

# Lingerie Secrets

## *“Working with Bias”*

### With Jan Bones

Excellence in Sewing

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# What is Bias ?

- True bias is a term used to describe a line that is at a 45degree angle to the straight of grain and selvage of a fabric.
- Bias is a way to create fabric movement, drape + fluid shaping.
- The shaping occurs because the lengthwise and crosswise yarns slide past one other, making the fabric have movement, that could even be described as stretch.
- Bias designs are often best to have simple pattern shapes.
- A simple A-line skirt pattern, normally cut using straight of grain, could have new grain lines drawn to create the bias cut.
- A complex design like a princess line dress may be best cut with the original straight of grain rather than bias.

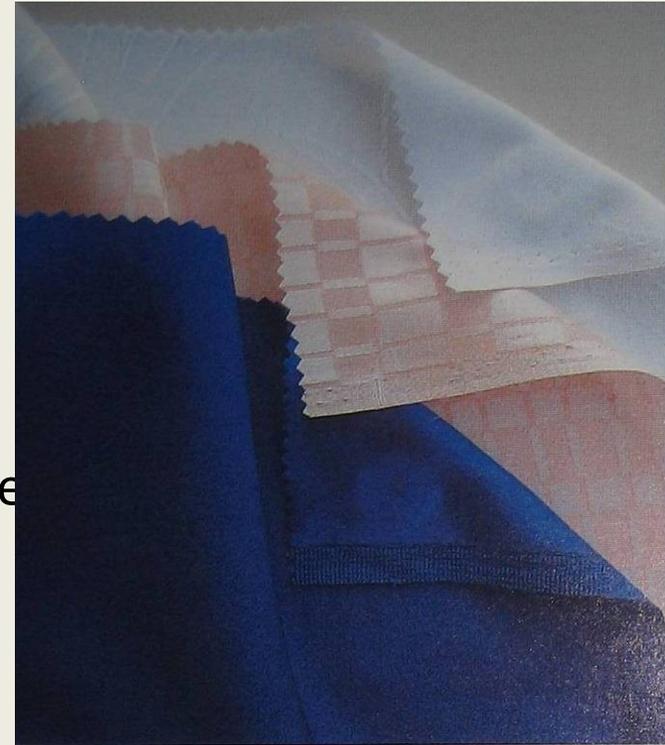


# Woven Fabric for Lingerie & Daywear



Woven fabrics have lengthwise yarns (warp) & crosswise yarns (filling). These 2 sets of yarns should be at right angles, or squared with one another. The edges of woven fabrics are called the

All woven fabrics should be straightened before layout of pattern pieces in preparation for cutting sewing. This straightening procedure enhances the hang & appearance of the designs you select.



## Woven fabric for lingerie & daywear

- Natural fiber fabrics, like cotton, linen and silk tend to be easiest to straighten.
- Synthetic fiber fabrics, like polyester may be more challenging .
- There are three ways to straighten woven fabric....



# #1. Straighten fabric ends by ripping.

Cut through the selvage edge & rip the fabric across it's width. Great for light weight, plain weave fabrics, like broad cloth, muslin & lining.

Some fabrics may pucker for a short distance beside the rip line.



## #2. Straighten ends by cutting on a visible line .

Plaid fabrics allow the perfect cutting line. This method would be selected for medium to heavy weight fabric that do not lend themselves to ripping.



