

FRUGAL and thriving

striped santa stocking tutorial

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This brightly coloured, striped Santa stocking is fully lined with hidden seams. The outside edge is emphasised with piping.

I haven't included a pattern or specific measurements; instead you can customise the pattern to make the stocking in whatever size you fancy.

m a t e r i a l s

- Paper and pencil to draw pattern
- Variety of Christmas themed fat quarters (or a Christmas themed Jelly Roll)
- Fabric for backing, lining and bias binding
- Enough cording to go round sides and bottom of stocking
- Matching thread
- Scissors, iron, ruler
- Mat and cutter (optional)

* Prewash and iron material before commencing project (ok, I admit I skip this step, but it avoids shrinkage when you wash the stocking later on).

* If you're unfamiliar with fabric jelly rolls, they are usually made up of about 30 2½" x 44" strips of fabric packaged in a roll. Using a jelly roll will save you having to cut your own strips but restricts your strips to the width of 2½" or less.

* My finished stocking measures 10" wide at the top, 16" wide at the toe and 23" long with ½" seam allowances. A metre each of the backing and lining fabric was plenty. Sorry it's not in metric but as a quilter I find it easier to work in inches. If you want to make the stocking much bigger, then fat quarter strips won't be long enough and you will need to use wider fabric.

i n s t r u c t i o n s

1 . D r a w y o u r p a t t e r n

On a large piece of butcher's or tissue paper, freehand draw the pattern for your stocking a little bigger than you want it to allow for some seam allowance. Now, if you're thinking "draw? Me?" never fear, I can't draw, but this is an easy shape and it's not necessary to be perfect. Start lightly and rework your lines until you are happy with the size and shape of your stocking. Cut out your pattern.



2 . C u t a n d s e w y o u r s t r i p s

For the front stripes, you can either cut strips all the same width, or cut a variety of widths. In my stocking, I cut strips both 2½" and 1½" wide (with a ¼" seam this made strips of 2" and 1" inches respectively).

Iron and fold your fat quarters short ends together. Cut strips to the required width either with a rotary cutter if you have one or plain old scissors if not. Iron flat.



Arrange your strips to make an appealing design. I started with the middle strip and worked outward making a symmetrical design. When you are happy with your design, sew your strips together.



3 . C u t o u t t h e p a t t e r n

From your fabric cut:

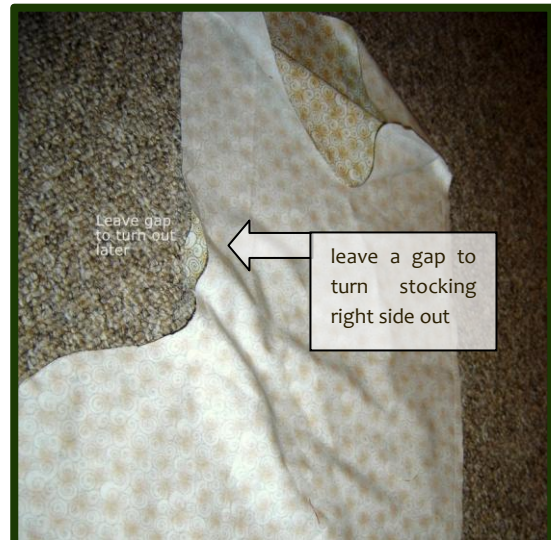
- **1 front stocking piece** from your pieced strips for the front
- **1 back piece** from a coordinating fabric
- **2 lining pieces** (fold the fabric in half when pinning and cutting the pattern to ensure the toe faces the right way when placed right sides together)

To get the strips going diagonally across the front stocking piece, pin the pattern at an angle on the fabric. The pattern can be pinned straight on the back and lining fabric.



4. Sew your lining pieces

With right sides facing, sew the lining pieces together using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, leaving the top open as well as a small gap in one of the seams to turn the stocking right way out. Leave the lining inside out.



5. Measure your cord for the piping

Lay your stocking out flat and run the cord round the edge adding an extra inch or so. Using a tape measure, measure the circumference of the piping cord and add an inch to determine the width of your bias binding. Anything less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ " becomes difficult to work with.



