Fig. 48

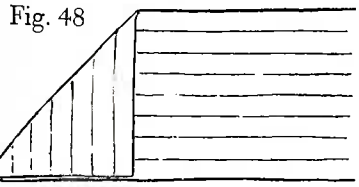

Figure 48—The true bias grain is found by folding a lengthwise thread to meet a crosswise thread. The selvage edge of the fabric is always straight, and before trying to find the true bias, the crosswise edge should be straightened *(see figure 6*, page 32). Fold one corner of the fabric so that the selvage edge (or a lengthwise thread) lies along a crosswise thread. A right angle is formed by the selvage. The long side (fold) of the triangle is the true bias. Fabric cut on the true bias can be curved or fitted more easily than pieces cut on the straight thread. For this reason, bias cut strips are frequently used for finishing raw edges. A bias strip may be made from self fabric, or bias may be purchased already cut and folded on cards. In this form it is usually known as bias trim *(see figure 52)*.

Figure 49—To cut bias strips, find the longest possible true bias *(see figure 48)*. Press along fold and cut along crease. This edge is a true bias edge, and strips are cut parallel to it. The width of the strip is determined by the width of the trimming or facing desired, plus seam allowances. When the bias strip is to be used for a facing (bias will not show on right side), determine the width of the facing and add ½″ for seam allowances. When bias strip is to be applied as binding over a raw edge (bias will show on both sides of edge). the cut width of the bias strip should be twice the width of the finished binding showing on the right side. plus ½″ for seam allowances. Mark off lines desired width away from the true bias edge and parallel to it. Mark with tailor's chalk, using a ruler or yardstick. Cut along these lines.

Fig. 49

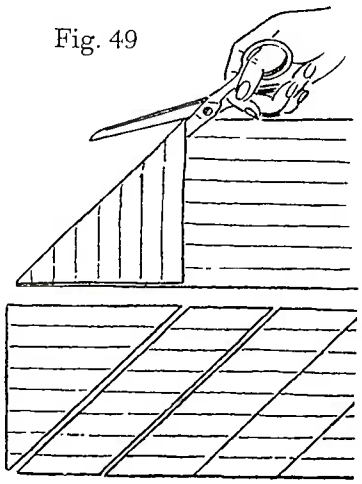

Fig. 50

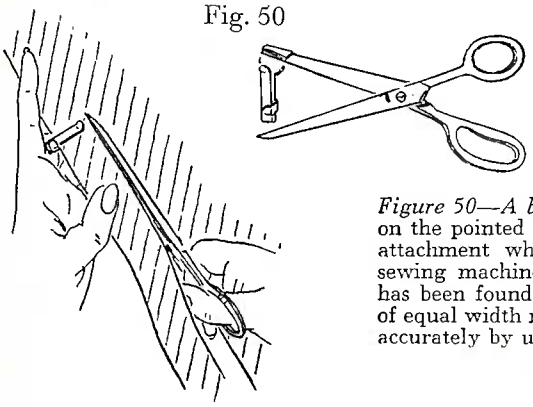

Figure 50—A bias gauge to be placed on the pointed edge of a scissors is an attachment which comes with some sewing machines. Once the true bias has been found, any number of strips of equal width may be cut quickly and accurately by using this gauge.

Figure 51—To join bias strips, place the straight lengthwise ends of two strips at right angles to each other, right sides together. The points of the angles should extend just enough at each end so that the bias edges meet exactly on the ⅛″ seam line. Baste the strips together and stitch with a ⅛″ seam on the straight of the goods. Be careful not to sew the lengthwise grain to the crosswise grain, but always match lengthwise to lengthwise and crosswise to crosswise. Stitch together enough pieces to make the desired length, following the rules given. Snip selvage edges (if there are any) to avoid pulled seams. Press seams open and carefully clip the small triangles extending beyond strip.

Fig. 51

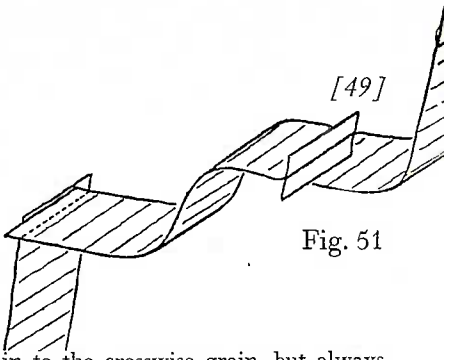

Fig. 52

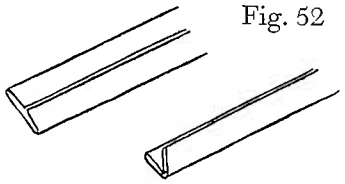

Figure 52—Commercial bias trim may be purchased already cut, folded and wound on cards. It is usually made in either percale or lawn. Bias trim is cut 1″ wide. "Single fold" bias trim has ¼″ turned under along each edge. "Double fold" bias trim is folded again through the center so that it is all ready to apply as binding over a raw edge.

Bias

Figure 53—To apply a bias strip as a binding, cut a strip as long as the edge to be bound plus 2″, to allow for a joining. If binding is to be applied to an edge (such as a neck edge) where there is a seam allowance, first trim seam allowance from edge. Place edge of bias strip against edge to be bound, right sides together. Baste to edge, shaping it if the edge is curved. Be careful not to pull the binding as it is applied, because the edges are easily stretched. To make a joining at the ends, *see figure 54*. Stitch ¼″ from edge (along fold on prepared bias trim). Press seam toward raw edge of bias strip. Turn under seam allowance (¼″) so that raw edge meets raw edges of seam. Baste fold to stitching line and blind hem *(see figure 30*, page 38) so that stitches do not show through on right side. This is known as hand felled bias binding.

Fig. 53

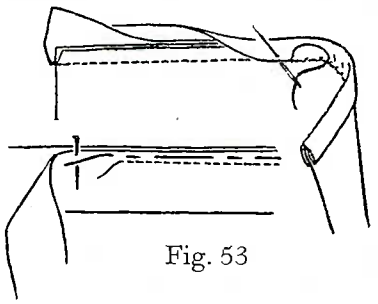

Fig. 54

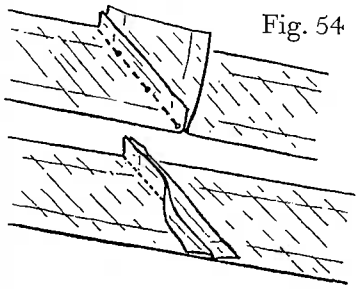

Figure 54—To join ends when applying bias binding, trim strip diagonally at beginning on the straight grain. In basting the binding to the article, leave this end free for about ½″ and stop just before reaching the end. Smooth out the binding so that it meets the other end and seam the ends diagonally on the straight grain of the fabric *(see figure 51)*. Press the seam open so that the joining is perfectly flat.