

## Traditional Bias-bound Cheongsam

While our printed Cheongsam pattern uses facings along the neckline and slit edges, vintage garments often have double rows of bias binding to emphasize the neck, collar, sleeve, front opening, hem, and slit edges. Following are two variations of this traditional look, one with double bias bindings on all raw edges and one with only one bias binding.



### YARDAGE REQUIREMENTS

#### Full-Length Dress

Width	XS	SM	MED	LG	XL	2XL	3XL	
45"/115cm without nap	3¾	3¾	3⅞	3⅞	3⅞	4	4	yds m
60"/150cm without nap	2¼	2¼	2¼	2⅜	2⅜	4	4	yds m

#### Knee-Length Dress

45"/115cm w/ or w/o nap	3	3	3⅞	3⅞	3⅞	3¼	3¼	yds m
60"/150cm w/ or w/o nap	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞	2	2	3¼	3¼	yds m

#### Interfacing

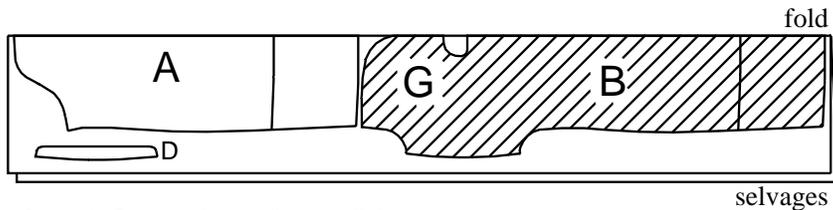
	XS	SM	MED	LG	XL	2XL	3XL	
22"/65cm without nap	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	yd m

#### Notions

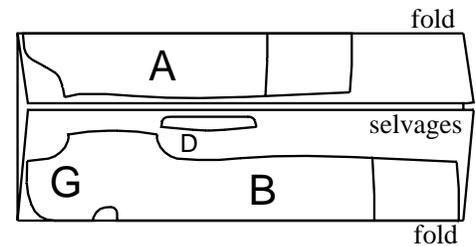
Bias Binding	5½	5⅝	6	6⅜	6¾	7	7⅜	yd m
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Yardages are for full-length cheongsam. Knee-length version requires about 1 yd or 1m less. However, we recommend cutting or buying more than needed, especially if you will be making your own frog closures.

