

Sue Kim

# Baby Boutique



• Shoes, Hats, Bags, Toys & More •  
16 Handmade Projects

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## *Dedication*

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To all my customers and sewing friends who have encouraged me to write this new book, thank you for the gratitude you have shown for my patterns and for letting me know of your heartfelt desire to craft handmade items. To you I dedicate this book.

# *Acknowledgments*

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During the process of writing this book, I was encouraged by my dear husband, who provided me with wise counsel; and by my three lovely children, Chan, Caleb, and Veronica, who are a source of much of my energy. I am grateful for my close and talented friend June, who helped me make all the samples for the book; for Calvin, who was always a tremendous help; and for Patrick, Betty, and Glenda, too. Finally, to C&T's Liz and Ann, I am grateful for all the helpful ideas and suggestions you provided.



# Introduction

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One of the most dramatic changes in a woman's life is becoming a mother. To remember, congratulate, and acknowledge this event with a handmade gift for the mother and the baby—what else could be more beautiful?

The inspiration for this book came from emails by my customers, friends, and fellow sewists. I have often been asked the question, “What is the best handmade gift to take to a baby shower?” or, “Are any good gift projects suitable for beginners?”

One thing that really surprised me was how many more people wanted to make and give handmade presents for baby showers than I had thought. I received many letters, emails, and comments on my website. Each and every one of these notes was precious to me. I felt the sender's heartwarming love for the baby and the parents. Knowing that my designs were helping to bring happiness delighted me. So, I wanted to do more.

I often found myself imagining going to a baby shower. What would I make as a gift? What kind of card would I send? How would I wrap the gift? No doubt, these are questions you too would ask.

I was getting more and more inspired, thinking of the many thoughtful souls who wanted to make handmade gifts for the baby and expectant mother. Baby booties, receiving blankets, dolls and toys, bibs, and more came to mind—and finally, my answer: this book!

But I couldn't stop with the handmade gifts. For me, when preparing a gift for someone, an equally important aspect is considering how to wrap it. Ideally, the wrapping should complement the gift. I try to avoid store-bought, single-use gift wrap; homemade, reusable wrapping is ideal for homemade gifts! Because of this, I have included a drawstring pouch pattern, designed for wrapping and packaging small items. You could also use the diaper bags to wrap larger gifts.

I hope you enjoy these projects.

# Basic Information

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## Sewing and Quilting Terms

### BACKSTITCHING

Sewing back and forth to secure the beginnings and ends of the sewing line.

### BASTING

Long, loose stitches to temporarily hold two or more layers together before sewing. The longer the stitch and the less tension between the stitches, the easier it is to remove the basting when necessary.

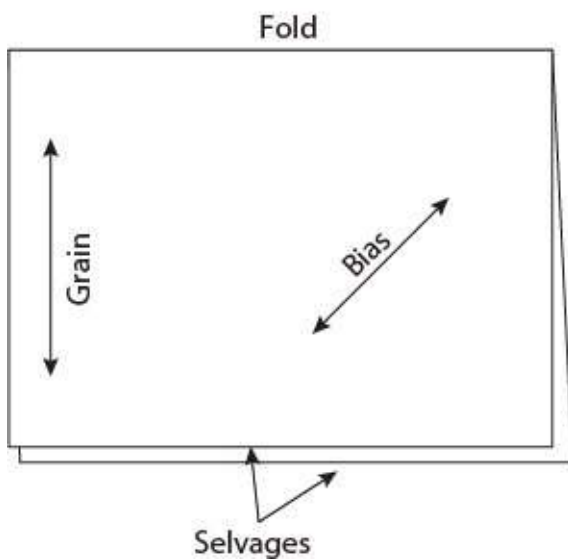
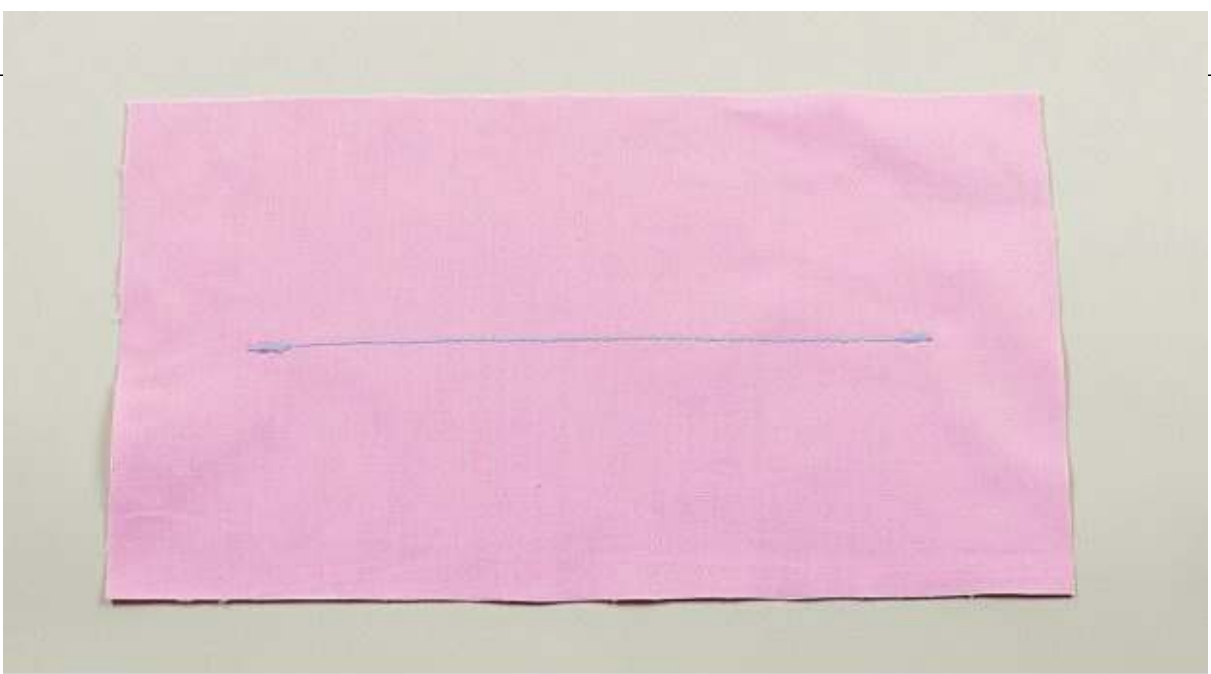
### BIAS

