

Sewing Glossary: How To Make Continuous Bias Tape Tutorial

Description



Last week we showed you how to make your own bias tape the traditional way. Whereas this method is great for making short amounts of bias tape for binding a neckline or a couple of armholes, sometimes the project your are working on might require larger amount of bias tape.

To save yourself some time on sewing of all these small seams one by one, we wanted to show you today a great trick for making continuous bias tape from one single square of fabric. Since thereâ??s less pinning and sewing, this method is much faster and will allow you to create large amounts of bias

tape in no time.

Materials & Tools



Fabric of your choice (we are using our beautiful yarn-dyed medium weight linen in IL042 894 Premier Finish color)

Matching sewing thread, ruler, bias tape maker, fabric pen or chalk, scissors, sewing machine, iron

Difficulty

Beginner

Time

1 hour

Pattern

You need to decide how wide your finished bias tape should be depending on a specific project and the bias tape maker that you are planning on using. For example, if you are using the 1/2â?³Â• bias tape maker, you will need to cut your strips of fabric to 1â?³Â• wide. We are using a 3/4â?³ bias tape maker, so we will be cutting our fabric into one continuous 1,5â?³Â•-wide strip. You can also check the instructions included with your bias tape maker to cut the strips to the appropriate width.

Once youâ??ve figured out the width of the strip youâ??ll be cutting, you need to decide how much of it youâ??ll need depending on the project you are working on. To understand how much bias tape youâ??ll be getting out of your square of fabric, youâ??ll need to do a little math. First, figure out the surface of your square by multiplying the length by the width. Now divide that number by the width of the strips youâ??ll be cutting and subtract the measurement one row. That will give you a rough approximation of the amount of bias tape youâ??ll be able to make.

For example, from a 14-inch square of fabric, youâ??ll get approximately 116â?³Â• inches of a 1.5-inch wide bias strip.

14â?³Â•x14â?³Â• = 196â?³Â•

196â?³Â• Ã· 1.5â?³Â• (the wide of the strip) = 130,6â?³Â•

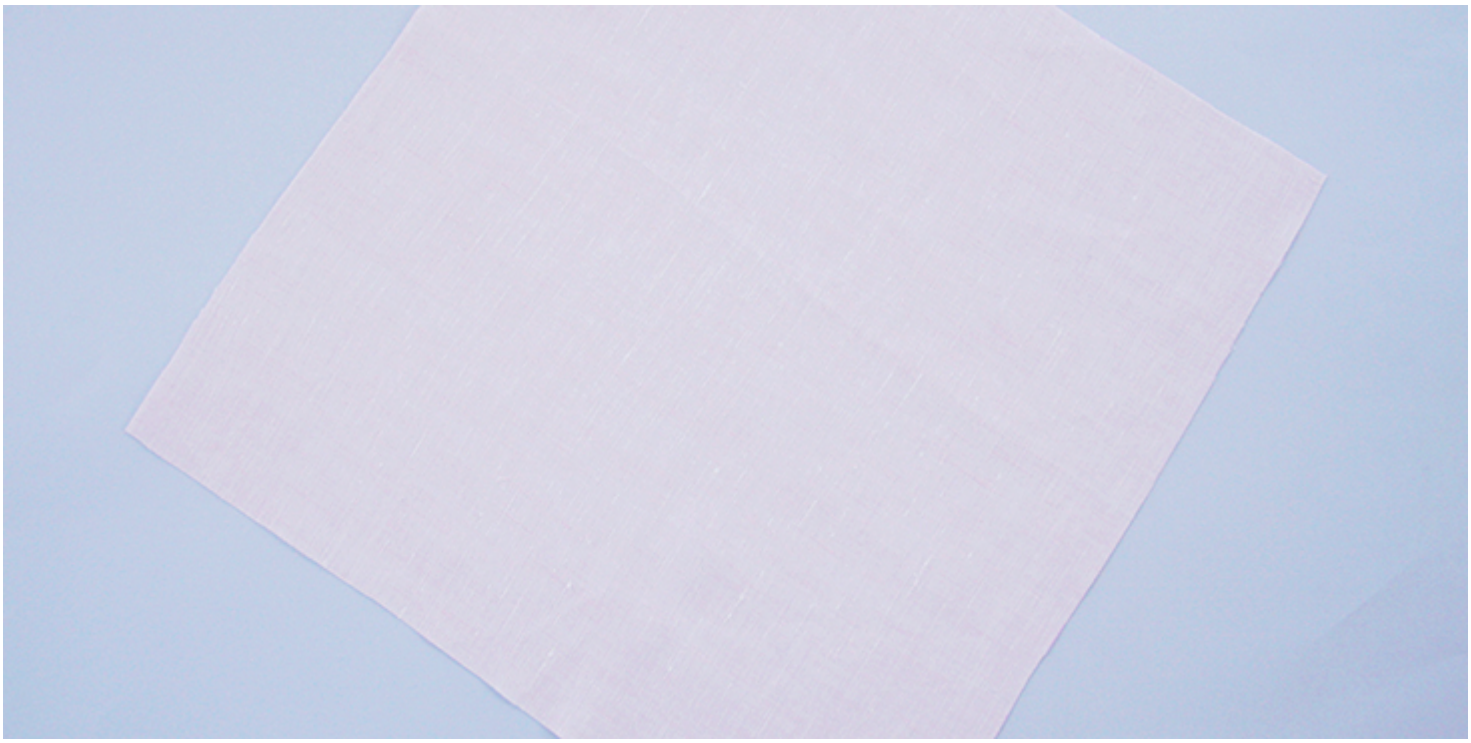
130,6â?³Â• â?? 14 (since youâ??ll be offsetting one raw) = 116â?³Â• (total length of your bias tape strip). Minus a couple of inches since youâ??ll be most likely discarding the corners.

