LESSON IV
CUTTING MATERIALS—MAKING BINDS AND FOLDS

To Get the True Bias

The rule to get a true bias is: Fold the material over so the selvedge comes in line with the cut end, or cross web; but in some materials it makes a difference which corner is folded over; one way will give a rich, even effect, in the other it will split the pile or surface grain; this must be tested. (See Fig. 1.) This “true” bias is necessary for all binds and folds.

FIG. 1
HOW TO GET A TRUE BIAS

FIG. 2
CHOICE BIAS A
But one may need for a draping or other trimming a bias piece without a join; in this case we cut a “long choice bias,” as shown in Fig. 2; or our piece may be too small to cut a true bias, yet it is necessary or best not to have the material on the straight, as for a bow-knot, etc.; then we may cut a “short” bias, as in Fig. 3.

In cutting for bias folds and binds it is very necessary to be accurate; a tailor’s yardstick laid down on the wrong side and the line chalk-marked will ensure this.

All joins must be along the selvedges or on the straight side of the web in the opposite direction, and all grain must be the same at joins, and in velvet shade the same way. A join across the bias is incorrect.

**Putting on Binds**

There are three kinds of binds, the narrow, wide, and full bind.
The narrow bind is treated thus: Cut the strips, one or two, according to circumference of hat, double the width through the bias as the desired width of bind when finished. Cut off the selvedges and join (see Fig. 4), taking care the two strips shade the same way; one end is right, the other will be wrong; join with a close back-stitch, with a 1/3-inch margin, taking care to get the edges level at join; press flat with the thimble. Now pin one end of the strip on edge of brim, stretch firmly round till the pinned end is reached, mark with pin, take off hat, lay flat on table, fold over so the end meets the pin, and cut off in line with the selvedge end; join these ends, and press flat.

Now pin the bind wrong side up on upper side of brim near the edge; take care to have all even, or there

![Diagram](image)

**Fig. 5—Narrow Bind Pinned on Edge Ready for Sewing**

will be too much "stretch" at one place and too much fullness at another (see Fig. 5); when correctly pinned (dividing in quarters is a safe plan) sew along with a stitch similar to that used to sew on tip of crown, i. e., a long stitch on the material and a short back-
stitch underneath; the turning allowed need not be more than a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, but this must be kept at an even distance from the edge. Now press both thumbs under the sewn edge and snap sharply over; this prevents the stretching of the other edge; now turn this edge under about $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch, pin as shown in Fig. 6. Note how the pins are placed.

Fig. 6 shows the slipstitching down of a bind on a lace, felt or straw hat, where the needle is taken through at a slant, put back in the same hole as it came through, at a slant, coming out a little under the edge of the bind; the needle must then be put back into the fold, just under the turn, exactly opposite where it comes out; thus we get the requisite short straight stitch and longer slanting stitch.

The wide bind is cut by the same rule; thus, if we wish a bind showing one inch on each side when finished, it is cut 4 inches through the bias; if the material is very stretchy or ravelly, it must be cut from 1 to 2 inches wider. The strips are then joined, stretched on along the middle, so that there is the least possible fullness
left along the cut edges, then marked and joined the same as the narrow bind; but when done it is slipped on the hat, the middle along the edge, so both cut edges come even, half on either side. Now the edges are turned under, both as you proceed; i. e., not first one and then the other, taking care to keep them even (the fingers can feel this), and pin as directed in Fig. 6; the turning under should be generous, as it easily works out.

In a lace, felt, or straw hat both sides are slip-stitched at the same time with one line of stitches, the short slip-stitch being taken alternately under and over the brim, with the short straight stitch, the needle passing along inside the edge for not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, and passing through to the other side on a short slant, then repeat.

If, however, the bind is put on a velvet or silk hat, or any other solid material, each side is separately slip-stitched; hold the hat so the edge of bind to be sewn is downward towards you (see Fig. 7) and pass the needle

FIG. 7—SLIPSTITCHING BIND ON VELVET HAT
\( \frac{3}{8} \) of an inch inside edge of fold, pick up \( \frac{1}{16} \) of an inch of material of brim under edge of fold, pass needle back into fold opposite where it comes out, and repeat, drawing the thread straight, but not too tight, as this will cause little waves where the stitches are, though these may not show.

In putting binds on sheer hats, such as tulle, net, lace, etc., the wide bind is best, and may be put on and slip-stitched in same way as a felt hat. If a narrow bind only is desired, it can be put on the same as before directed, but the turnover must be no wider than the other side, and be slip-stitched against it, so no stitches show.