A 45° angle to either the lengthwise or crosswise grain of a piece of fabric. It is the most elastic direction.

### GRAIN

The lengthwise or crosswise direction of a piece of fabric.





## NOTCHING

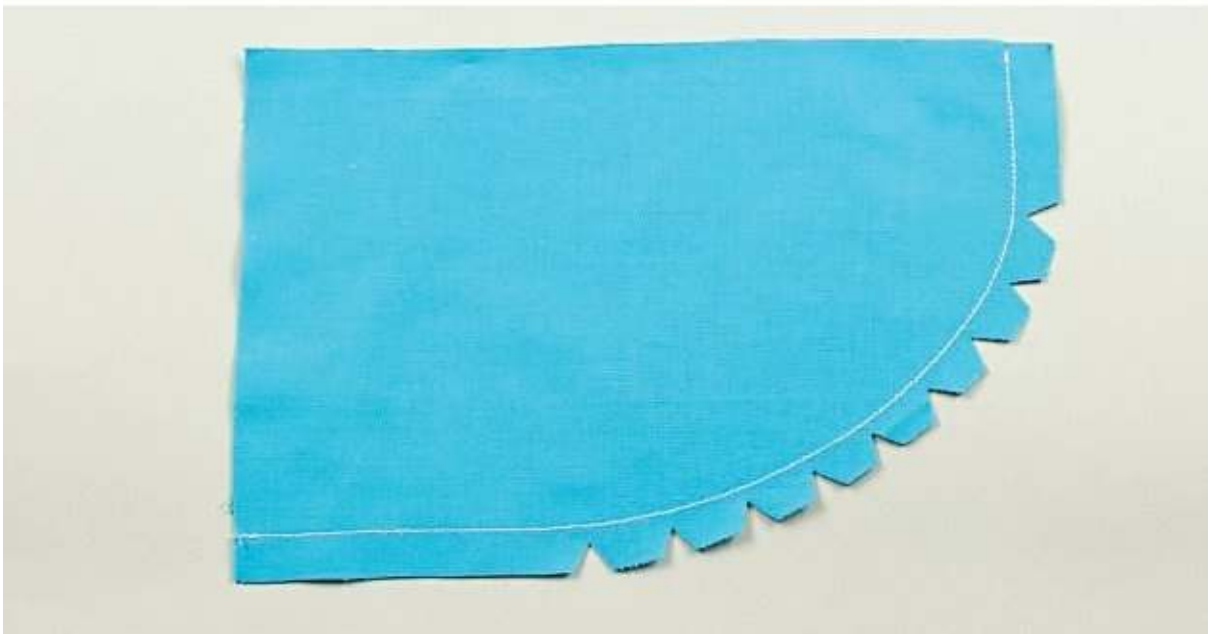
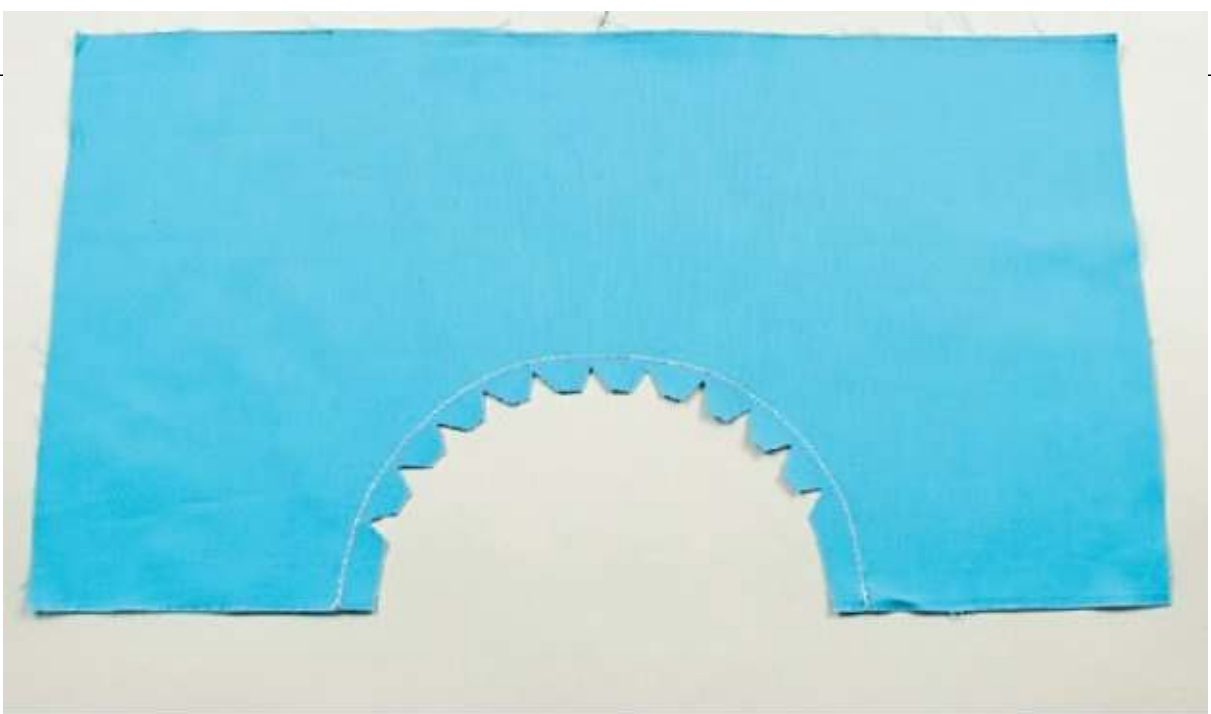
Making small V-shaped cuts on the inner (concave seams) or outer (convex seams) curves to help them lie flat when turned to the right side. Always clip within the seam allowance; do not cut the stitches.