Steps

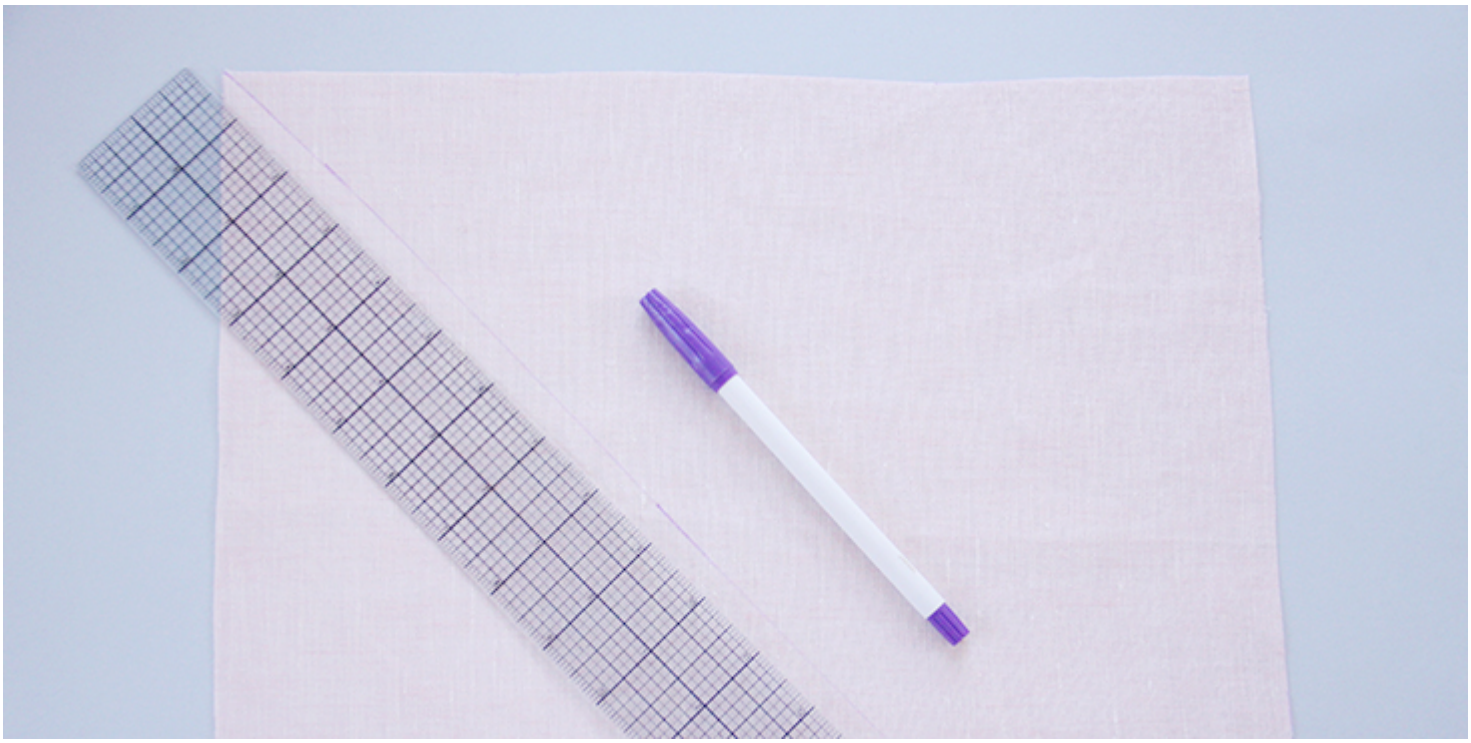
Note: To avoid shrinking and wrinkling, prewash your fabric and tumble dry it until it is still slightly moist, let it dry in room temperature.

