

BIAS STRIPS

Make up bias strips as needed for the different sections of the appliqué using the following method.

Lay the piece of fabric for the bias strips out flat wrong side up and the shorter edge to the top and bottom. I chose fat quarters for this.

Pick up the bottom left hand corner and fold across to the top right hand edge. This will be a little down the side edge as fat quarters are not normally square.

Carefully turn the piece so that the folded edge is at the bottom.

CARE—This fold is on the bias so will stretch out of shape very easily.

Now cut bias strips about 5/8" wide, or size needed by your chosen method.

I use the **Clover Bias Strip Maker** 6mm or 1/4". This for me is the most simplest and you can get wonderful results. It is well worth the investment.

Method:

Feed the angled point of the cut strip into the bias maker until it just pokes out the end.

Lay this flat on the ironing board.

Hold the opposite end of the cut strip gently...do not pull out of shape.

With the tip of the iron gently push on the bias maker and push it backwards towards your other hand.

Hopefully beautifully pressed strips will appear from under your iron.

I then like to turn it over (raw edges down) and press well again.

Be careful with these strips as they stretch easily.

Hint: For wider Bias strips Clover make a range of different width bias makers. Clover also make an iron on webbing similar to Vliesofix that you can attach to the back of your bias strip to make placement ready for stitching easier.

Alternatively, you can make Bias strips with Bias Bars or by making a tube and turning it right sides out.

Position the bias strips on the appliqué background following the design on the pattern sheet. Use either the appliqué glue or appliqué pins to secure. If you have used the webbing, simply press in place. Appliqué in place using the appliqué stitch. Be careful to turn under all ends where they are exposed.

Hints for smooth bias strip appliqué are as follows:

* You will get a smoother result by stitching the "inside" curves of the bias strips first.

* You will only get relatively short sections of bias by using the fat quarter method. For longer continuous pieces use a larger piece of fabric in the beginning. You can seam fabric together but it is more difficult to get through the bias maker.

* Press all of the appliqué bias from the back of the piece being careful not to push the iron from side to side, but just press down. Pushing side to side will push the roll of fabric sideways.

* Form neat mitres where you have to make corners.