## SEAM ALLOWANCE

The area between the raw edges of the layered fabric and the line of stitching. The width of the seam allowance may be different for each project.

## SELVAGE

The finished edge of the fabric, usually printed with the designer's name, the producer's logo, and the colors used for the fabric represented in numbers.



## SLIP STITCH

The hidden stitching used when sewing an opening closed. This type of stitching is used to secure layers together almost invisibly by hiding the stitches between the layers. I prefer to use a double thread.

1. Use a thread color that matches your fabric, or use thread that is a shade darker to hide your stitches better. Thread a needle and knot the end of the thread. Insert the needle into the fold of the fabric and pull the thread taut to hide the knot between the layers of the fabric. Put the needle into the folded area from the inside to the outside and then insert the needle into the other side of the folded opening. Insert the needle along the fold; it shouldn't be inserted in a diagonal manner as the thread will become visible later on.
2. Pull the thread, then insert the needle into the fold of the opposite layer of fabric, and pull the thread taut. Repeat this process until the fabric is closed. Knot or secure with several stitches, and

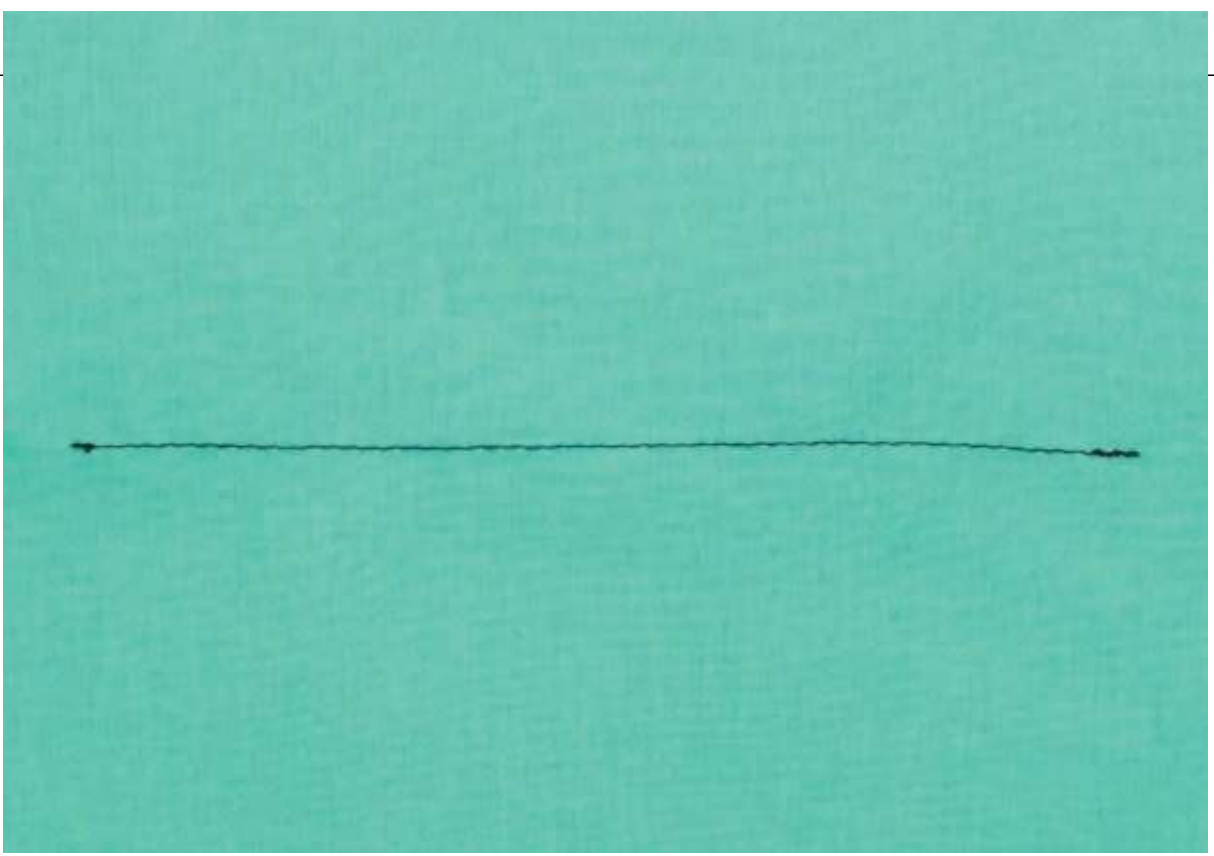
trim the thread.

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## **STRAIGHT STITCH**

This is the most simple and often-used form of stitching in sewing, also known as a running stitch.