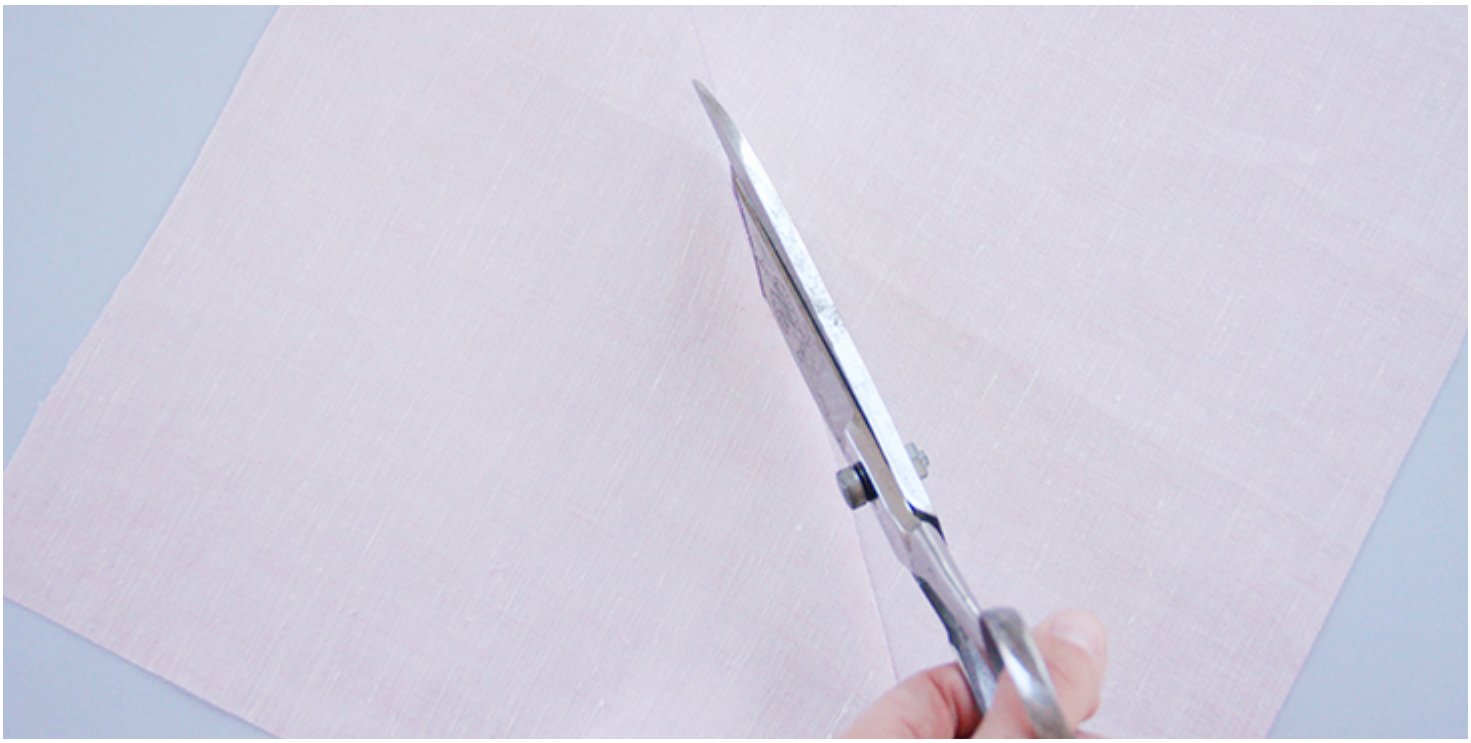
1. Iron the fabric so it is easier to work with.

