

# Continuous bias tape

explanation, directions and pictures by Shelley Rodgers ([pirate\\_sr@hotmail.com](mailto:pirate_sr@hotmail.com))

## Determining continuous bias tape cutting width and yardage requirements

Determining the CUTTING WIDTH of the bias strip (these widths will accommodate a medium loft batting. If your batting is thinner, reduce the CUT WIDTH by 1/8")			
Desired finished width (in inches)	Cut the strips this wide (in inches) for double-fold binding	Desired finished width (in inches)	Cut the strips this wide (in inches) for double-fold binding
1/4"	1-3/4"	3/4"	3-3/4"
3/8"	2-1/4"	1"	4-3/4"
1/2"	2-3/4"	1-1/2"	6-3/4"
5/8"	3-1/4"	2"	8-3/4"

Determining how many yards of fabric needed to make the binding (based on 40" wide after washing to allow for shrinkage) (yardage requirements updated: 1/04. The previous amounts yielded waaaaay too much bias!)								
Cut width of binding (in inches) from chart above	Yardage of binding fabric yields this much linear inches of bias tape							
	3/8 yard	1/2 yard	5/8 yard	3/4 yard	7/8 yard	1 yard	1-1/2 yards	2 yards
1-3/4"	305"	407"	509"	601"	712"	814"	1221"	1629"
2-1/4"	229"	305"	381"	458"	534"	610"	916"	1221"
2-3/4"	190"	254"	318"	381"	445"	509"	763"	1018"
3-1/4"	152"	203"	254"	305"	356"	407"	610"	814"
3-3/4"	133"	178"	222"	267"	311"	356"	534"	712"
4-3/4"	95"	127"	159"	190"	222"	254"	381"	509"
6-3/4"	76"	101"	127"	152"	178"	203"	305"	407"
8-3/4"	57"	76"	95"	114"	133"	152"	229"	305"

For example, if your quilt is 45"x60", the perimeter is  $45+60+45+60 = 210$  inches. Add in the extra (for turning corners, etc.) of 12" for a total LENGTH of 222". Which is to say, you will need at least 222" of bias binding. If you want the finished quilt binding to be 1-3/4" wide, look across the 1<sup>st</sup> row (the 1-3/4" wide row) to see which amount of yardage will give you at least the 222" that you need. The first column is 3/8 yard, which yields 305". Therefore, if your binding fabric is 3/8 yard and you cut the bias strips 1-3/4" wide, you will get approximately 305" of bias tape ... more than enough for your 45"x60" quilt.

If you have a total length that isn't listed, you can combine yardage fractions to get what you need. Using the 1-3/4" wide bias strip as an example, if the total length of the quilt is 1500", 1-1/2 yards isn't enough but 2 yards is too much. You can add the 1-1/2 yard amount to the 3/8 yard amount to get a 1-7/8 yard amount (which isn't listed). This would be  $1221" + 305" = 1526"$ . (This is easily verified by noting that 2 of the 1/2 yard amounts is exactly equal to the 1 yard amount ...  $407"+407" = 814"$ ).