## TOPSTITCHING

A line of machine stitching on the right side of the project used for reinforcement or decorative purposes. I like to use a fancy thread since it will show on the exposed side of the project.



# Techniques

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## *Applying Hook-and-Loop Tape*

Hook-and-loop tape can be used instead of magnetic or sew-on snaps.

Cut the hook-and-loop tape to the desired length. Separate the hook-and-loop tape and place one piece onto the fabric. Sew around the edge of the hook-and-loop tape, backstitching at the beginning and end. Sew the corresponding hook-and-loop piece where indicated.



## *Attaching a Label*

Applying a sewing label will result in a more personal project. Most commercial labels indicating the item is handmade are made of leather or cotton.

If the label is cotton, it can generally be attached in either of two ways. One way is to fold the edges under and baste or pin the label to the lining or exterior before sewing it onto your project. The other method is to sew the label to the lining or exterior after the project is completed. In both cases, be sure to use the same color thread as the label when sewing it together.

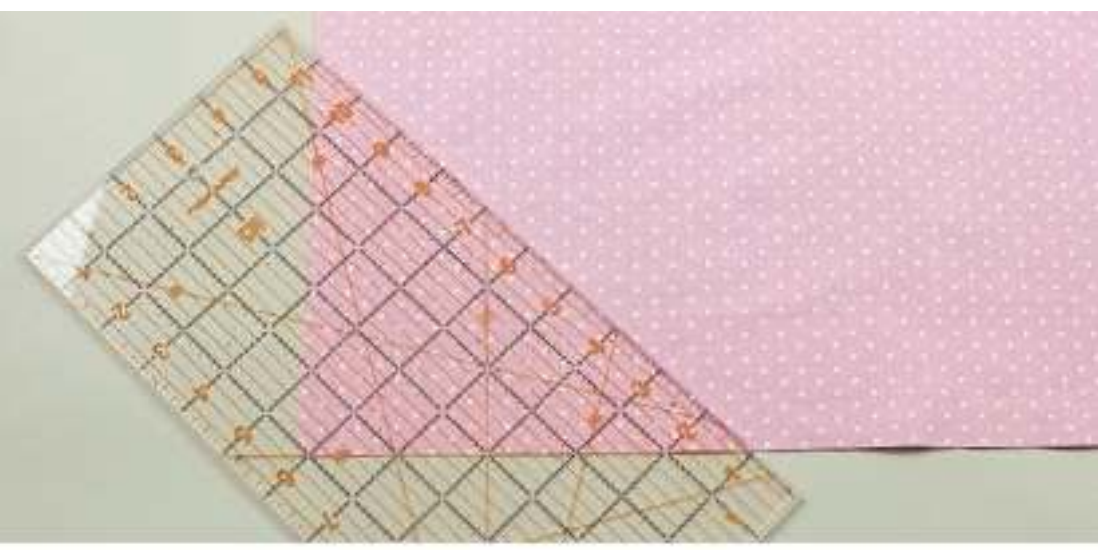


Don't have any labels? Consider using ribbons or your fabric selvages as a label. Cut off the selvages and keep them in a separate pile. Then you can use those saved selvages like a sewing label or ribbon as I used the ribbon on the Bird Rattle (see Adding Ribbons, [page 98](#)).