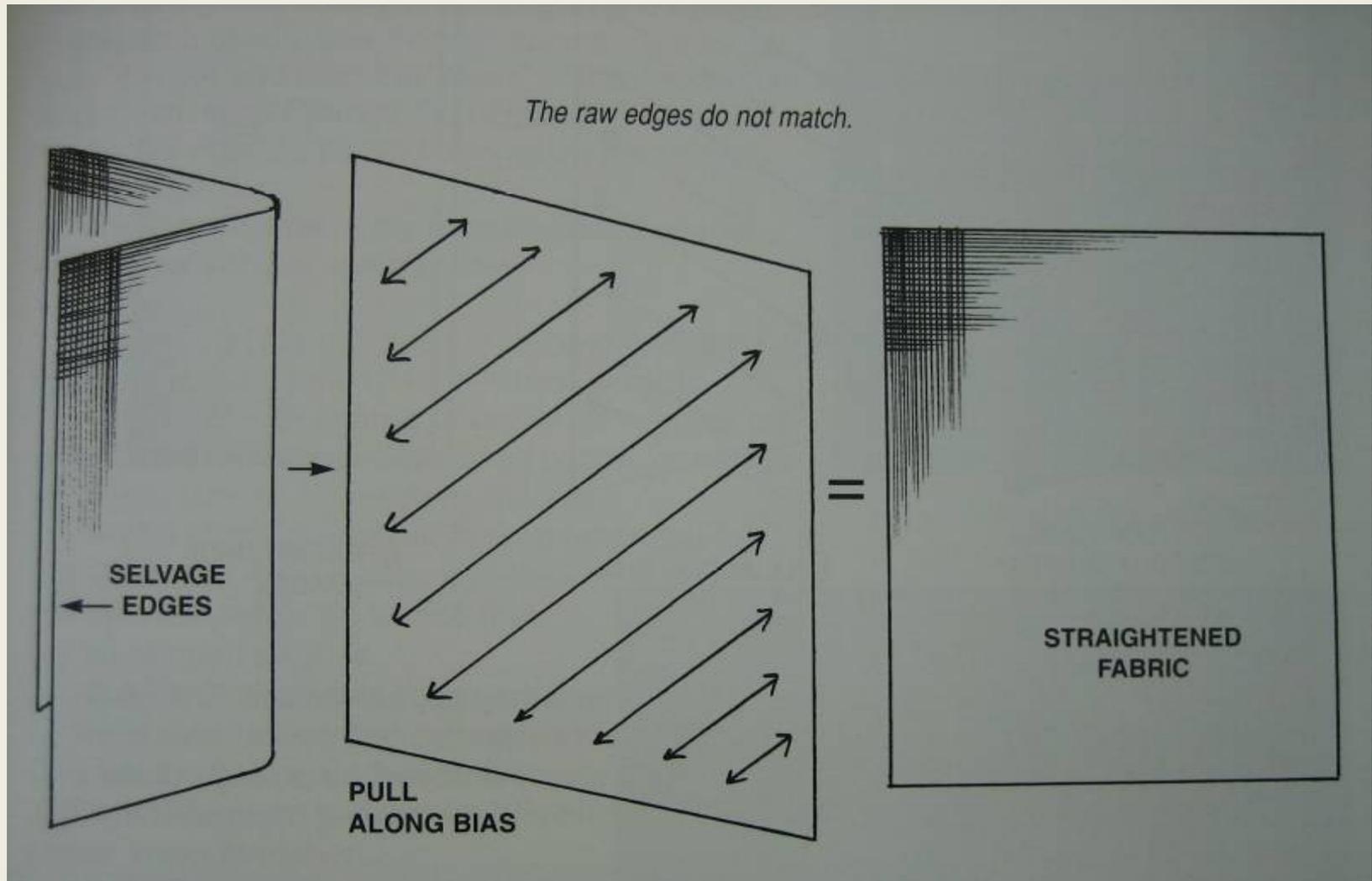
### #3. Straighten by pulling a thread & cutting.

Cut through the selvage, find one thread & then pull it gently to create a slight pucker. Use the pucker as the cutting line.

Use this method on fabric that would be damaged by ripping & that does not have a visible horizontal line for cutting.



**Check fabric grain:** Now that fabric ends are straight , fabric grain is checked to see if it is straight. Fold fabric in half & align selvage edges. Do the cut ends line up?? If not , pull on bias as shown.