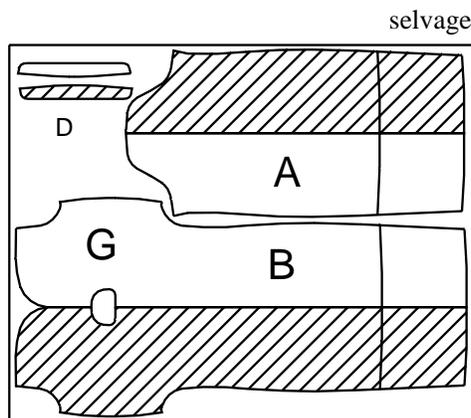
### FABRIC LAYOUTS WITHOUT NAP OR ONE-WAY DESIGN



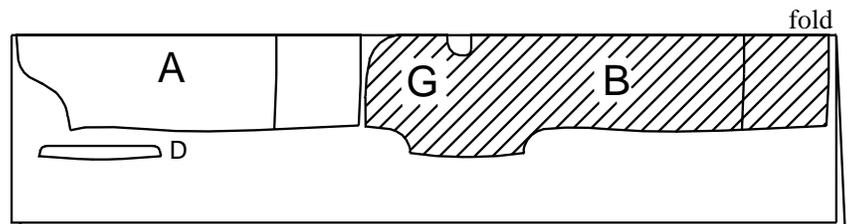
45 in. (115 cm) fabric - Sizes XS-3XL



60 in. (150 cm) fabric - Sizes XS-MD



60 in. (150 cm) fabric - Sizes LG-XL



60 in. (150 cm) fabric - Sizes 2XL-3XL

## Preparing the bias binding

### SIZING SLIPPERY FABRICS

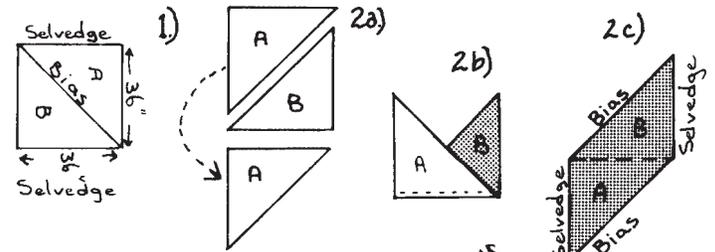
Slippery fabrics such as silk or polyester can be used successfully for bias or facings by painting the back of the fabric in the traditional Chinese way with a flour paste mixture. The old recipe is to boil very finely ground rice or rice flour with mothballs, making a thin, smooth paste. The mothballs were to prevent rodents and cockroaches from being attracted to the precious clothing. We found that a rice or wheat flour paste made from very fine white flour with water to a smooth, thin, consistency and brushed on the back of the fabric with a bristle brush before marking or cutting makes an easy-handling fabric out of the sleaziest material. Allow to dry (in sun, if convenient) before marking or cutting.

### CUTTING BIAS

Avoid using twill weave or crease-resistant fabrics for bias binding. One square yard of 36" (91cm) wide fabric will produce about 21 yds (19.5m) of 1" (2.5cm) wide bias, or half that amount of 2" (5cm) wide bias, if cut as below. You may be able to piece fabric from your Cheongsam leftover fabric or scrap collection to make the amount of bias needed.

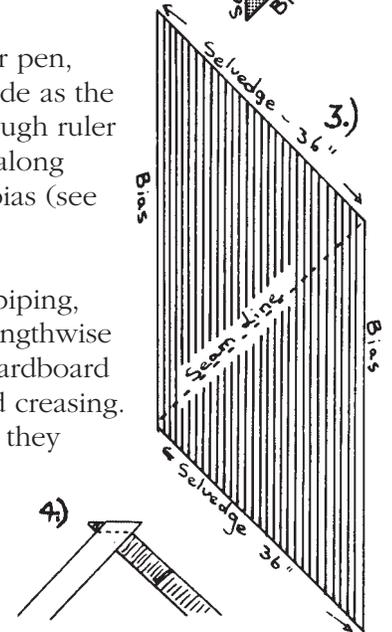
Square the fabric so that it is as wide as it is long. Press yardage flat, then even the raw edges to a straight grain line. Fold piece diagonally, upper left corner to lower right, along the true bias, and crease

the fold with fingers. Open and cut along the creased line. Calling the upper portion A and the lower portion B, pull A straight down so that the top of A meets the bottom of B (see Figs. 1 and 2). Right sides together, stitch A to B with a 1/4" (6mm) seam. Open and press seam to one side.



With a ruler and chalk or pen, mark parallel rows as wide as the required bias. A see-through ruler works well for this. Cut along marks to form strips of bias (see Fig. 3).

If bias is to be used for piping, press the strips in half lengthwise and wind loosely onto cardboard to prevent stretching and creasing. Where joins are needed, they should be made with 1/4" (6mm) seams on the straight of the fabric (see Fig. 4), and press to one side.



## SEWING GUIDE — CHEONGSAM WITH DOUBLE BIAS BINDING

**NOTE:** Shading  denotes right side of fabric.  
 denotes inside color bias.  
 denotes outside color bias.

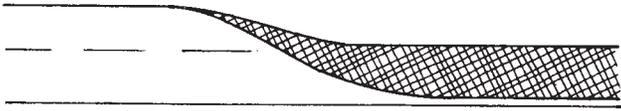
Binding the edges of your Cheongsam with two contrasting colors achieves a beautiful and authentic effect. The technique requires a little care and patience, so we recommend practicing with scraps of the fabric and bias you plan to use, as in STEP ONE, before beginning on the dress itself. Then continue to STEP TWO for specific instructions for each piece to be bound. Your finished dress will be well worth the investment of time and care.

