

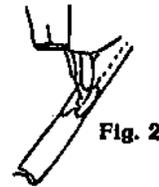
Bias Press Bars®

The original nylon Bias Press Bars® are flexible and heat resistant. With these you can press even the tiniest of bias tubing for r steams vines, and tendrils. These pressing bars will help you make stems and vines that will curve smoothly and lie flat, also great for Celtic and Stain Glass Appliqué.

To make your tubing, begin with a true bias strip of fabric. (Bias will always lay smoother and curve better than straight grain cuts) To cut a true bias, fold the fabric diagonally from the selvage edge toward the middle of your fabric, making a 45° angle. (See Fig. 1)

Press a crease on this fold line and cut along the crease. From this triangle cut a 1" wide strip from the bias edge. Fold the narrow strip in half, lengthwise, WRONG sides together.

With folded edge next to the inside edge of the presser foot, stitch a tubing of desired width. (From the fold to the needle will be the width of your tube. See Fig. 2.)



I like to mark the bed of my machine for the different widths of tubing. To do this, lower the needle of your machine, place the desired bar next to the needle, with a fine line felt tip marking pen, draw a guide line along the edge of the bar. I find the marking washes away with a bit of rubbing alcohol, but mine have been in place for a number of years. (I used red for my 1/4" tube, green for the 1/8" tube and black for the 3/16". You can put a colored dot on the end of the bar to help you remember)

After stitching, carefully trim excess seam allowance close to stitching, especially on the 1/8" tube. (I find using my ruler and the rotary cutter I can trim closer and straighter without snipping a seam thread.)

Insert a pressing bar inside the tube, push the seam allowance to the flat of the bar and iron with a HOT, DRY iron, (cotton setting on most irons) pressing the seam flat along the bar. (See Fig 3)



Dampen the seam allowance area with a small amount of spray starch. Do Not Spray the Starch on your fabric; spray a small amount into the lid of the starch can, and using a small brush dampen the seam allowance in front of the iron as you press. Allow the iron to work for you, giving it time to dry and set the seam before you continue down the length of the bar. (Spray starch is made of mostly water, the starch dries immediately, it takes a bit longer for the iron to completely dry the water content.) NEVER USE STEAM in your iron for this technique, you are quite likely to end up with badly burned fingers!

Carefully remove the HOT pressing bar and stitch you stem in place.

For more detailed instruction see "*Appliqué Can be Easy*" for fast easy hand appliqué techniques.