BIAS BANDS, folds, ruffles, facings, etc., must be cut on a true bias to give satisfactory results. For rounding corners or following curved lines, or making folds or ruffles hang gracefully, it is impossible to use successfully material that is cut on the straight of the weave. To maintain a perfect bias, the strips should be of equal width throughout their entire length.

Sometimes, in cutting, if the material is very pliable, the edges will stretch, and in time the cutting line will deviate from the original mark. It is well, in cutting many strips, to test the bias line occasionally, by laying the yard-stick across the material, and cutting a new edge if the old one is not even.

**True Bias** is obtained by spreading the material on the table and making a mark seven or eight inches from one corner on both the selvage and the cut end. Lay a yard-stick across the corner, touching both these marks, and draw a line. (Fig. 103.) Make as many marks on both edges as there are strips needed, marking them the required width. Then cut, carefully following the line and using sharp scissors.

When the material for the bias bands is alike on both sides, as in the case of cording silk, for instance, be careful to have the cut strips all on the same bias.

**TO JOIN BIAS STRIPS**, lay the two diagonal ends together as shown in Figure 104 and baste in a seam. (Fig. 104.) It will then be seen that when the joined strips are lapped back, the grain of both pieces runs correctly in the same direction. (Fig. 104 A.)

**BANDS or FOLDS USED AS TRIMMING** are made in a variety of ways. They may be lined, unlined, double of the material, or piped at the edges. Cut the band the required width, allowing for a turning at both edges.

**The Unlined Fold**, illustrated on the following page, has its lower edge basted up in a hem, and stitched evenly from the right side. The upper edge is turned over, and the band is then basted into position on the garment. The upper edge is stitched through the garment, making the one stitching serve two purposes. (Fig. 105.)

**The Lined Fold** is finished before it is applied to the garment. Cut a strip of canvas or erinoline, as wide as the band should be when completed. Baste it evenly on the wrong
side of the strip of material, catching both edges down over it. With the catch-stitch, fasten down the edges to the lining, and the fold is ready for use. (Fig. 106.)

The Piped Fold is one in which a cord or piping (see page 32) has been applied to the edges with one or more rows of machine stitching that give it a tailored finish. (Fig. 107.)

Double Folds are made of bias strips cut twice the width desired for the finished band. Fold them over on the center line and baste them flat. Turn the two raw edges in and baste them together. Then join them neatly with slip-stitches, and apply to the garment by hand. If machine stitching is desired, baste the fold in place first and then stitch. These folds are frequently used as a trimming in the place of tucks. (Fig. 108.)

A Milliners' Fold is made by turning the top edge of the strip over one-half the width of the finished fold. Bring up the lower turned-under edge, covering the raw upper edge. Sew flat with fine running stitches. (Fig. 109.)

If the material is very sheer, it is a good plan to have a small strip of paper, not quite the width of the fold, to slip along within the fold as the work progresses. If pressing is necessary, use only a warm iron.

Crêpe folds are cut on the straight of the goods, so that the crinkles will run diagonally. Tailors' Straps are folded bands used to strap seams, or as an ornamental trimming on tailored garments. They may be cut on the bias, if of velvet or taffeta; crosswise if of woolen; lengthwise if of cotton materials. Fold the strip at the center and catch the raw edges together with loose whip-stitches as shown in Fig. 110. Spread out the fold and press it well. Baste into position on the garment and stitch by machine on both edges.

CORD PIPING is used to give firmness to an edge, or as a trimming for waists, skirts, etc. Fig. 111, on the following page, illustrates the process of running in a cord intended for a trimming. Mark the trimming line for the cord with a colored thread. Then, holding the cord underneath with the left hand, enclose it in a
tuck, stitching with fine even running stitches as close to the cord as is possible.

In Fig. 112 is shown the cord run in a bias strip which is intended to be used as a facing for an edge. After the cord has been inserted, join the cording to the garment with the raw edge on the inside. The broad edge is then turned over one-quarter of an inch and hemmed down.

**PIPING** is a finish much used in all styles of dressmaking. It is easy to make and very effective. Cut bias strips an inch and a quarter wide, if the material to be used for the piping is firm, as taffeta, etc. If a loosely woven material is used, the strips should be a trifle wider. Join all the strips, as described on page 30, and press the seams open. Then fold the strip over at the center line and baste it flat, being careful not to let it become twisted.

Next prepare the edge of the material to which the piping is to be applied. If a stiffen-

![Fig. 111. Inserting Cord](image)

![Fig. 112. Cording for Facing](image)

![Fig. 113. Crinoline Basted to Material](image)

![Fig. 114. Under Side Showing Piping Clipped at Corners](image)

![Fig. 115. Right Side of Completed Piping](image)

![Fig. 115 A. The Rolled Hem](image)

ing is desired, cut a lining of crinoline or canvas three-eighths of an inch narrower than the pattern or the piece to be lined. Baste this lining into position as shown in Fig. 113.

If the edge forms a fancy outline, as illustrated here, turn the edges over evenly all around, clipping at the corners and folding in at the points where necessary. (Fig. 114.) Then run a basting thread an even width (about three-eighths of an inch) around the edge to serve as a guide. Next baste on the piping, following this line closely. Be careful to avoid any seawantness at the points or bulging at the corners. Fig. 115 shows the right side of a pointed edge neatly piped.

A **ROLLED HEM** makes a very pretty finish for bias or straight trimming-bands. It can only be used on an edge that is cut on a straight line. It can not be used on a curved edge.

An allowance of one and a half inches will have to be made on the edge for this hem. Fold the edge over on the right side and sew one-quarter of an inch from the fold (Fig. 115 A). Then turn under the raw edge one-quarter of an inch and hem it over the stitches on the wrong side (Fig. 115 A). The hem must look round like a cord when finished—not flat—(Fig. 115 A).
CORDING is a very useful trimming and is made with bias strips and Germantown or eiderdown wool. The bias strips should be about an inch and a quarter wide. Fold the strips lengthwise through the center and run a seam three-eighths or a quarter of an inch from the fold edge. With the strips still wrong side out, slip the ends of several strands of Germantown or eiderdown wool far enough into one end of the tube-like covering so that you can sew them securely to it. Then with the loop end of a wire hairpin push the wool farther and farther into the covering at the same time turning the covering right side out.

When cording is used to form a motif, stamp the motif on ordinary wrapping paper. The cordings are first basted in place on the design with the seam uppermost so that the right side of the motif will be next the paper. They are then sewed together at the points of intersection and contact.