2. Once youâ??ve calculated the amount of bias tape youâ??ll need, cut yourself a square of fabric making sure that all its corners have 90 degree angles. If youâ??re working with a full width of fabric, remove the selvages. For the purpose of this tutorial, we cut a 14â?³Â• square.



3. Draw a diagonal line across your square (along the bias) using your ruler and cut.





4. With right sides together, pin the two triangles together at either of the straight (not diagonal) sides. When you pin, make sure that your corner tips a little offset and are hanging over the same amount of fabric. It will make it easier to sew the two rectangles together.





5. Sew the two pieces together at a 3/8â?³Â• (1 cm) seam allowance.



6. Trim the seam allowance down to 1/4â?³ and press it open.

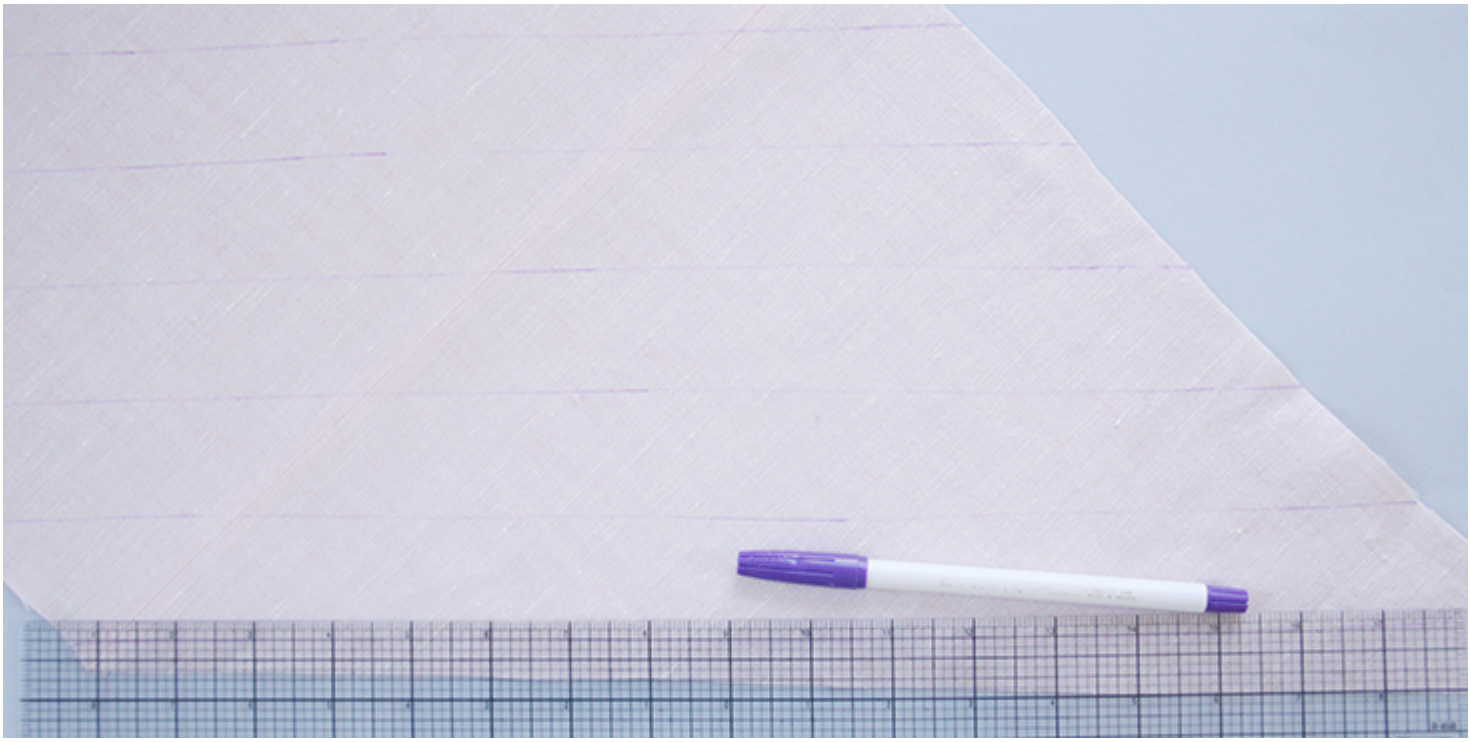






7. Lay your piece of fabric (a nice parallelogram) flat on the table and start drawing your lines to the desired width using your fabric marker. They should be parallel to the longer edges of your piece of fabric. Since we will be working with a 3/4 -inch bias tape maker, weâ??ll be drafting 1.5-inch wide

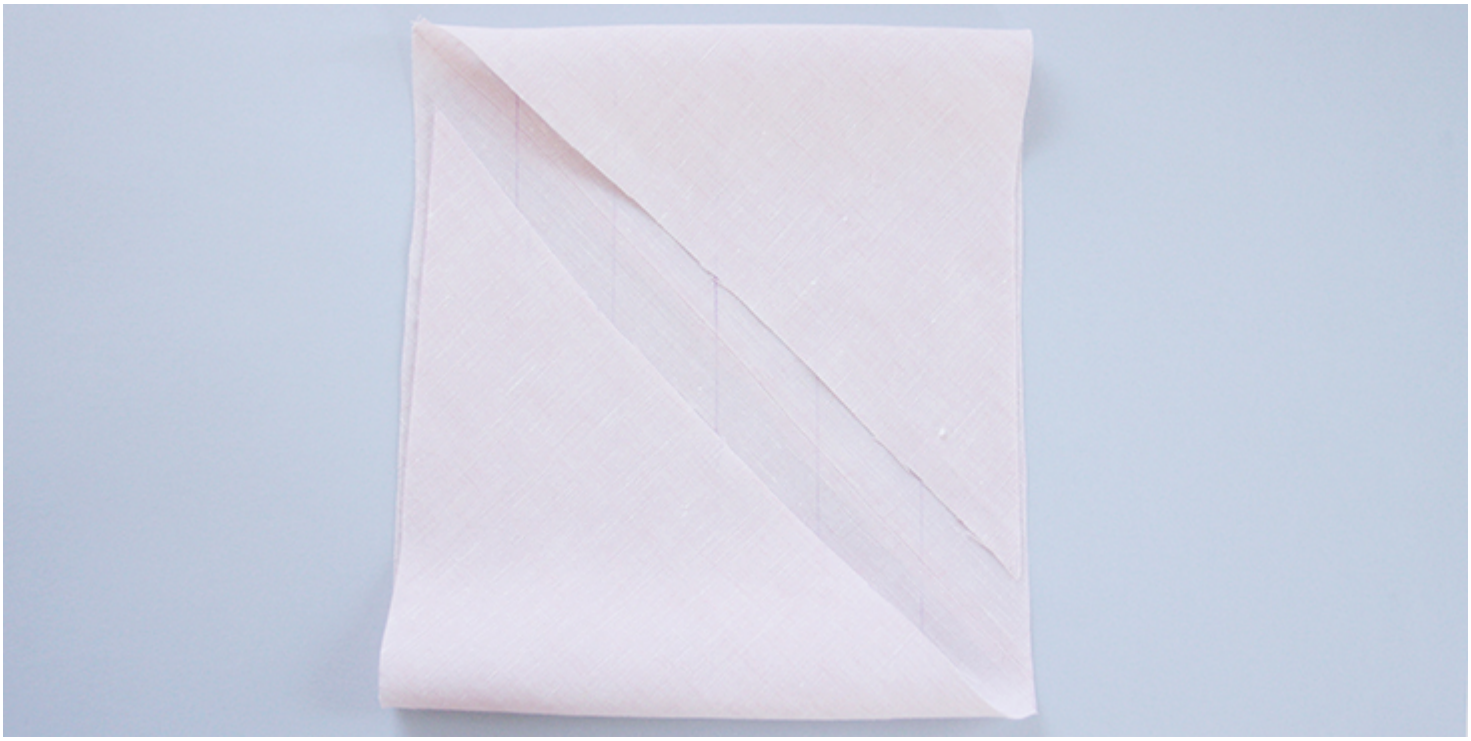
strips. It doesnâ??t really matter if you mark your lines on the right or wrong side of the fabric, but we find it easier to draw on the right side that doesnâ??t have the seamâ??s raw edges in the middle.