### Step One: Mastering the Technique

For **inside** color, use 1/2" (13mm) commercial bias, pressing tape open, then pressing it in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.

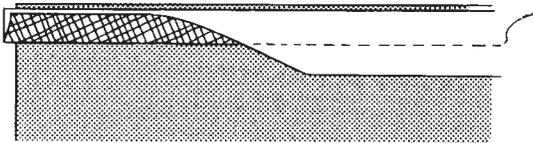


If you are using bias you've made yourself, the narrower or inside color will be cut 1" (2.5cm) wide, pressed in half lengthwise to 1/2" (13mm), wrong sides together.



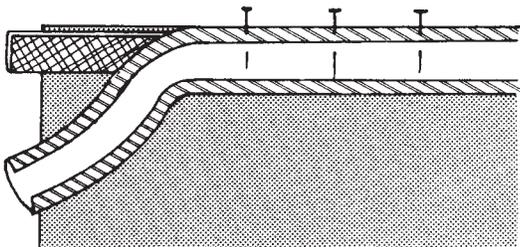
Open up bias again and pin to edge of fabric, right sides together, with center crease of tape directly over *seamline* on garment. (On pieces with 1/2" [13mm] seamlines, raw edges of bias and garment will meet. On pieces with 1/4" [6mm] seamlines, bias will extend 1/4" [6mm] beyond raw edge of garment.) Leave 1/2" (13mm) of extra bias at either end of garment edge.

Stitch along crease of tape (seamline).  
Press tape up on seamline.

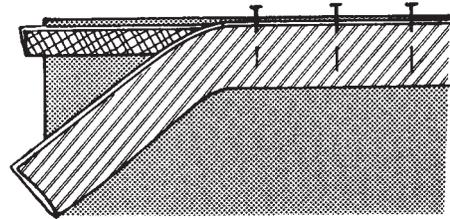


For **outside** color using commercial bias, use wide 1" (2.5cm) tape.

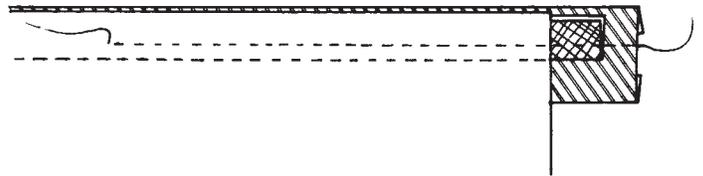
Place bias, folded as in package, on top of previously stitched inside color, lining up top folded edge of commercial bias with raw edges of inside bias. Pin.



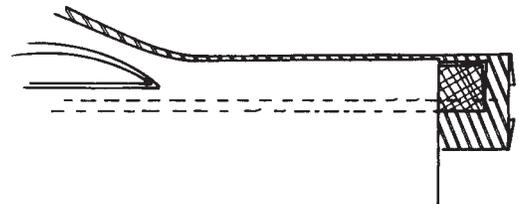
If you are making your own bias, cut the outside wider bias 2" (5cm) wide and press it in half lengthwise to 1" (2.5cm), wrong sides together. Follow instructions below, but note that bias will look different than commercial bias because of the way it is folded. Raw edges of folded handmade bias will line up with raw edges of inside bias.



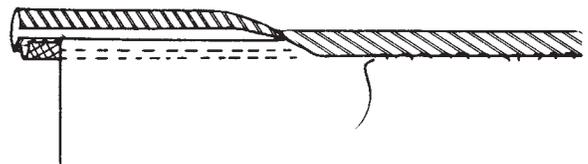
With the garment *wrong side up*, stitch 1/16" (2mm) inside previous stitching line. (On curves, turn wheel by hand, one stitch at a time.) The two parallel lines of stitching should be very even.