## Making Bias Strips

1. Using a ruler and cutting mat, cut strips as wide as desired at a 45° angle to the selvage.
2. Place 2 strips with right sides together, meeting in an L shape as shown. Stitch at a 45° angle so they will make a straight strip when opened up. Add more strips until you have the desired length. Press the seams open. Trim the “rabbit ears” (the little triangles that stick out after pressing a diagonal seam).
3. Press the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. Open and fold the sides to meet at the crease. Fold in half again and press.

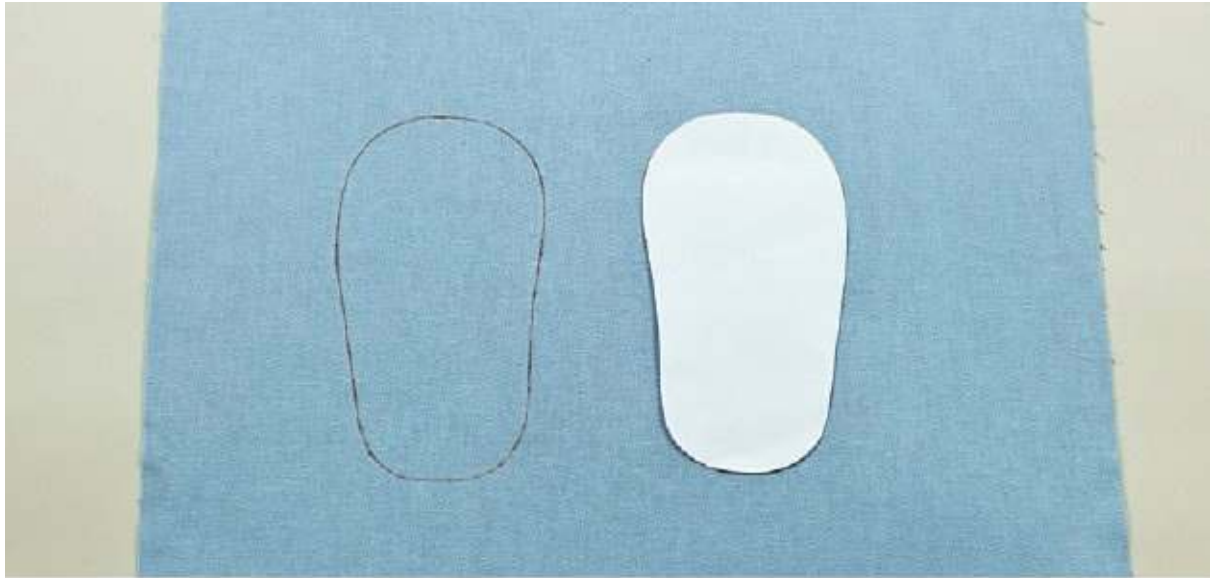




## *Drawing and Cutting the Shoe Pattern*

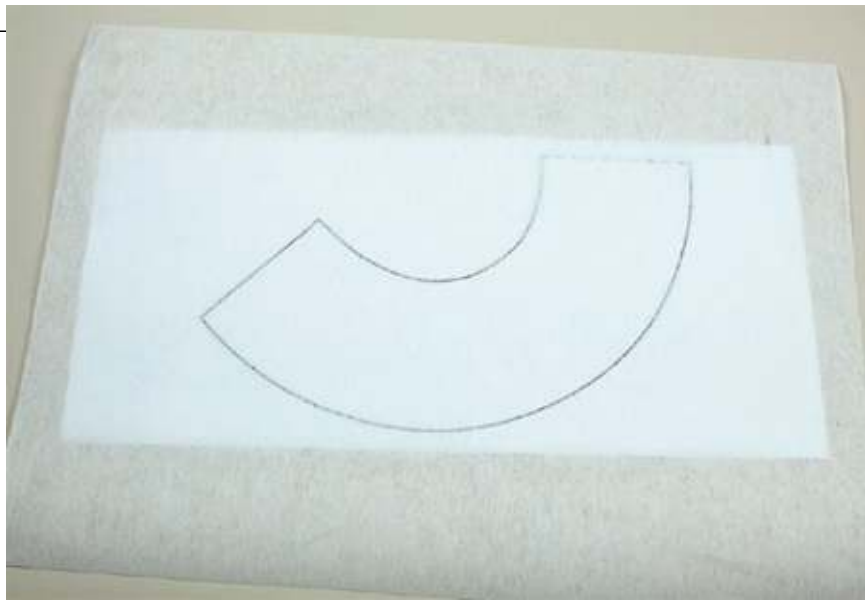
Draw the patterns on the wrong side of a single layer of fabric. When tracing, remember that you need a right and a left shoe, so you will need to reverse the sole and some upper patterns. Use resealable bags to store the right and left pieces separately. This will help you avoid confusion when you assemble the pieces.

