the selvage. Cut enough strips to accommodate the neckline with 3" or so extra. Piece the strips right sides together along their angled edges with a 1/4" seam allowance as necessary to achieve the desired length. Press seam allowances open.
4. Trim one angled end to be straight. Fold 1/2" to the wrong side along this end and press. Fold the entire strip in half widthwise, wrong sides together and press.
5. To add the bias to the neckline, follow one of these two methods:
  - If the neckline is closed, determine the center back and snip it or mark it with a straight pin.
  - If the neckline is open (such as for a wrap dress or other overlapping bodice), omit the folding over of the 1/2" in the previous step and begin at one of the lower edges of the bodice to attach the bias.
6. If a contrasting bias trim is desired, attach the bias to the wrong side of the neckline. If a concealed binding is desired, attach the trim to the right side of the neckline.
7. For the closed neckline, begin with the pressed folded under edge at the center back of the neckline. Use of the free arm feature on the sewing machine is helpful with this step. Align the folded edge with the center mark, but begin stitching about 1 1/2" away from this point. Using a 3/8" seam allowance, attach the bias to the neckline until the beginning of the trim is reached. Allow for about 1/2" overlap and trim away any excess trim. Open out the folded pressed edge and tuck the cut end inside. Fold closed once more and complete the stitching.
8. For an open neckline, begin at one of the lower edges of the bodice and stitch all the way around until the other lower edge of the bodice is reached. Use a 3/8" seam allowance.
9. Clip any curves in the seam allowance, being careful not to cut into the stitching.
10. Use a sleeve board to press the bias away from the neckline. Press the seam toward the neckline.
11. Turn the garment right side out and fold the bias along the seamline. Press. It may be necessary to slightly trim down the seam allowance so that no raw edges peek out beyond the folded edge.
12. Once the pressing is complete, edgestitch the folded edge in place. Also edgestitch the upper finished edge. Press the finished neckline for a polished finish.

13. Repeat this process for the armholes, following the same steps as for a closed neckline. Be sure that the side seam has been stitched so that a continuous opening is created. Begin the attachment of the bias at the side seam.



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