Trim raw edges of garment and bias close to stitching lines.



Press outside bias toward raw edges. Fold wide bias over raw edge and slipstitch folded edge over seamline on inside.

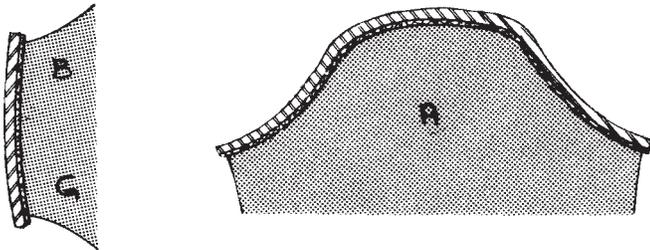


## Step Two: Binding Your Cheongsam

Apply trim in this order: 1) SLEEVE edge in Piece B/G; 2) FRONT curve on Piece A; 3) FRONT OPENING on Piece B/G; 4) Neckline, Piece B/G; 5) COLLAR, Piece D; 6) Hemline and Side Slits, Pieces A and B.

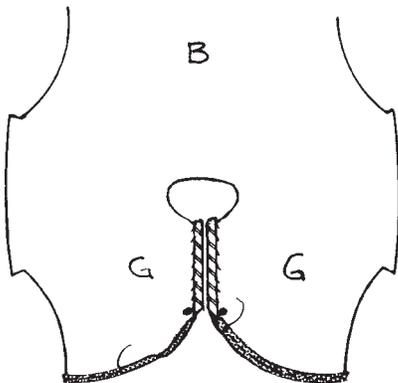
### 1) SLEEVE EDGE and 2) FRONT CURVE

No special techniques are needed for Sleeve and Front curve. See STEP ONE.



### 3) FRONT OPENING

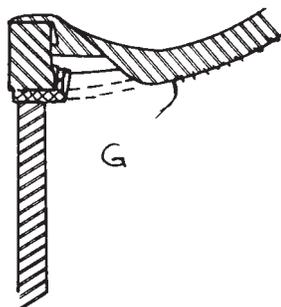
Note 1/4" (6mm) seamline on Front Opening, Neckline, and Collar when applying inside bias. Be sure to line up center fold line of inside bias with **seamline**.



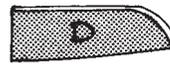
On Front Opening, stitch bias trim to large dot. To finish remaining curved edge, press under 1/8" (3mm) from dot to side seam. Turn again and stitch.

### 4) NECKLINE

At ends of neckline, tuck raw ends of bias around Front Opening and whipstitch in place over stitching line.



### 5) COLLAR



Fold Collar in half, matching curved edges, and trimming if necessary so that collar is symmetrical.

Collar should be interfaced. Use Pattern Piece D to cut interfacing. Stitch interfacing to Collar within 1/4" (6mm) seamline.



Right sides together, stitch Collar to Collar Facing along notched bottom edge, on 1/4" (6mm) seamline. Trim seam, turn and press.

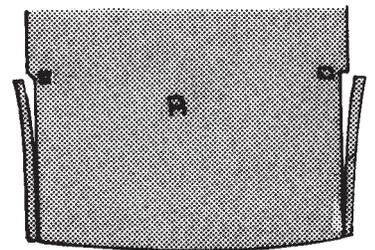
Staystitch close to remaining raw edges of Collar.



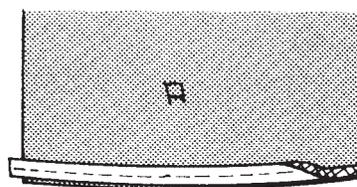
Apply bias to unnotched top edge of Collar, tucking under raw ends as for neckline to finish.