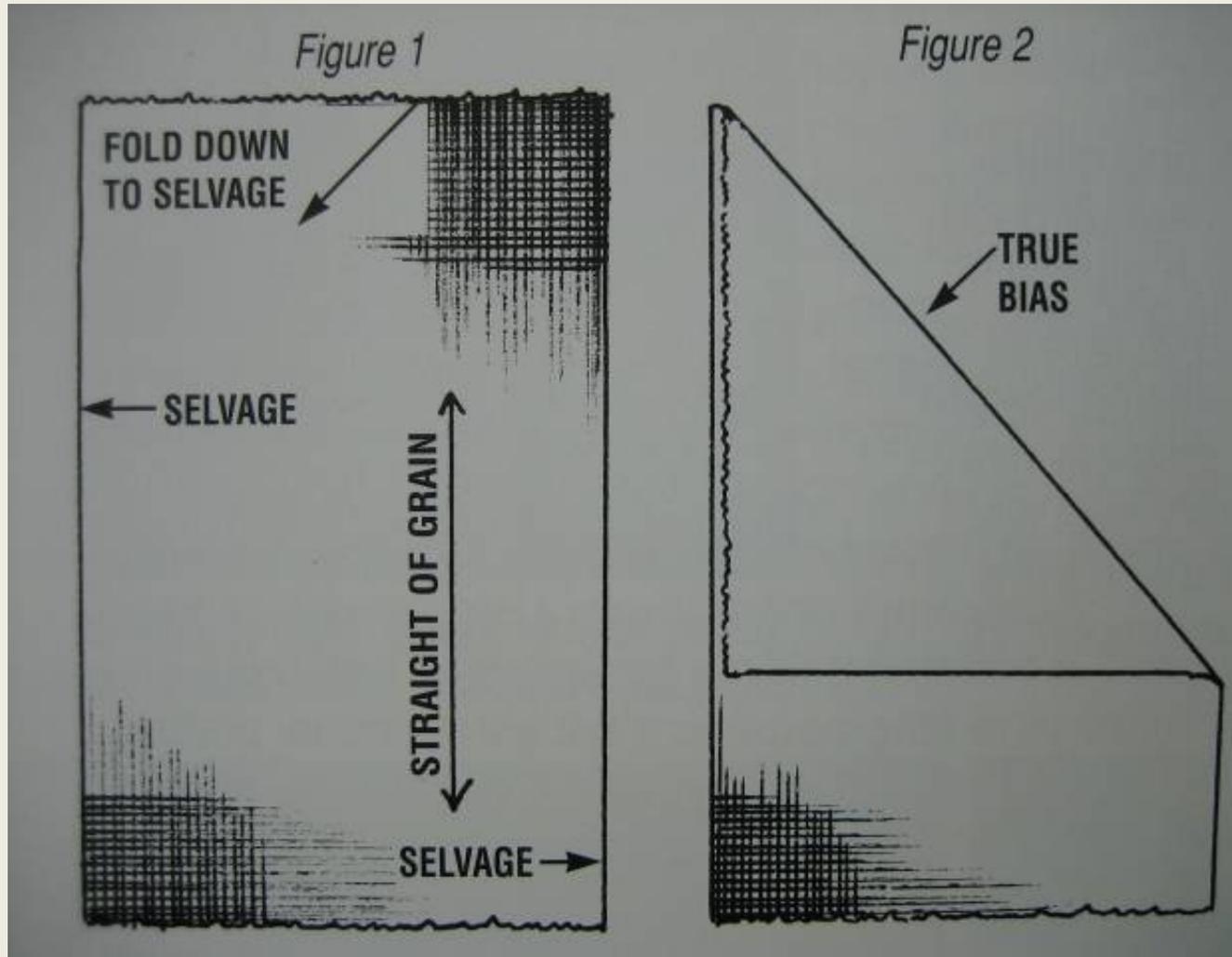
As described earlier, **True Bias** is a line that is at a 45 degree angle to the straight of grain line of a fabric. A simple way to find true bias is shown in these diagrams. Patterns designed for cutting on the bias will have grain lines drawn to be at a 45 degree angle to the centre line of the pattern.

Figure 2 is also valuable to know

if bias strips are needed.

Those strips

are often used for finishing or binding edges.