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## *Tracing a Pattern*

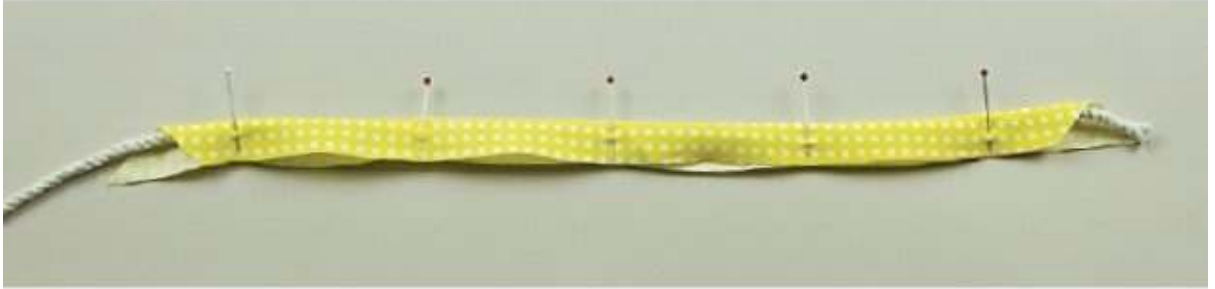
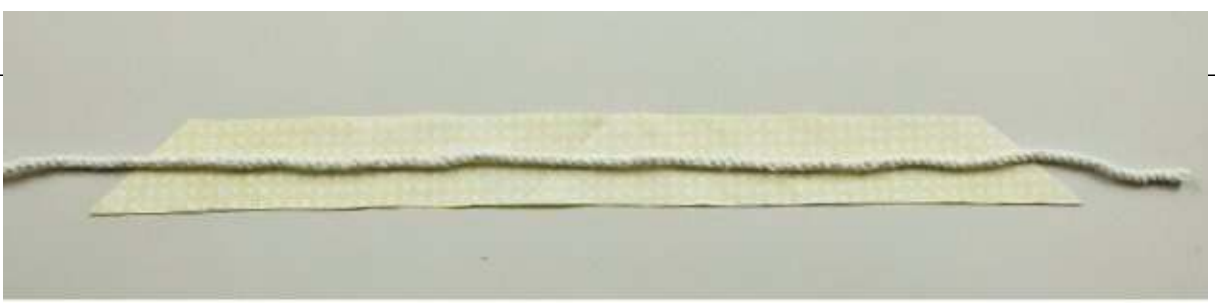
Place tracing paper on top of the pattern and hold the paper down with some sewing weights. Draw the pattern lines onto the tracing paper. During this time also write down the number of pieces to cut and transfer any markings such as darts. This will be convenient in the future because you won't need to refer to the instructions when making the item again. After tracing, copy it onto regular paper. You will use this regular paper as your pattern.