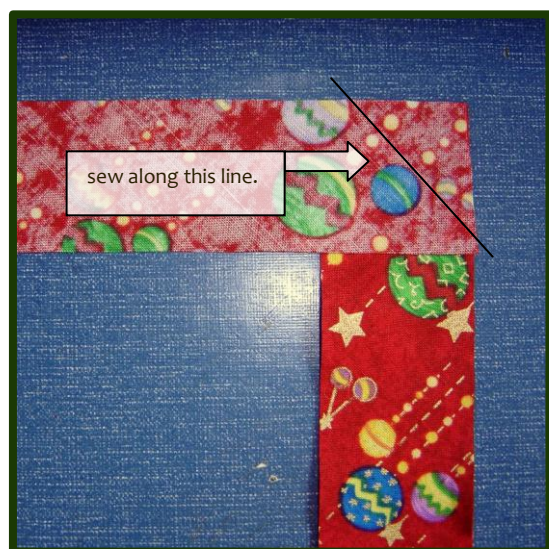
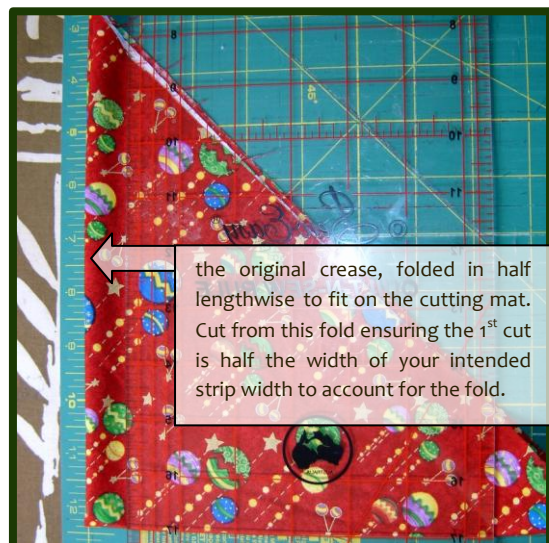
6. Make your bias strips

To make the bias strips, first fold the corner of your fabric down into a triangle shape (as pictured below) and cut off the excess fabric.

The fold is your 45° angle from which to cut your bias strips. If necessary, fold your triangle in half again to make cutting easier. Cut your bias strips the width calculated above starting at the fold. Don't forget, because the fabric is folded, the *first strips cut will be half the width* of your bias strips (once you open the fold it becomes the full width of your bias strips)

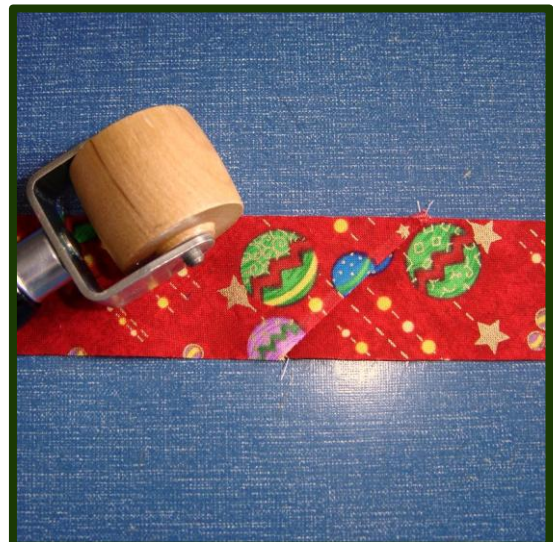
Once you have cut your strips, square off the ends.

To sew the binding together, place two strips together at right angles, right sides facing and sew on the angle from one corner to another.



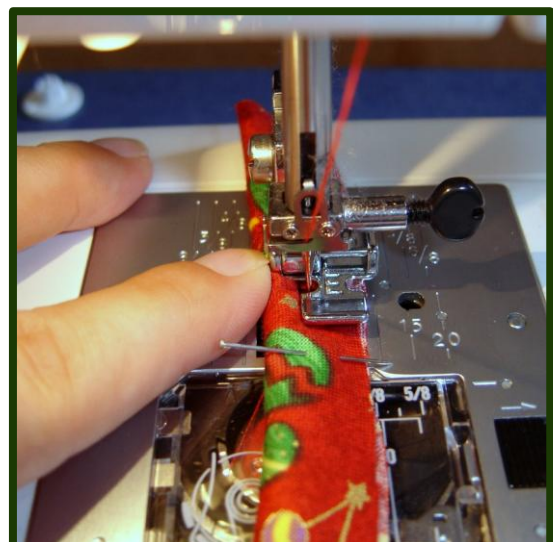


Trim and press the seams open. The groovy little tool is a seam presser, great if you do a lot of quilting. You will need enough bias binding to go round the edge of your stocking and some extra to go around the top of the stocking plus enough to make a loop to hang your stocking.



7. Sewing your piping

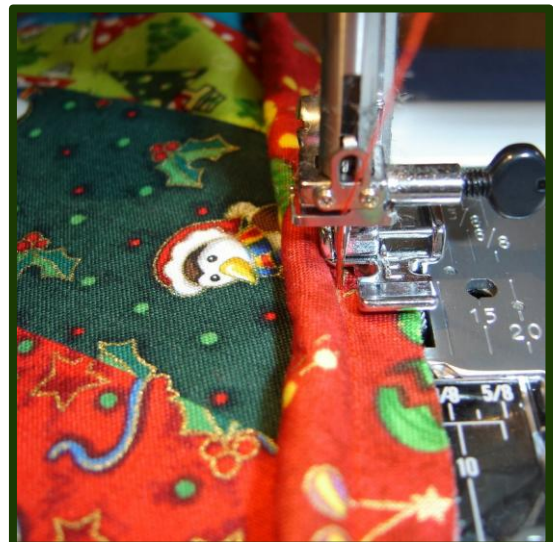
Using your cording as a measure, cut your bias binding to the same length, with a little extra for insurance. Sandwich the cord in the middle of the binding and pin. Using a zipper foot, sew along the binding as close to the cord as you can. Use your finger to gently press the cord towards the machine foot to ensure a close seam.