## **The Simple Bias Cut slip!**

100% cotton Batiste

2 side seams

Stretch lace at the waist

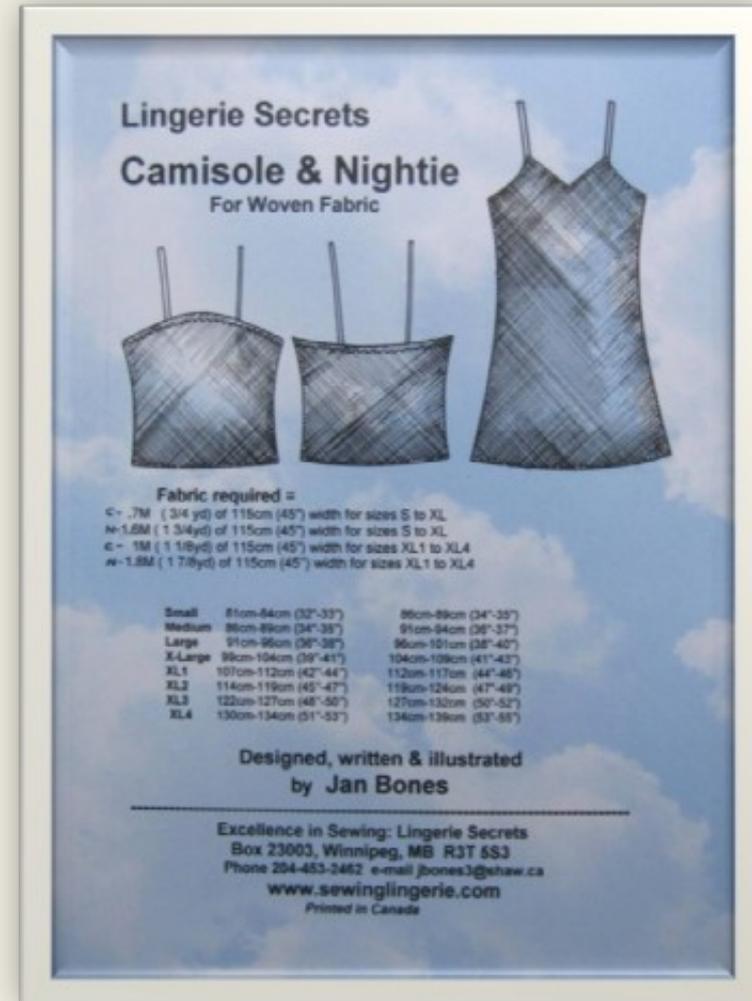
lapped lace hem.

Use your favourite shirt pattern  
& draw a new grain line for bias.

# The Camisole & Nightie for Woven Fabric:

A design shape that is the perfect example of why something 'simple' works well. This Pattern uses 'bias' for shape & fit.

Also, the front V neckline shown in the right hand diagram will always keep it's shape because it is cut to take best advantage of the stable straight & cross grain directions of fabric.



## The Single layout layout for Cami & Nightie for Wovens Fabrics

- 1.start with a folded piece of tracing paper,
- 2.place paper's fold to CF & then CB & trace desired size, mark grain line.
- 3.cut traced pattern & unfold to show full width pattern piece .
- 4.lay pattern onto single layer of fabric.

Note grainline placed parallel to selvage, white edge on right side of photo.

3 pieces are cut:  
front , back  
facing.



# Another layout example for Cami & Nightie for Woven Fabrics



# Camisole & Nightie for Woven Fabric ...

Self fabric facing is used for finishing neckline.

It allows for perfect shaping of peaks & valleys!

The facing is cut on same grain direction as front cami pattern.

The facing also encases the straps for a beautifully neat finish.