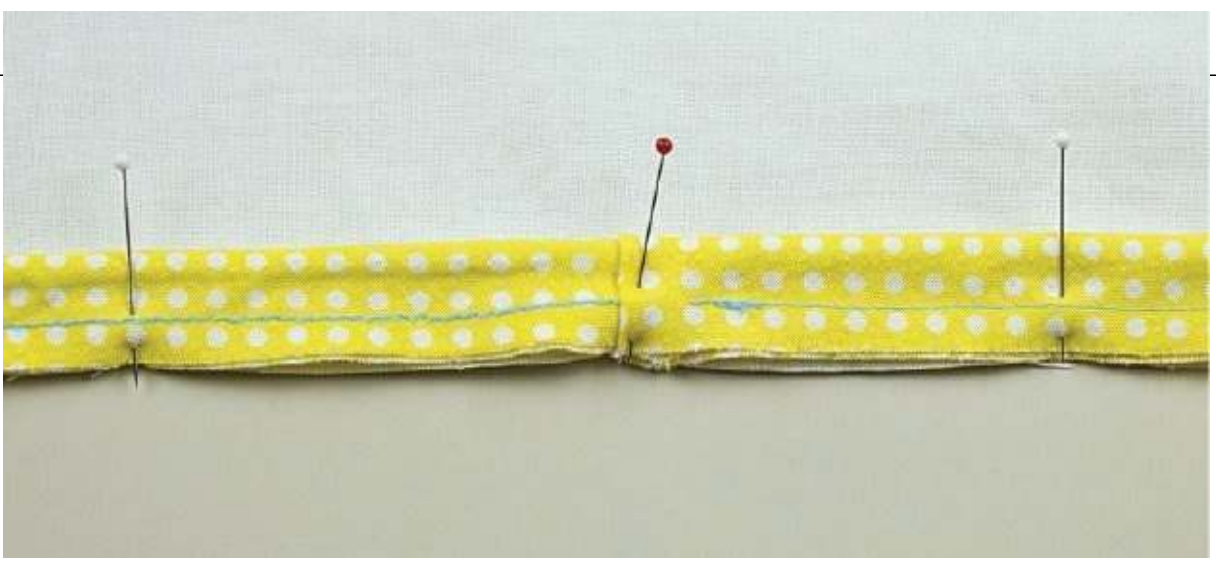


### *Making and Attaching Piping*

Piping is a form of decorative trim or embellishment that can be purchased or made by hand.

1. Cut and piece strips of fabric in the same way as described in Steps 1 and 2 in Making Bias Strips on [page 14](#).
2. Place the cord on the wrong side in the center along the length of the bias strip. Fold the strip in half over the cord and align the raw edges. Pin in place.
3. Sew very close to the cord using a zipper foot or piping foot.
4. When applying piping to a corner, position the piping on the right side of the fabric, aligning the raw edges. Clip the seam allowance of the piping at the corner, as shown. For a round corner, note the curved edges.
5. After adding the piping around the piece, to connect the 2 ends of the piping, cut 1 end and fold the piping fabric under  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Place the other end of the piping inside the folded edge. Pin in place and stitch.





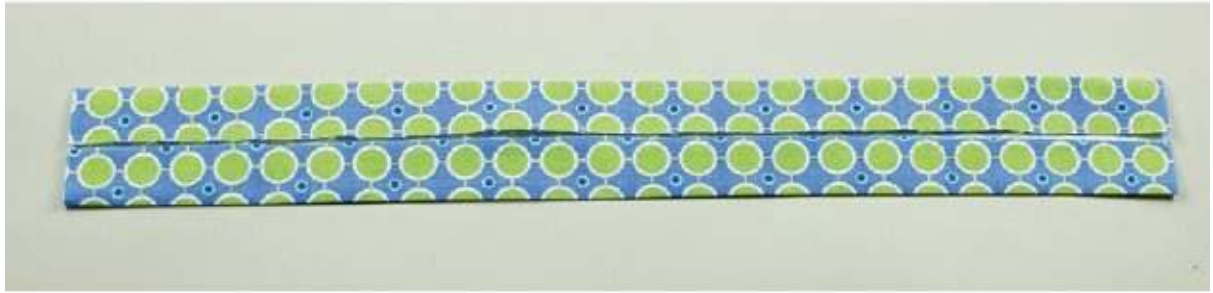
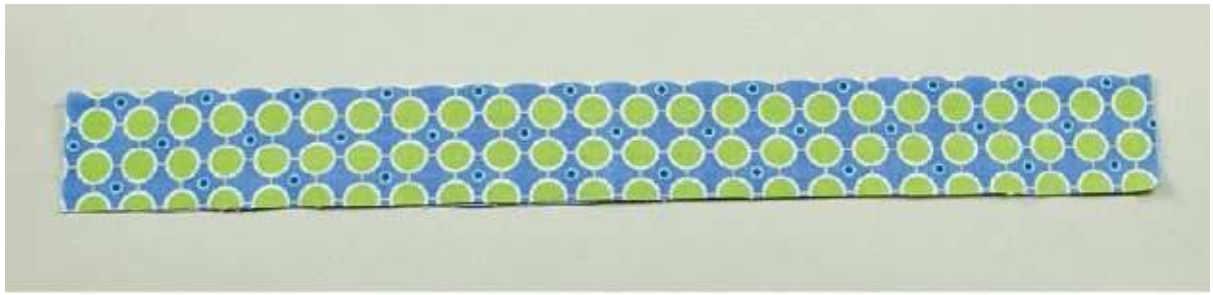
### *Making a Strap*