8. Trim the extra fabric should you have any.

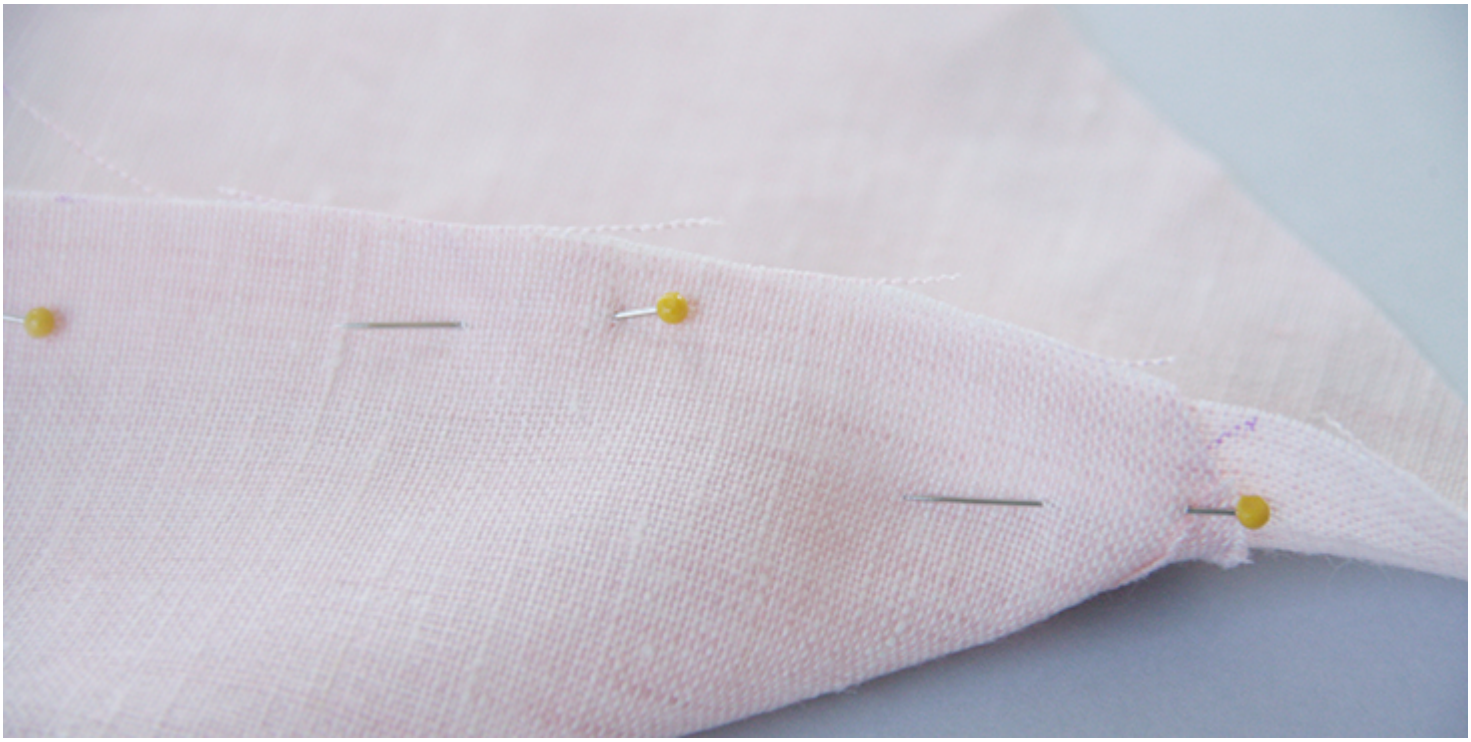


9. With right sides together, fold the narrow tips of your parallelogram lengthwise to make a small square.