### 6) HEMLINE AND SIDE SLITS

**Trim 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance from box to hem. This trim line is not marked on pattern.**

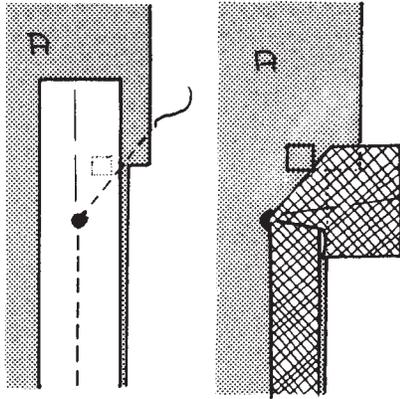


### INSIDE BIAS



Stitch inside color bias to bottom of dress. Press bias toward bottom of dress.

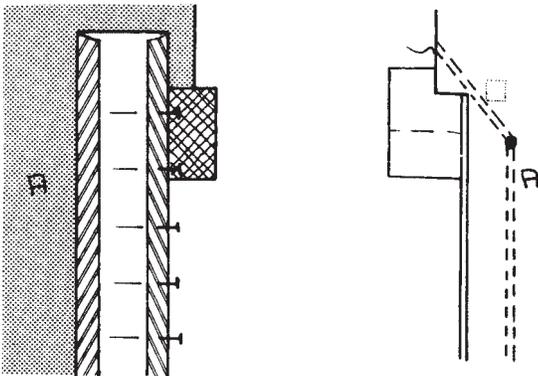
Stitch inside color to side slit, **using 1/2" (13mm) seam**. At top of slit, angle stitching from large dot past box. Press bias on stitching line toward outside, forming a small crease at angle.



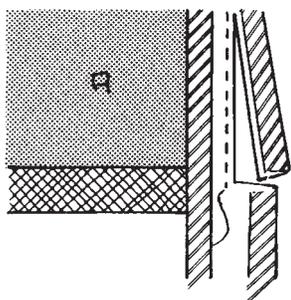
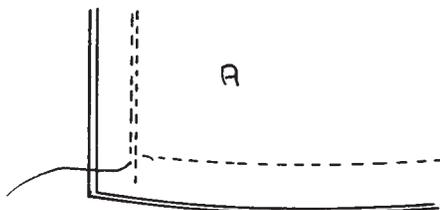
**OUTSIDE BIAS**

Use one continuous strip of wide bias long enough for both side slits and Back and Front hem. Begin at top of slit on one side.

To make angle at top of slit, pin outside bias over pressed inside bias as usual, and stitch on wrong side 1/16" (2mm) from previous stitching line.

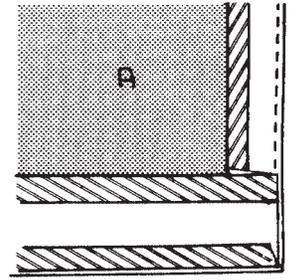


To turn corner, continue stitching side slit to 1/16" (2mm) beyond previous stitching line at bottom of dress. Backstitch a few stitches.

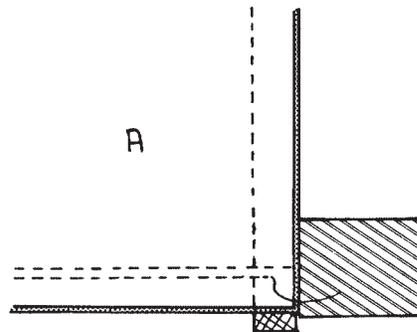


Keeping bias in one continuous piece, trim raw edges close to second stitching line, but do not trim beyond stitching (see drawing).

Pivot wide bias at corner to form a fold that lines up with trimmed raw edge of side slit. Edge of outside bias will line up as usual with raw edges of bottom of dress and narrow bias.

