

and cotton the other or it may be a combination of silk and artificial silk.

Sometimes we prefer half silk materials for linings, etc., because it is cheaper and still wears well enough for the purpose. We may really want artificial silk for it does have a very high sheen and is made into very beautiful novelty materials. What the woman who is buying her spring or summer silk wants to know is: "Am I paying a pure silk price for pure silk; am I paying a pure silk price for adulterated silk which will not wear, or for mixtures which are not worth the money?"

Spotting of silk causes a great deal of trouble also. Do you remember the time you washed your first pongee dress, sprinkled it as any other garment and tried to iron it? It came out with an

exclusive design all of it own, much to your dismay. The spots stared at you from every part of the dress. What did you do? Take it to your cleaner or re- launder it yourself? Such spots can easily be removed by washing the dress again and ironing dry. These spots were formed by the hot iron unevenly melting the sericin which is not removed from the yarns in the pongees.

Then we have a different kind of spotting in the crepes and messalines, this is water spotting. It is not from excess sericin, but from the dressings which the manufacturers put into their materials. A drop of water or perspiration shows up very clearly and unless we test for water spotting before purchasing, we will be faced with the problem of what to do with our perfectly new

gown which is all spotty. Can we take care of it ourselves or shall we send it to the cleaner? The safest plan is to test our sample before buying and refusing to buy a silk which spots. If we buy a ready-to-wear why can't we test the seams by applying a few drops of water. If the sales woman does not permit this, then go to a more reliable place where the buyers know their merchandise and are not afraid to permit any investigation.

These are simple tests which any woman can make and in so doing assure herself of a better wearing quality of silk, one which is not adulterated, one which will not spot and which will give her the service she demands for the money. Just remember—all is not silk that rustles.

Make Your Own Bias Tape

By HELEN M. GREEN

DO YOU know how to make bias tape of the contrasting material with which you expect to trim your summer bungalow aprons and the children's school dresses?

We all know that the use of bias tape is an inexpensive and at the same time a neat way for finishing edges or decorating our clothing. It has a great advantage over a straight narrow piece of material for it will stretch and fit smoothly on curved edges of garments.

A method commonly used is to take a square piece of material and with a yard stick draw a line from corner to corner. If the bias strip is to be one inch wide the yard stick is moved back one inch and another line is drawn parallel to the first one. This process is continued until the corner of the square of material is reached. It is then cut in strips on the lines which have been drawn. There are disadvantages in making bias strips by this method. It takes a great deal of time to measure accurately and after the strips are cut they are in many different lengths. Much time is required to sew these strips together.

There is another simpler method of making bias strips which saves much time. A perfect square of material is cut diagonally twice which gives us four triangular pieces, Fig. 1. Two of the outside edges which we call the thread

tape gage for twenty or twenty-five cents. Slip this gage on the tip of one of the blades of a sharp pair of shears. The gage can be adjusted for different widths depending upon the width we wish to make our bias tape. The advantages of using this bias tape gage on the shears are that it holds the edge of the bias material in place and it is possible to cut the strip at exactly the same width without measuring it. Start to cut around the tube at the projection (A) and proceed until the entire cylinder has been cut into one long strip.

The next step is to make the strips appear the same as the tape we purchase. On a firm piece of material about twelve inches by twenty-four inches, draw two parallel lines three-quarters of an inch apart. Then make a "cat stitch" or "catch-stitch", Fig. 5, on these lines across the material, making sure that the end of the thread is firmly fastened. This line of stitches acts as a guide to fold the edges of the bias tape. Guides of catch stitching may be made of different widths, for example, $\frac{3}{4}$ in., $\frac{5}{8}$ in., $\frac{1}{2}$ in., $\frac{3}{8}$ in., and $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

With the aid of a ribbon leader draw the bias strip under the guide of cat stitching, making sure that the two edges are turned toward the center. One inch strips are used for bias tape which is one-half inch wide when finished. Press

the tape with a hot iron while it is under the guide of cat stitching. When the desired amount of tape has been made, always leave a piece of tape in the guide and the next time one wishes to make bias tape the strips are fastened together and quickly drawn through to save time in getting started.

A person who has never made bias tape in this manner will be surprised at the amount of tape one can get from a yard of material. A six yard bolt of half inch bias tape will cost twelve cents at the dry goods store. One yard of the same material costs thirty-five cents and will make thirty-four and one-third yards of bias tape, thus saving six cents a bolt.

There is another advantage in making bias tape in that it might be made of any color and any quality of material one might desire. Sometimes it is impossible to buy bias tape in the color one desires and one is able to purchase a piece of material of the correct color.

Colored bias tape may be used as a decoration on collars and cuffs, house-dresses, aprons and children's clothes as well as for finishing seams. Cross-stitch, feather-stitch or French knots of colored floss on white tape is also used as another form of decoration.

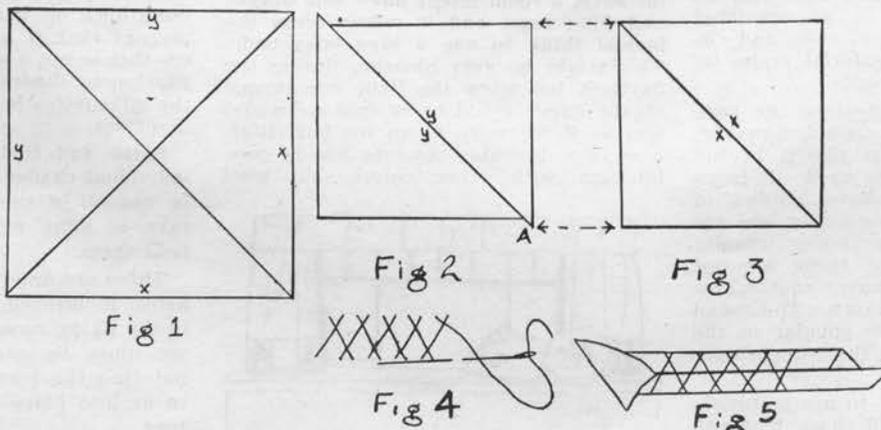
There are three outstanding things to remember in the making and using of bias tape:

It is a very inexpensive type of trimming.

It is very easy to use and gives a neat finish.

It is a very attractive type of decoration.

Unusual colors and figured materials as well as novelty goods, which cannot be purchased in the form of bias tape at any store or shop, can thus be made up into attractive and useful trimmings for summer frock.



At any store which sells sewing machines and supplies purchase a bias