## **Ideas about Grain Details:**

Camisole cut in the bias

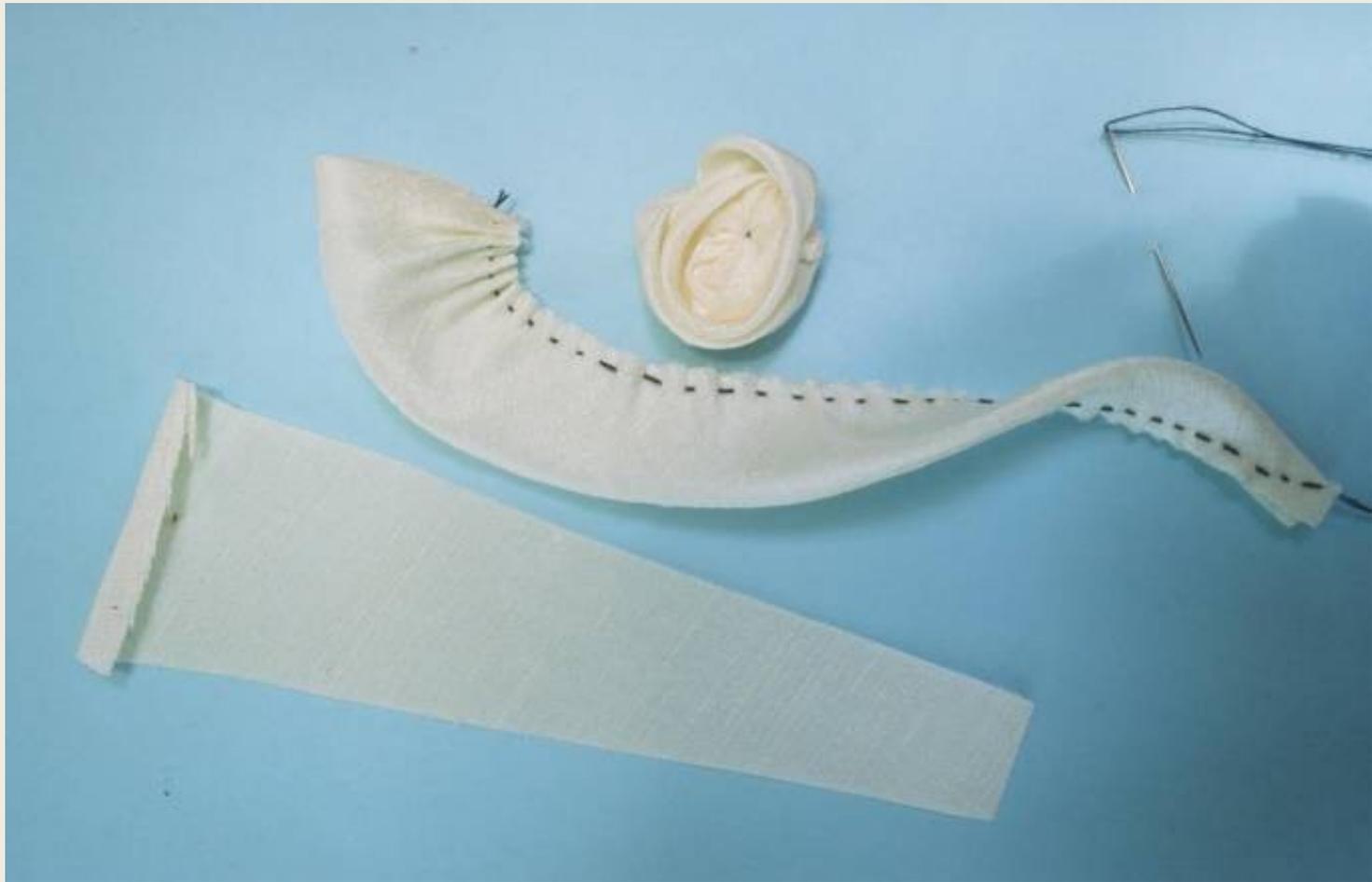
Facing cut on bias

Straps cut on straight of grain

Roses cut on the bias



**Roses:** cut bias strips of fabric approx 7" long and 2" at wide end and 1" at narrow end... Have fun

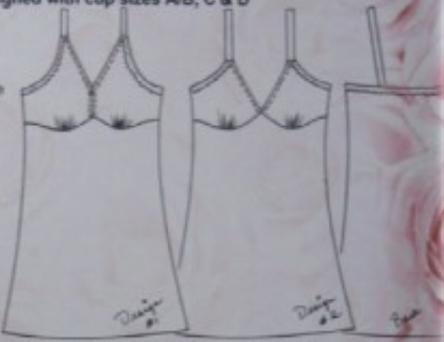


# The Empire Camisole & Nightie

This bias cut design hangs beautifully over the body, in any light or fine weight woven fabric. The pattern has a choice of 2 bodice designs & 3 different cup sizes, A-B, C & D. This allows for an excellent fit. As a special note, this pattern is also suitable for use with knit fabric with crosswise stretch.

**Lingerie Secrets**  
**"Empire Camisole & Nightie"**  
For Woven Fabric & Knit Fabric  
Designed with cup sizes A/B, C & D

This pattern features 2 V-neck designs for the fitted bodice, in cup sizes A/B, C & D. 1 Nightie & 2 Camisole lengths are included, elastic finishes back/side edges & unique strap detail is shown. For woven fabric, the design is cut on the bias. Knit fabrics with crosswise stretch are also recommended, single knits, rib knits, mesh, tricot, jersey.



**Fabric required**  
Camisole & hip length: 1.3M of 115cm (1 1/3 yd of 48") for sizes S to XL4  
Camisole & hip length: .8M of 150cm (1 yd 60") for sizes XL1 to XL4  
Nightie length: 1.8M of 115cm (2 yd of 45") for sizes S to XL  
Nightie length: 1.8M of 150cm (2 yd 60") width for sizes XL1 to XL4

	Bust	Hip
Small	81cm-84cm (32"-33")	86cm-88cm (34"-35")
Medium	86cm-89cm (34"-35")	91cm-94cm (36"-37")
Large	91cm-95cm (36"-38")	96cm-101cm (38"-40")
X-Large	99cm-104cm (39"-41")	104cm-109cm (41"-43")
XL1	107cm-112cm (42"-44")	112cm-117cm (44"-46")