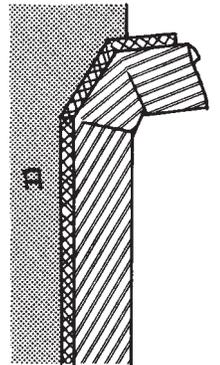


Turn to wrong side as usual, and stitch along bottom of dress 1/16" (2mm) toward raw edges from



previous stitching line. Stitch to 1/16" (2mm) beyond previous stitching line for side slit. Backstitch, trim raw edges, and turn corner as before.

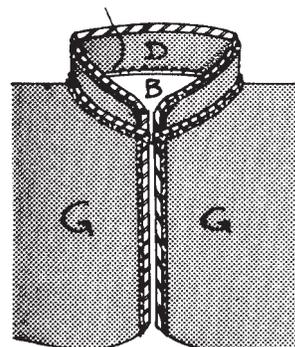
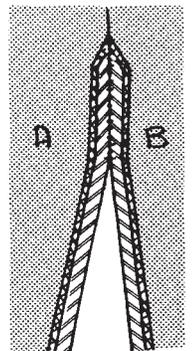
Press outside wide bias toward raw edges (making small creases at angles at top of slit). Fold over raw edges and slipstitch.



**Step Three: Finishing**

Complete garment construction.

Hand-stitch top 1" (2.5cm) of bias trim together at slits, for added reinforcement.



Whipstitch COLLAR to neckline, just inside bias trim.

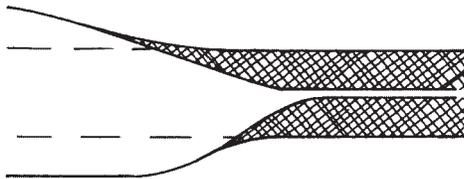
# SEWING GUIDE — CHEONGSAM WITH SINGLE BIAS BINDING

**NOTE:** Shading  denotes right side of fabric.

 denotes bias binding.

We recommend practicing the following technique on a scrap of fabric before beginning on the dress itself. Then continue to STEP TWO for specific instructions for each piece to be bound.

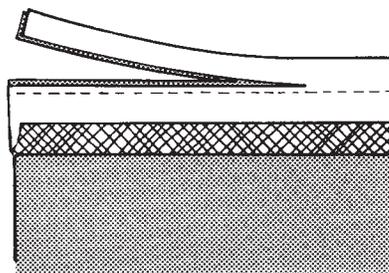
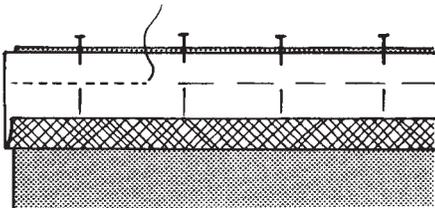
Use commercial 1/2" (13mm) bias tape, or make your own, as described above. To make your own, cut 1" (2.5cm) wide and press under both long raw edges 1/4" (6mm) as on commercial bias.



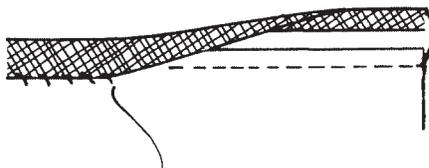
**Trim all seams to be bound to 1/4" (6mm). Do not trim if seam is 1/4" (6mm) already.**

## Step One: The Technique

Open up one edge of bias and pin to garment, right sides together, matching raw edges and 1/4" (6mm) seamline. Stitch along fold line of bias.



Trim bias and garment 1/8" (3mm) from stitching line, turn bias up on stitching line, fold over and slipstitch other folded edge over stitching line on wrong side of garment.



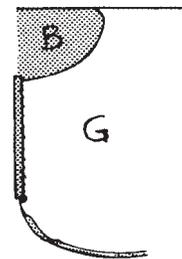
## Step Two: Binding Your Cheongsam

Apply trim in this order: 1) SLEEVE edge in Piece B/G; 2) FRONT curve on Piece A; 3) FRONT OPENING on Piece B/G; 4) Neckline, Piece B/G; 5) COLLAR, Piece D; 6) Hemline and Side Slits, Pieces A and B.

