

900 BIAS TOP A and B

Sleeveless bias top with scoop neck, designed for handwoven fabrics.



Bias top A has no darts, B has a horizontal bust dart.

Size	Finished Bust Circumference A	Finished Bust Circumference B	Finished Length Back neck sits 1 ¼"(3.2cm) below C7 vertebra
Brown	33"(83.82cm)	NA	21"(53.3cm)
Green	35 ¾"(90.8cm)	37 ⅛"(94.3cm)	22"(55.8cm)
Red	38 ¾"(98.4cm)	39 ⅞"(101.2cm)	22 ⅞"(58.1cm)
Blue	41 ¾"(106cm)	42 ⅝"(108.2cm)	23 ⅝"(60cm)
Orange	44 ½"(113cm)	45 ⅛"(114.6cm)	24 ⅝"(62.5cm)
Purple	47 ½"(120.6cm)	47 ⅞"(121.6cm)	25 ⅜"(64.4cm)
Lime	NA	50 ½"(128.2cm)	26"(66cm)

Yardage requirements: For handwoven fabrics, cut on the bias. Note This top can be easily pieced by butting or seaming handwoven selvages together, allowing for narrower fabric.

Brown, Green, Red	31"(78.74cm) wide – 1 ¾ yds(1.6m)
Blue, Orange, Purple, Lime	36"(91.4cm) and wider – 2 yds(1.8m)

You will need ¼ yd(23cm) of lining fabric cut into three approximately 2 ¼" (5.7cm) x 36"(91.4cm) **bias** strips to trim armholes and neck. Be sure to preshrink any lining fabric.

Recommendations For Handwoven Fabric

My recommendations are to sett your fabric much denser than you would think. Try 8/2 Tencel at 36epi, 10/2 perle cotton at 30, 5/2 at 20, etc. It will ultimately depend on the structure, and your beat and the loom. I have seen fabrics in just about every fiber and combination of fibers you can imagine. Note: The fabric cannot be too thick, because it gets tough fitting multiple layers through the sewing machine. Any fiber works, if you can weave it, but I find woven cloth for garments will have the best results if at least part of the fabric is a protein content, like wool, which can be fullled up to create a denser, more stable fabric.

Sampling can be advantageous here. I have had students produce wonderful fabrics with a cotton or Tencel warp and Jagger spun's Zephyr wool/silk weft, which can be fullled up well for a stable, dense but pliable fabric, great for a jacket or vest. Linen works very well for the tunic.

Start with commercial fabric if you are intimidated. Commercial fabric can give you an idea of what weights work for what silhouette. There is, of course, also the issue of climate. What people in Florida choose to weave is different from what people in northern Michigan choose. Here are some of my basic suggestions:

- Sett it denser than you think.
- Avoid long floats which make a fabric less stable.
- If you want a lighter fabric, choose a thinner yarn, not a looser sett.
- Avoid weft patterning, repeats and blocks. They are hard to match for side seams and such.
- **If you use a hand-painted warp, make sure there is a repeat!**
- Wash it well.

Finishing is important. **ALL FABRICS SHOULD BE WASHED PRIOR TO SEWING!**

The exception here would be fabrics that were processed, dyed, felted, steamed, etc. They would already be preshrunk. If using handwoven fabric, or something commercial that has not been in contact with moisture, steam, water, or whatever, please machine wash your completed fabric **AT A MINIMUM** on **GENTLE CYCLE** for 3 minutes in **COLD OR WARM WATER** using a laundry detergent. This is even suitable for wool and mohair. Fabric may be hung to dry or machine dried if the fabric warrants this type of processing. Test, Test, Test! When fabric is completely dry, it should be steam pressed. You could even have the dry cleaner press it if your iron is inadequate.

Digital monographs for sewing handwovens, seam finishes, edge finishes and closures are available for purchase from my website.

<https://www.weaversew.com/shop/digital-monographs.html>

THE 900 BIAS TOP:

NOTE: This top can easily be pieced by butting or seaming handwoven selvages together. The picture at the right was made from scraps from another project. The butted selvages are shown with an arrow.



MAKE A TEST GARMENT FIRST!

Try using a loose commercial tweed to test the size but understand that every fabric will stretch differently on the bias.