XL2	114cm-119cm (45"-47")	119cm-124cm (47"-49")
XL3	122cm-127cm (48"-50")	127cm-132cm (50"-52")
XL4	130cm-134cm (51"-53")	134cm-139cm (53"-55")

Designed, written & illustrated  
by **Jan Bones**

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## Grain:

In this example of the Empire Nightie, pink rose trim is applied to the neckline.

The secret of this design is that the neckline edge is on straight of grain.

This allows for stable neck edge....  
And the bias cup area.

The opposite edge is the side of the cup that extends to the armhole. This edge is finished with Lingerie Elastic for a clean, lightweight finish.

The strap is made in self fabric, cut on the straight of grain. It will be smooth and stable.



# Bias Cut Designs from 'Lingerie Secrets' Patterns ...all are designed to fit bust sizes 32" to 54"

## The Bias Cut Lingerie Jacket :

this unique design has the front & back body pieces cut on the bias.  
It also has amazing bias cut sleeves for the ultimate in comfort. Think about a 100% cotton flannel, cut on the bias to create the Lingerie Jacket. The garment will have ease & some stretch because of bias!

Lingerie Secrets  
**"The Bias Cut Lingerie Jacket"**  
...is designed for woven fabric & a bias layout  
& knit fabrics with crosswise stretch.

The "Bias Cut Lingerie Jacket" is a slightly fitted design with only 4 pattern pieces. It has a variety of shaping choices, the comfort of bias or the softness of knit fabrics. Choose from a classic sleeve shape or a unique diagonally seamed sleeve with optional lace insert. A round neckline, a front bib insert & a graceful hem line combine to make this a classic design you will sew again & again.