The widest bind that is safe to put on in strip form is \( 1 \frac{3}{4} \) inches; if desired wider than this, the edge must be cut to shape, and is best set on with a wire cording. Wire cording may also be used to finish a bias bind.

**Fitted Bind**

For a fitted bind the pattern of brim must be taken the same as for an entire facing, then the edge section cut off, carefully measuring to have it the same width all round. This pattern is laid on the material and cut out with a \( \frac{1}{2} \)-inch margin on each side.

Silk wire cord is then made into a ring the exact size of inner rings of pattern, allowing \( 1 \frac{1}{2} \) inches extra for lapping.

**Splicing a Wire Join**

When wire has to be joined for a cording, plain or full, it must be “spliced,” thus: Unravel the silk thread that covers the filling threads of the wire, cut away a little more than half of these threads to the length of the join, \( i. e.\), \( 1 \frac{1}{2} \) inches, on each end, lap the two ends, lay the filling smoothly along, and wind the silk ravelling over again, or, if this has broken, wind with fine thread; thus the join will be no thicker than the rest of the wire.

Over this ring baste a narrow bias strip of the silk or velvet, lay it in place on the brim, pin and baste on, not
taking any stitches through; now pin on the bind at a few places, allowing ½ an inch to come beyond edge of brim; the other edge should project ½ an inch beyond the wire cord, and be snipped all round, so it will turn under quite flat; turn under, pin all round as shown in Fig. 6, and slip-stitch down close against the cord. The edge that turns over edge of brim should have been secured by a few pins; now pin as directed for a regular covering, and cat-stitch down.

If an under bind is to be put on the same as the upper, a wire cord may now be set around the edge, and the edge of bind slip-stitched to this, the inner circle being treated the same as above; but the two edges can be slip-stitched together without the cord.

Sectional Facing

Sometimes one leaves the edge of a straw, leghorn, or felt untrimmed, and puts a band of velvet or silk on a section of the brim. In this case such section is cut out of the entire pattern, then cut out in fine cape net, this carefully wired around both edges, as directed in the Lesson on Frames. The velvet is cut ½ inch larger around each edge, pinned on the net foundation and cat-stitched thereto, not allowing a stitch to show on the right side. This sectional facing is then pinned in place on the brim and slip-stitched down.

If the facing is to come from the headsize out part way on the brim, only the edge is wired as before directed, and 1 inch turning allowed at the headsize, both in net and velvet, which is snipped and turned up, being invisibly secured inside the crown and neatened by the headlining.

Full Binds are treated in the Lesson on Shirring.

Folds

Still another way to treat the edges of hats is to baste a bias strip around, well stretched over the edge wire,
then neaten these edges by slip-stitching a fold over, either a plain fold (see Fig. 8) or a "French" or "miller's" fold (see Fig. 9).

A plain fold is made by cutting a narrow bias strip of velvet, silk, or other material, and joining the edges
as shown in Fig. 8. A milliner's fold is cut wider, the edges laid together the same as before, but the upper part turned over again as in a hem, and this "slip" or blind-stitched down on the lower half, taking up alternately 1/16 of an inch above and below, but keeping all stitches under the turnover (see Fig. 9). It is a help to beginners to make the fold first the same as a plain fold (turning up 2/3 and down 1/3), then turning over and slip-stitching.

Care must be taken to keep the fold even, and a stitch taken through will cause twisting.

Measures for length of folds are taken the same as for binds, so that joins can be made first.

In a transparent hat it is essential that the bind be the same width on both sides; in this way the stitches are hidden, and nothing heavier than 100 thread should be used; in fact, 200 is best.

Binds of an inch or over on each side are prepared in the same way, but the joins must be made first, and silk has the wadding basted on flat, i. e., not made into a fold. The piece is then stretched at its middle line over edge of frame; the cut edges must have no fullness, and are turned under so they are even on both sides; these are then slipstitched with one line of stitches, under and over at the same time.

Narrow folds of tulle or silk are often set over the round wires, under and over the brim and round the crown; these may be plain or French folds; or thick satin cord wire is covered with a narrow strip of bias silk or velvet sewn on in an even line, and this slip-stitched round, the stitches against the hat. Bias French folds of tulle are hard to make, but practice will conquer the difficulty; it is best to pin and baste the several layers together, then fold and pin, always having the pins heads down.