Bias Top Directions

- Roll out needle-ready fabric right side up
- **Cut singly**
- Check grainlines

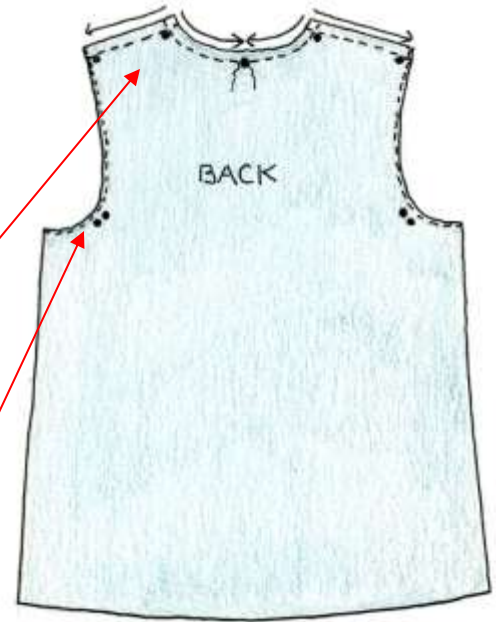
CUTTING DIRECTIONS:

FROM HANDWOVEN FABRIC, cut singly:

- 1 Back **cut on the bias** (Butt or seam selvages together if additional width is needed.)
- 1 Front **cut on the bias** (Butt or seam selvages together if additional width is needed.) For view B, mark dart dots with tailor's tacks.
- 3 BIAS STRIPS, each 2 ¼"(5.7cm) wide by approximately 36" (91.4cm) long for armhole and neckline trim. These may be cut from lining or coordinating fabric. They will not show on the right side.

BACK: (All Views)

- **$\frac{5}{8}$ "(1.5cm) seam allowances are included on all edges.**
- Recommended machine stitch length for handwovens is 10 stitches per inch(2.5cm).
- Staystitch back neck and shoulder seamlines: [$\frac{1}{2}$ "(1.2cm) from cut edge, regular stitches, **follow BLACK arrows.**]
- If desired, stitch very close to **edge** of armhole to reduce fraying; stitch from shoulder to underarm.
- Clean-finish shoulder and side seam allowances. See box below.



Options to clean-finish an edge:

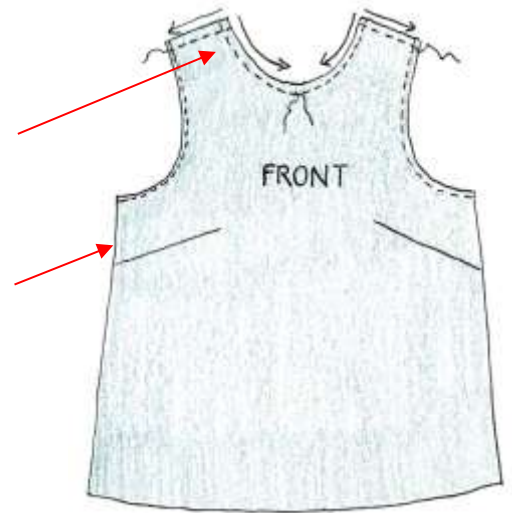
1. Hong Kong Seam Finish. Perfect for an unlined jacket. Probably overkill for a bias top.
2. Using $1\frac{1}{4}$ "(3.2cm) bias-cut, 15 Denier nylon tricot, fold it over the seam allowance and stitch. Be careful with the iron, as nylon can melt.
3. Stitch along the very edge of the fabric, with the direction of the grain, to prevent raveling.
4. Use a serger, if available. Do not trim the seam allowance with the knives and take care to serge in the direction of the grain even if it means serging upside down. This can be done in combination with option 3 to keep the serging right side up.
5. Use a decorative machine edgestitch on the very edge of the fabric. Using an edgestitching foot, stitch with the direction of the grain and make sure the seam allowance does not compress widthwise. This step can be improved by first fusing $\frac{3}{8}$ "(1cm) crosswise cut Fusi Knit tricot to the edges on the wrong side of the garment sections. This will stabilize the edges for decorative stitching.

The above options are illustrated step by step in a PDF available here.

<https://www.daryllancaster.com/Webfiles/OptionsToCleanFinishAnEdge.pdf>

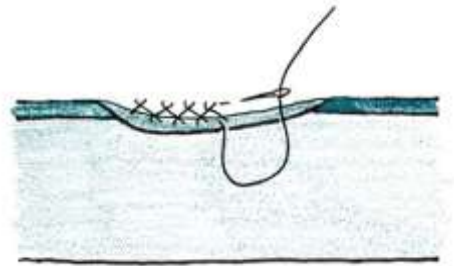
FRONTS:

- Staystitch front neck and shoulder seamlines: [$\frac{1}{2}$ "(1.2cm) from cut edge, regular stitches, **follow BLACK arrows.**]
- If desired, stitch very close to **edge** of armhole to reduce fraying, stitching from shoulder to underarm.
- View B, sew bust darts, matching dots. Press down.
- Clean-finish shoulder and side seam allowances. To clean-finish, refer to the box on page IV.