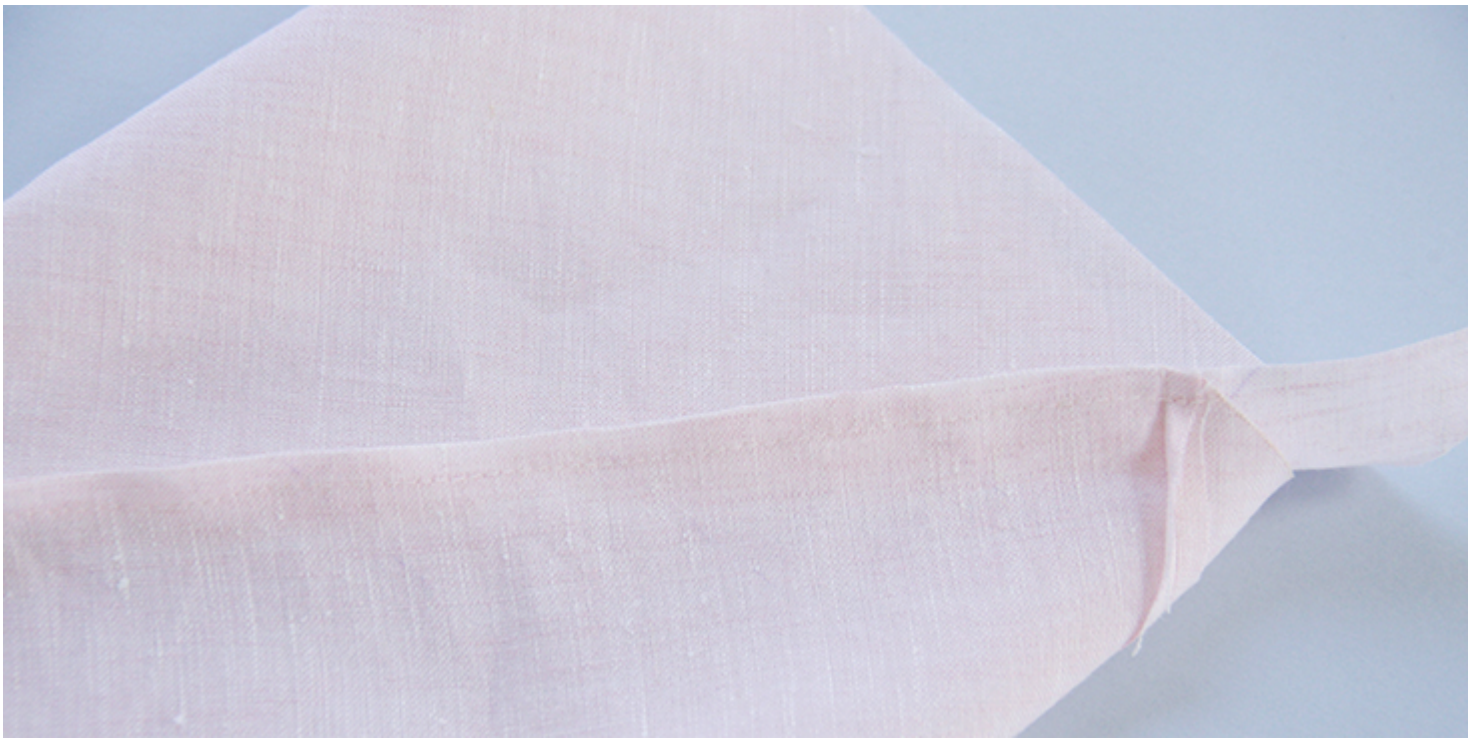


10. Once folded, offset the first row, line up your drawn lines and pin right sides together. Be sure to match the lines at the seam line, 1/4â?³ from the edges, not at the edges.