Pin the piping to the front piece of your stocking. You are going to sew along the same line as the one that secured the cording, so ensure that it is ½" from the edge of the stocking piece. If necessary, clip the edges of the piping to fit round curves.

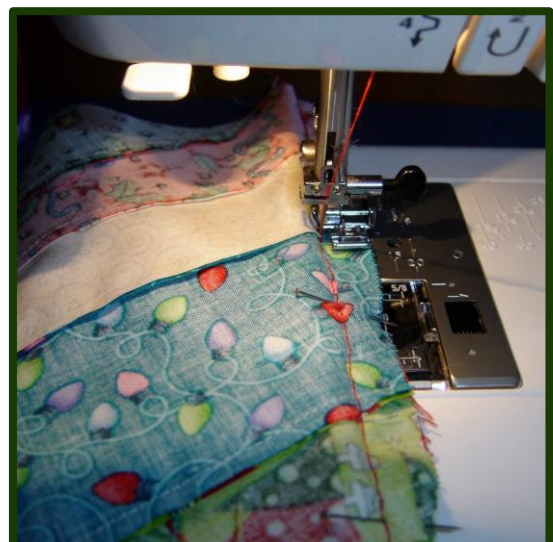


Attach the piping by stitching around the edge of the stocking piece along the same sewing line that encased the piping. Trim piping if necessary.



8. Constructing the stocking

With right sides facing pin the back of the stocking to the front. Still using your zipper foot, sew along the same line (for the third time) as when attaching the piping. Change back to your normal sewing foot.



Turn stocking right side out. Press and trim the top if necessary.

Place the outside of the stocking inside the lining, right sides facing, and sew along the top of the stocking.

Using the gap that you left in the side seam of the lining, turn right side out by pulling the outside of the stocking through the gap in the seam. Sew up the gap in the lining and push the lining inside the stocking. Press the top of the stocking.

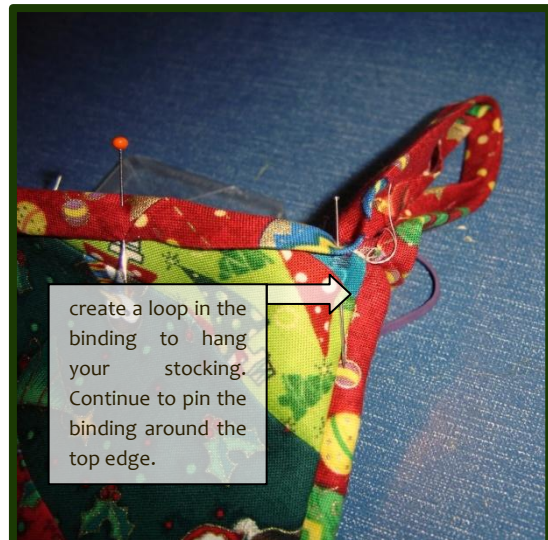


9 . A d d i n g t h e b i a s t o p a n d h a n g i n g l o o p

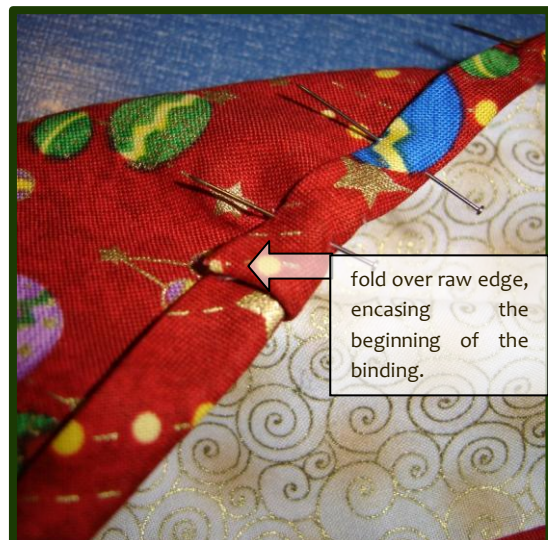
To make the binding for the top, take the bias strip that you have already cut, fold it in half right side out and press. Open the bias back out again and press each side into the middle fold as shown in the picture. Then refold the binding in half, pressing again.



Pin the binding around the opening at the top of the stocking, folding it over the top to encase the top edge. When you get to the piping on the heel side of the stocking, loop enough of the binding to use as a hanger and then continue to pin from the piping.



When you come back to the beginning, trim your binding so that it overlaps the start, fold the raw edge under and then pin down so that it encases the raw edge of the beginning of the binding.



Topstitch around the top of the stocking, securing the binding. When you come to the loop, keep stitching around the loop (the fold will be stitched closed) and then back to the stocking again (as pictured below). Backstitch a few stitches before and after the loop to secure firmly. Continue sewing around the top and back to the beginning again. Trim threads.





Your stocking is complete! Fill with presents and enjoy your Christmas!

