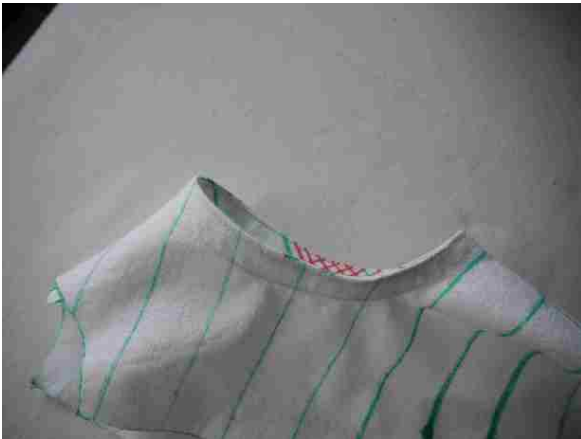


Finishing Technique Bias Strip Or Bias Tape Inside

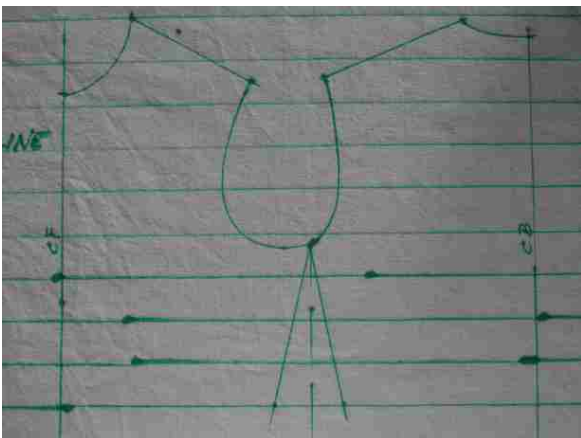
By: meiissi

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/finishing-technique-bias-strip>



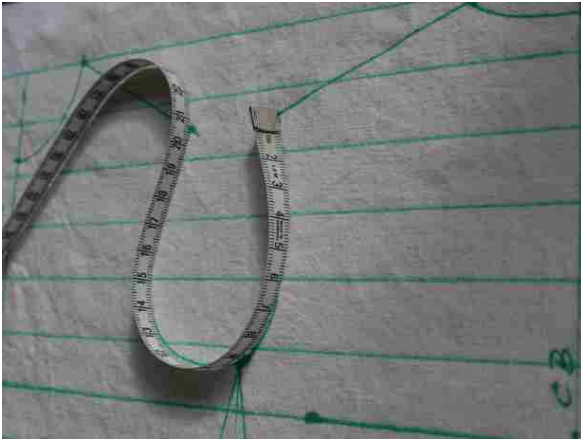
A fast and easy finishing technique for armholes, necklines and hems is reinforcing them with a bias strip or bias tape. The bias tape is available at Your local fabric-store, it comes to You pre-cut, fold and pressed and it's available in many different colours and materials. A bias strip is cut on the true bias. This is the 45° angle of each fabric. Along the grainline fabric is stable and has its best tearing attribute, it can hardly be stretched out of style along this direction. Different to this is the bias, it can be stretched and shaped because it is an instable direction of each fabric.

Step 1 — Draft The Pattern



In this step-by-step instruction I will reinforce the armhole of a simple bodice. This one is 50% of the normal size. The bias-strip will be 2cm as usual, so don't wonder if it looks a little unproportional when it's finished. Mark Your pattern on the fabric.

Step 2 — Take Your Measurements



Now You will have to measure the size of the armscye. Therefore shape the tapemeasure along the armscye and write down or remember the measurements. If You want a biasstrip reinforcement for the neckline as well You will have to measure this, too.

Step 3 — Sew Your Garment



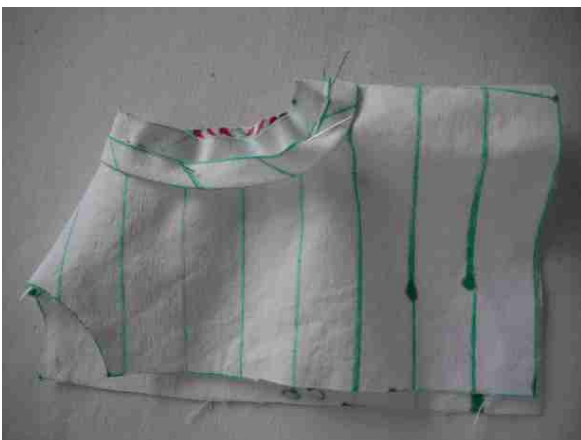
In my case I only close the shoulderseam. I cut out the pattern without any seam allowance except the shoulderseam - tiny mistake — I would have needed the allowance also at the armscye... but I was to fast with cutting. So I correct this by making the armhole of my half bodice a little larger. On Your garment You'll have seamallowances at all seams, so You go exactly along Your marks.