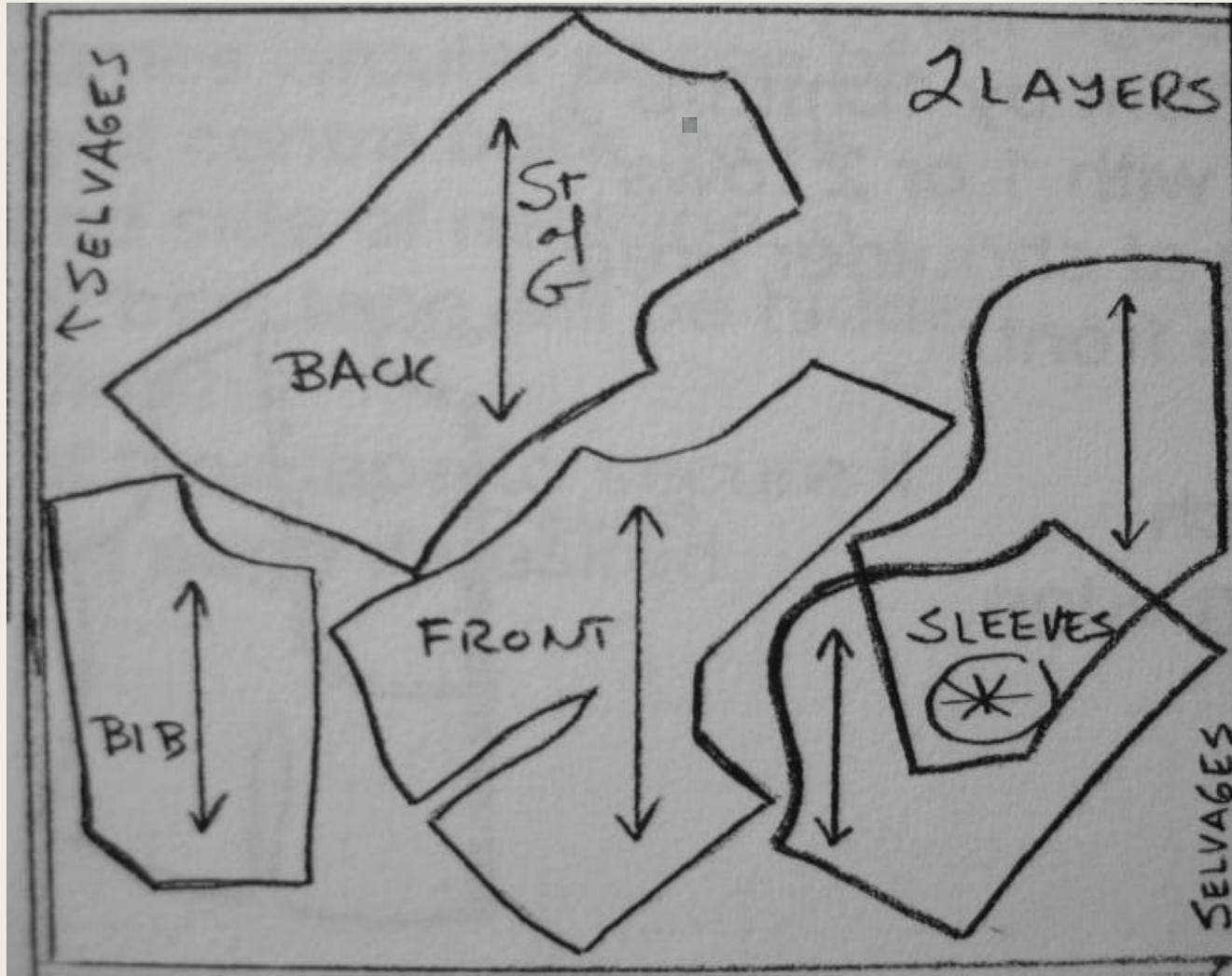
Note: Bust has approx 10"-12cm (4" to 5") ease.