### 1) SLEEVE EDGE and 2) FRONT CURVE

No special instructions are needed to bind Sleeves and Front curve.

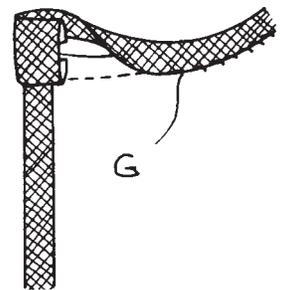
### 3) FRONT OPENING



On Front Opening, stitch bias trim to large dot. To finish remaining curved edge, press under 1/8" (3mm) from dot to side seam. Turn again and stitch.

### 4) NECKLINE

At ends of neckline, tuck raw ends of bias around Front Opening and whipstitch in place over stitching line.



### 5) COLLAR

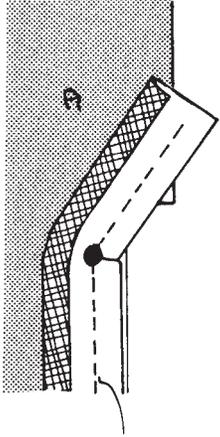
Collar should be interfaced. Use Pattern Piece D to cut interfacing. Stitch interfacing to Collar WITHIN 1/4" (6mm) seamline. Right sides together, stitch Collar to Collar Facing along notched bottom edge, on 1/4" (6mm) seamline. Trim seam, turn and press.

Apply bias to unnotched top edge of Collar, tucking under raw ends as for neckline to finish.

**See drawings above, in double-bound section.**

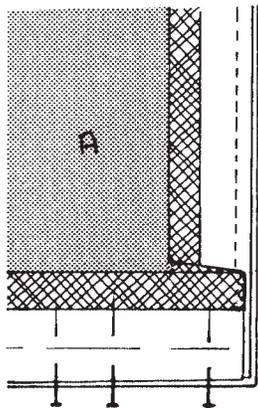
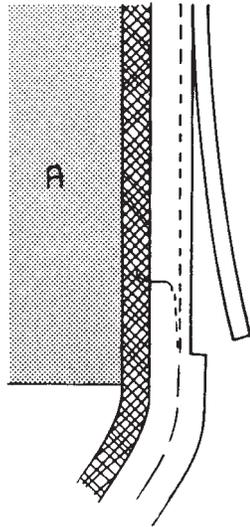
6) HEMLINE AND SIDE SLITS

Trim side slit seam allowances another 1/4" (6mm) (1/2" [13mm] total) from bottom of dress to box. Use a strip of bias long enough for hemline and both side slits of each Dress Piece, A or B.



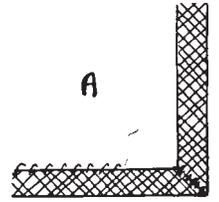
At top of slit, angle bias at large dot so fold follows angled stitching line past box to side seam of dress. Stitch on fold line, making a well-defined angle. Turn and slipstitch on wrong side, making small crease at angle.

To turn corner: Stitch to a scant 1/4" (6mm) of corner of garment, backstitching a little. Trim close to stitching line.



Pivot bias at corner from end of stitching to form a fold that lines up with trimmed stitched edge. Raw edge of bias will line up as usual with raw edge of bottom (or side) of dress. Pin.

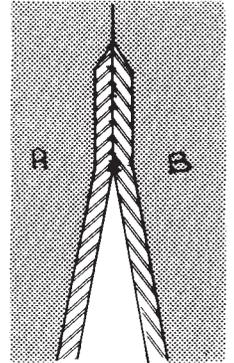
Stitch on fold line as usual, turn bias to inside and slipstitch, forming a neat corner.



Step Three: Finishing

Complete garment construction.

Hand-stitch top 1" (2.5cm) of bias trim together at slits, for added reinforcement.



Whipstitch Collar to neckline just inside bias trim.