Step 4 — Cut Your Bias Strip



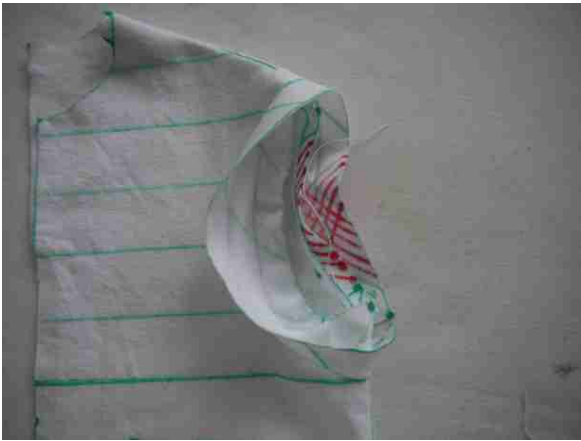
For the reinforcement the Bias strip has to have 3 sides: at the seam, the one which is seen and one to fold in. The biastape You can buy has four sides, which is ment for using the tape as an enclosure reaching to the right side. Iron it over a pice of carton for sharp edges — that will help You with basting and sewing.

Step 5 — Baste Or Pin The Stripe To The Armscye



Shape the strip along the armscye. You will now see how flexible the bias strip can be applied. The ends can be simply sewn one ply to another or You can make a seam at the meeting ends and fold it inside Your — tube-construction — .

Step 6 — Sew The Bias Strip To The Armscye



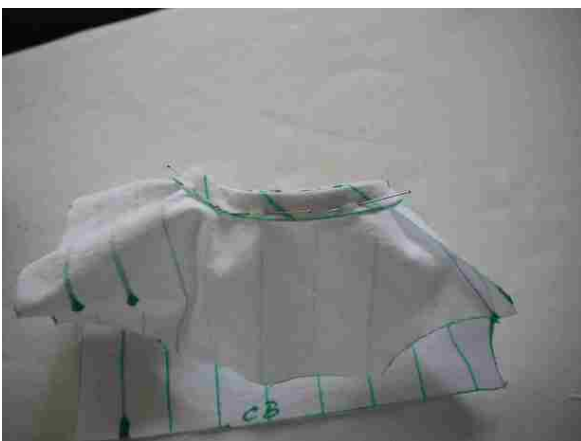
Follow the marks on the bias strip and sew it to Your garment. The more exact You have basted it the more beautiful is Your result.

Step 7 — Carefully Iron It To The Inside



Fold the strip to the inside of Your garment and iron it. Roll the whole seam inside, so that it lies inside the garment for 1mm, thicker fabrics need more roll-in. Iron it well. Your strip should lie relaxed inside the armscye, no seam should be seen from the right side.

Step 8 — Baste Or Pin The Folded Stripe To The Bodice.



Step 6 — Sew The Bias Strip To The Armscye

Baste or pin the strip to the bodice with 1cm or less (can be 0,5-0,7cm as well). Stretch the fabric while You pin if needed, the better You work the less wrinkles You will see on the right side of the garment. In some curvy areas it will not work all flat, but try to shape it as exact as possible.

Step 9 — Sew It To The Bodice



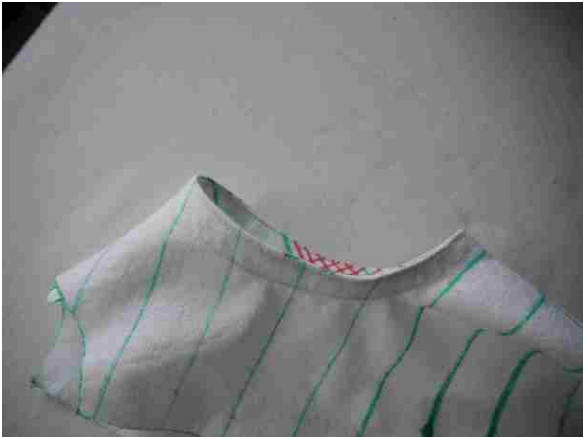
Now You fix the strip on Your garment watching the exact gap between the edge and the seam. Control Your stitches with some kind of measurement: The width of Your presser foot, half a presser foot or You can even make a mark with scotch tape on Your stitching plate, some machines have measuring lines engraved in the stitching plate. This seam will be seen on the outside, so be careful that it looks relaxed and clean.

Step 10 — Stitch The Edge



Additional or as an alternative You can stitch precisely 1mm from the edge of Your armscye. This depends on the look You want to create and the stiffness Your seam should have. The closer to the edge You stitch the more elegant it will look like, but the seam will have no stand. The wider You go away from the edge with stitching You will create a more and more sporty look, but the seam will be firm and long lasting. In my example I made two seams, which appears sporty and quite stiff. Remember, I made the tiny sample 50% to normal size, so in real the seam would have a distance of 2cm to the edge.

Step 11 — You're Done!!



Here You see the finished sample. The red crossed marks inside the armhole again show You the grainline of the bias strip, while You can see the grainline of the front bodice in green. That's it with bias taping. Good luck!

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