	Bust	Hip	Fabric Required:
S	81cm-84cm(32"-33")	86-89cm(34"-35")	Using 150cm(60") width All Sizes: 1.5M (1 2/2yd)
M	86cm-89cm(34"-35")	91-94cm(36"-37")	
L	91cm-96cm(36"-38")	96-101cm(38"-40")	
XL	104cm-109cm (39"-41")	104-109cm(41"-43")	Using 115cm(45") width All Sizes: 2.5M (2 1/2yd) * 4 to 5 snaps or buttons (for neckline)
XL 1	107cm-112cm (42"-44")	112-117cm(44"-46")	
XL 2	114cm-119cm (45"-47")	119-124cm(47"-49")	
XL 3	122cm-127cm (48"-50")	127-132cm(50"-52")	
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**Layout on double layer of fabric** : this is done when 2 identical pieces of each pattern are needed and they are not on a fold. This pattern is Bias Cut Lingerie Jacket. Note 'bib' in lower left corner, it is cut on normal straight of grain. Also note 2 sleeve option from which to choose: one a classic shape & a second one with unique diagonal seaming.



**Seam Ideas for bias** : (WST=wrong sides together, RST= right sides together)

**1. 4 thread serge**



**2. French seam:**

- a). WST & sew scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam
- b). Press seam to one side
- c). RST & sew generous  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam
- d). Press seam to back of garment.  
All raw edges are hidden.



## More Seam Ideas:

1. narrow zigzag plus serge will give a strong seam ( Examples: lower right & dart in left photo)
2. narrow zigzag plus an overcast type zigzag to finish the raw edge is also excellent ( example: red thread)



## Bias edges

The “Bias Cut Lingerie Jacket” Bib insert is on some degree of bias.

1. Press seam allowances around a cardboard shaper.
2. The bib insert will then be lapped onto the front & stitched into place.
3. Stitch from shoulder toward the bottom on each side.
4. Bias edges benefit from careful pressing for great results.



**Stabalize Necklines:** an interesting method is to zigzag over a heavy thread just inside seam allowance line on wrong side of fabric. Sew into heavy thread (ex. pearl cotton, buttonhole twist)at beginning & end of seam, so it will be permanent & stay in the garment forever!



In a finished garment, a bias tape finish could be used & it will stay smooth & unstretched because heavy thread is present, but hidden within bias binding.



**Bias Tape Finish for neckline:** cotton single fold bias tape may be purchased in a range of colours. Approx ½” to 5/8” width is best OR make your own with a ‘Bias tape’ marker. This allows use of self fabric to match the garment.



## Hemming Ideas: three methods to try:

1. **Lap lace** onto raw hem edge & multiple zig zag the layers together. The multiple zigzag makes a smooth finish with no puckering.
2. **Sewing Machine Rolling Hem.** The blue sample below & the right hand sample are both rolled hem. Use presser foot designed for this purpose. This is a smooth, narrow, clean finish for light weight fabrics.
3. **Serge, turn & topstitch:** serge raw edge, turn  $\approx$  3/8" to wrong side, press lightly & multiple zigzag 2 layers together. Keep a finger resting on fabric behind presser foot to prevent fa



**Buttonholes on Bias**: to maintain the drape of a bias design, interfacing could be added just to button hole locations , rather than interfacing the entire facing as we would do on many garments. Use a woven, non stretch fusible interfacing product & fuse it to the garment as shown in the blue sample.

When it is time to make buttonholes, they are sewn from right side of fabric, & for ladies, on right front garment piece. The interfacing will stabilize the area during wearing.





Sew buttonhole over a 1/8" ribbon : this method is a little crazy & yet in certain circumstances it is very helpful. Plan buttonhole location & work it over an 1/8" ribbon or strip of fabric. The ribbon etc cannot stretch & the bias area buttonhole will stay in shape.



Sew buttonhole.

Trim pink ends.

Cut buttonhole.

The blue sample

uses a strip of  
selvage self  
fabric for the

narrow strip.



**The Bias Sleeve of the 'Bias Cut Lingerie Jacket:** The bias cut sleeve has a seam that is on straight of grain & it has a v shaped vent at it's hem edge.



**Lace insert on Bias Sleeve:** the lace is pinned to WS of sleeve to fill the v shaped opening. Topstitch from RS to secure lace & trim excess lace away on WS. Idea: use lingerie lace or cotton eyelet.



*Thank you for inviting me to visit  
your wonderful group.*

*Best wishes to all,*

*Jan*