SIDE AND SHOULDER SEAMS:

- With right sides together, match and pin shoulder and side seamlines. Baste front to back at sides and shoulders, from hem to underarm and neck to armhole, $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5cm) seam allowance.
- Try on garment. Adjust seams for a better fit. Stitch seams with normal stitches.
- Press seams open.
- Clean-finish lower edge of top. See page IV for options.



HEM:

- Turn the lower edge of the top up $\frac{5}{8}$ "(1.5cm). Press. Hand baste or pin hem in place. Hand sewing is done with a catchstitch, connecting the stitching line behind the hem binding to the garment. Or topstitch.

BINDING THE ARMHOLES AND NECKLINE:

NOTE: Armholes and neckline can be finished in many other ways. Options include serging, nylon tricot binding or a crocheted edge finish.





BINDING THE ARMHOLES AND NECKLINE WITH A BIAS FACING:

- You will need enough bias strips of whatever fabric you think will work to encase the perimeter of armholes and neck edge. Don't forget to preshrink the fabric you choose. To do this, soak it in hot water for 20 minutes, then hang to dry, making sure the fabric is needle-ready.
- I prefer 2"-2 ¼"(5-5.7cm) bias strips, but wider or narrower may work better for your application. Depending on the size of the garment, you will need three approximately 36"(91.4cm) lengths, one for the neck and two for the armholes. It is a great idea to **sample the technique first to know what width is best for your garment.**



Make sure the neck edge is stable by staystitching close to the seamline, stitching in the direction of the grain. This should have been done in the first step.

- Fold the bias strip in half lengthwise and steam press a tight curve into the folded edge.



- The curve should roughly match the shape of the garment section that will be faced.

Note: the following sequence of photos is for clarity; they show the technique, not the full installation of bias on a neckline or armhole.

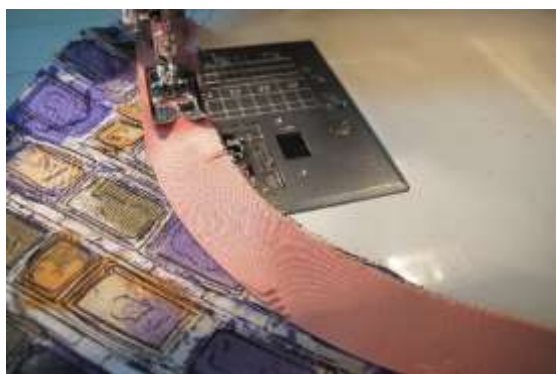
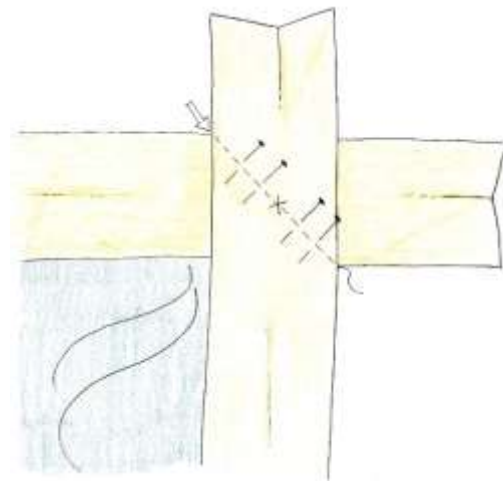
- Pin the folded bias strips to the neck edge or armhole edges, starting at the center back neck, or back of the armhole, leaving a 3"-4" (7.5-10cm) tail on either side of the join. You may need a wider bias strip if you apply it to a full $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5cm) seam allowance. You'll want approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.2cm) bias available between the stitching line and folded edge of the bias strip. Continue pinning until reaching the starting point.



- Establish where the bias folded edges will meet, placing a **small mark** on each half.

- Remove pins 3"-4" (7.5-10cm) on either side of the center back, where the join will take place to make joining the strips easier.

- Open out the bias and place the bias ends right sides together at right angles. Make sure the marks at the folds intersect. Stitch diagonally to join the bias ends. Trim seam allowance. Refold and press, and then finish pinning onto the neck or armhole seamlines.



- Stitch bias strip to neck edge or armhole edges along the seamlines.

- Trim seam allowances to reduce bulk by grading.





- Clip inside curves. For sheer binding, stagger the clips on the seam allowance layers.



- Press bias away from neck edge, using the tip of the iron to avoid flattening the bias curve.

- Understitch the edges, stitching through the bias strip and the seam allowances, $\frac{1}{8}$ "(3mm) away from the neck seamline.





- Carefully press bias to the wrong side.



- Neck and armhole edges should be clean looking from the outside.
- To secure the bias binding, there are three options:
 1. Best choice: catch-stitch behind the bias.
 2. Topstitch.
 3. Handstitch the edge of the bias (which might create a ridge on the right side of the garment).