1. Fold the strap piece in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and press.

2. Open the strap and fold each side toward the center.

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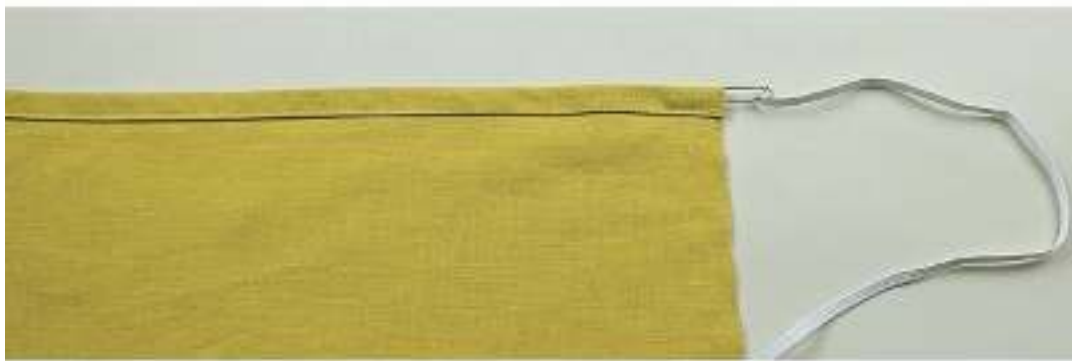
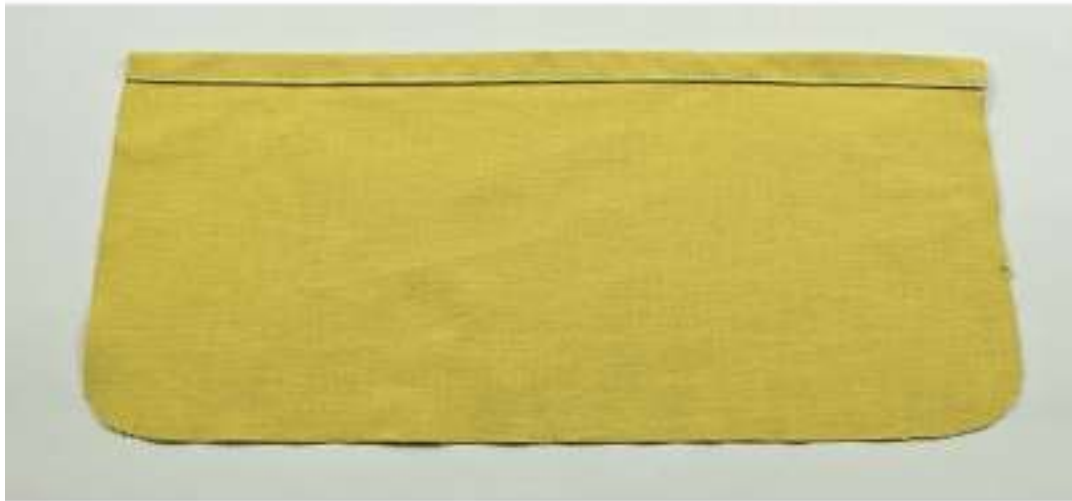
3. Fold along the center crease and press again.





### *Making the Casing for Elastic*

1. To create a casing for elastic, fold the top edge of the fabric piece under twice, following the project instructions.
2. Pin and sew along the fold line, backstitching at each end of the seam.
3. Attach a safety pin to one end of the elastic.
4. Insert the safety pin into an open end and work it through the casing.
5. Pull it through the opening on the other end, gathering the fabric.
6. Stitch to secure the ends of the elastic as directed in the project and cut off any excess.



## *Using Iron-on Vinyl*

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When making projects like baby bibs or bags, it is convenient to use waterproof fabrics such as oilcloth or vinyl. If finding waterproof fabric is difficult, using iron-on vinyl is a good alternative. Fuse the vinyl to the right side of the exterior fabric, following the manufacturer's instructions.

## Tools

### *Acrylic Ruler*

An acrylic ruler is a must-have tool when sewing. Acrylic rulers are used with a rotary cutter and cutting mat. Many different shapes and sizes are available. Choose a size that best fits your needs.

### *Chalk and Removable Marking Pens*

Many types of tools make removable marks on fabric. Although what you choose is a personal preference, removable marking pens tend to be more precise and detailed than chalk, which tends to draw thicker lines and to smudge.

### *Cutting Mat*

I recommend using a quilter's cutting mat designed for use with a rotary cutter. The cutting mat provides the user with various helpful lines and angles and therefore results in more precise cutting. The mat does not show any significant scratches or marks even after multiple slices and cuts with a rotary cutter.

### *Needles*

The two basic types of needles are hand-sewing needles and sewing-machine needles. Be sure to purchase high-quality needles. Lower grade needles ruin fabric with their poor points.

### *Pincushion*

A pincushion is helpful for placing pins and needles in one convenient area where they can be used and stored. Recently, magnetic pin dishes have become popular. However, if you are using a computerized sewing machine, you should keep magnets away from it, because the magnet may cause the machine to malfunction.

### *Pinking Shears*

Pinking shears are designed to cut fabric and prevent the fabric from fraying. Pinking shears can make notching smoother and faster since there is no need to cut each of the notches individually. With a seam allowance wider than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " , you may want to notch the fabric as well as pinking it to keep the seam from puckering.

### *Rotary Cutter*

A rotary cutter is a tool that makes cutting fabrics very easy and smooth. For best results, the user needs to put an even amount of pressure on the blade when slicing. This takes some practice, but after a few tries, it will become second nature and you'll have another great sewing skill.

When cutting fabric with a rotary cutter, try to cut away from yourself rather than back and forth.



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