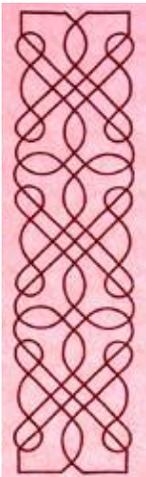


Making Bias Tape: Nancy's Secret to Success



Supplies and Tools:

- [Clover Bias Tape Maker](#) 1/4 inch (6 mm) (Art No. 464/06)
- Fabric
- Rotary cutter & ruler
- Steam iron & ironing board
- Empty toilet paper, or paper towel roll
- Straight pins

Whether you are making bias tape for Celtic Knotwork appliqué, stained-glass appliqué, or for other decorative purposes; your enjoyment and the final success of your project are closely tied to how easy it is to make good bias tape. In this brief article you will discover Nancy Lee Chong's secret to success.

*Learn even more helpful techniques for successful Celtic Knotwork Appliqué from **Nancy Lee Chong**. Go to www.quiltchong.com for details about all of Nancy's classes.*

1. Cut 2 to 3 test strips of fabric 1/2" wide along the bias of the fabric. Be very accurate with your cuts, pay attention to how you align your ruler on the edge of the fabric. Fabric weight and weave can make a difference, if you need to make adjustments to the width of your strips after doing a test, you will be prepared to make accurate adjustments.
2. Turn your iron to the cotton or linen setting, and turn the steam on. Let the iron heat up fully.



3. Slip the end of one fabric strip (right side facing out through the slot) into the large end of the Bias Tape Maker (BTM), as far as it will go. Use a straight pin to poke the fabric through the slot, then scrape the pin toward the narrow end, or mouth, of the BTM (left photo). When the fabric emerges, pull at least one inch out with your fingers (right photo). If you are too skimpy with this leading edge, the ironing process becomes more difficult.



4. With the slot facing up, and the handle below the fabric strip, rest the mouth of the BTM on the ironing board. Place the tip of the iron on the fabric so that it is touching the mouth of the BTM. It is very important that the iron stays in contact with the mouth of the BTM on the ironing board throughout the entire process. NOTE: The fabric strip should be flat (not twisted) and straight along the ironing board so that it will feed effortlessly into the wide end of the BTM.

The secret to success with this tool, is to turn the BTM so the folded fabric, as it exits the mouth of the tool, is facing **down**, toward ironing board (photo above, left). If you follow Clover's instructions and have the handle on top, with the raw edges of the folded fabric facing up (photo right), it is nearly impossible to iron the tape accurately. The fabric begins to unfold as soon as it emerges from the tool, and the iron catches the fabric edges making a mess of your bias tape. Also, do not join strips together before pressing; seams do not feed through the tool well at all; and you can hide your strip-ends under the cross-overs when appliquéing.



5. Slide the BTM, with the iron, slowly along the length of your fabric strip. The fabric should feed freely through the BTM while the iron is pressing the folds. Let the steam and weight of the iron do their work as the iron glides over the fabric emerging from the BTM. When you get to the end of the strip, leave the iron on the fabric a few seconds to make sure the folds at the end are set.
6. As soon as the length of the strip has been pressed, wrap it around the cardboard tube, securing it with a straight pin. This keeps the bias tape neatly folded until you are ready to use it.
7. Repeat with as many strips as you need for your project.



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