11. Sew the two edges together at a 1/4â?³ seam allowance to create a tube.



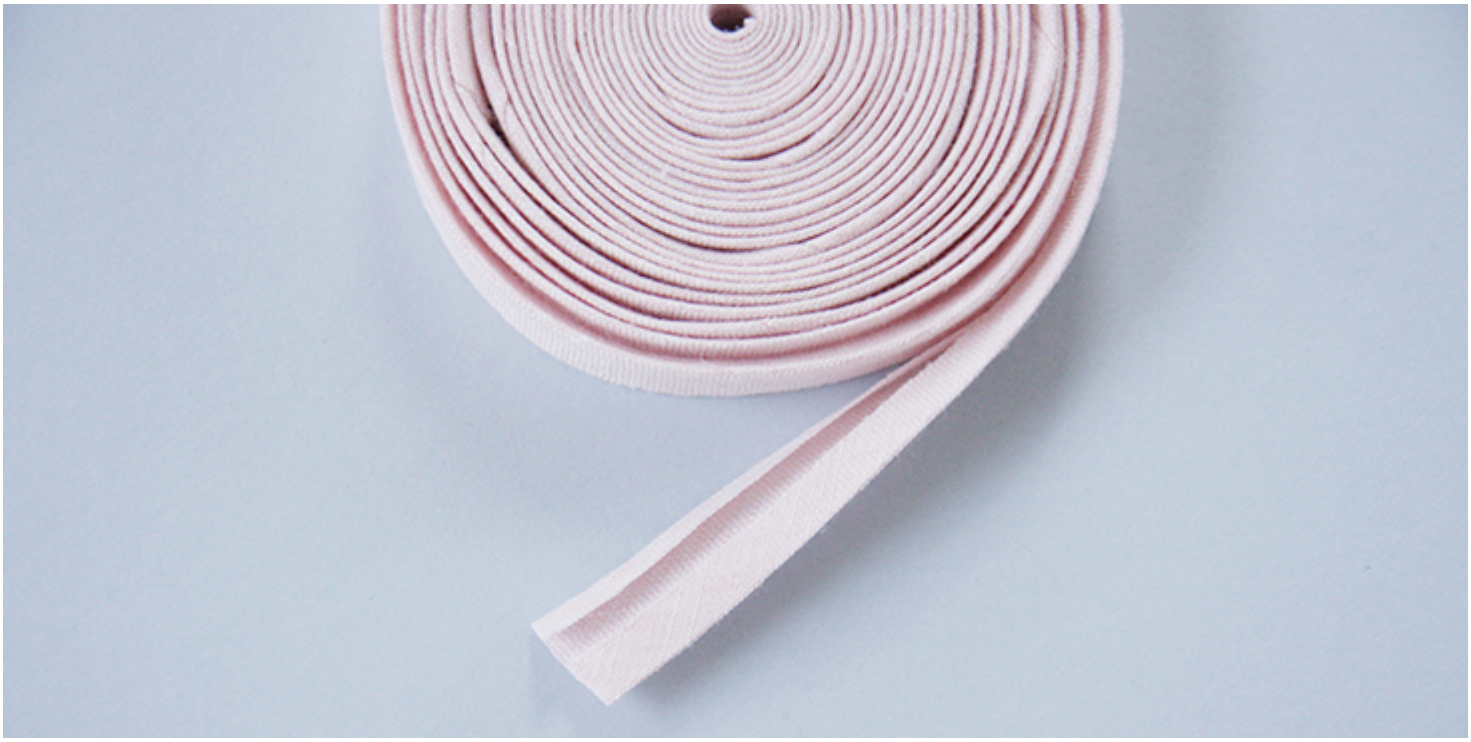
12. Press the seam open.



13. Starting at the first offset row of drawn lines, cut until you reach the end.



14. The last thing to do is to pull your continuous bias tape strip through your bias tape maker and press it with your iron. Follow our tutorial HERE for detailed instructions.



Your custom-made bias tape is now finally ready! You can roll it all together or wrap around a bobbin to store it until you need to use it.

With all the possibilities of fabric and color choices, you can really add that extra personal touch to all your projects. Check out our whole selection here!

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