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## Continuous Bias Tape: 10/10/19 with CBTV Live

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### Chapter 1 - Continuous Bias Tape

#### Continuous Bias Tape

(upbeat music) - Hi, everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Thursday and I have a very special, really wonderful guest, Michelle. - Hi. - Who are you and what are you doing here? - I'm Michelle Musta, I'm a designer and a quilter and I was filming three classes this week and finished today, which was really great. - So exciting. - It was really fun. And we worked on a lot of bias tape this week, so I have a special method that I do, that I used to do with my Workroom business and I'm gonna show it to you. It saves fabric and time. - And we had started doing it for one of the classes and then I was like, wait a second, we should save this for the live audience because, of course, you guys are extra special to us and we like to give you special gems. So this one we're using a 14 inch piece of fabric? - [Michelle] We're using a 14 inch piece of fabric. I like to use stripes, polka dots and contrasting fabrics for my quilt binding because I think it's a little pop of fun. So this is a 14 inch piece of fabric and I'm just gonna cut it on a diagonal. (cutting) Always lock your rotary cutter. - [Faith] Once I kicked one that was unlocked. - [Michelle] So now you have your two triangles. This is going to go over the top right here. And we'll pin. So you see it forms like a little crown or a V. - [Faith] You have right sides together. - [Michelle] Correct. You're so observant. (laughing) I should have pointed that out. But that's what you're here to help me with, right? - [Faith] Exactly, just repeat the obvious. And could you make it with a smaller piece of fabric or is 14 inches about as small as you would go? - Well, I think if you made it with a smaller piece, you would have way too many seams. - Okay. - So I think you might even wanna do it a little bit larger piece because that would give you less seams and a little more bias tape. This actually will probably yield close to two yards. - Okay, that's a decent amount. - So then you take it to the machine. I don't usually sew standing up, so hopefully this will go okay. - [Faith] I'll spot you. - [Michelle] Yeah. (laughs) (sewing) - [Faith] And what kind of seam are you using with your seam allowance? - [Michelle] 5/8 inch. Could be 3/8, it doesn't really matter. I use a little bit of a liberal seam because you are going to have to press it open. You really need a nice crisp iron seam so it'll lay flat and won't have a lot of bulk on your seams when you do your tape. (sewing) So now you have what's called a parallelogram. I'm not really a math girl, but I was told that's what it was. (laughing) So I'm just going with that. We wanna open our seam, which I can open. - [Faith] And why is it important to press our seam open versus to one side or another? - [Michelle] Because then when you actually have your tape made, your bias tape open about quilt binding, you have way too much bulk on one side and it would show a bump. So it just looks a little more attractive, it's easier to sew. (ironing) Let me just move this a little bit out of the way. And our ruler. I usually use a marking pencil or, doesn't even matter if it's vanishing because we're actually going to cut on the lines eventually, but just for sake of being on film, or live actually, we're gonna use a fine-point marker so you can see and we'll do a two-inch tape. Is that right? I think so. Actually did 2 1/4. - [Faith] So whatever measurement you pick, make sure you remain consistent. - [Michelle] Stay with that. Just wanna make sure to get this right. So here you have your lines drawn and turn it right sides together. So you see you have the lines matched up here. You don't wanna do that. - [Faith] Okay. - [Michelle] What you wanna do is match them up and then move them one complete line over like this. - [Faith] So this is the part that's a little mind-boggling to me, but I trust you. - [Michelle] Oh, I hope so. - [Faith] Not to lead me astray. - [Michelle] So normally it'd be like this, you're gonna move it all

the way over to here. Because when you go to cut it, you're gonna need your first strip free. - [Faith] Okay. This is my favorite part of these projects, by the way. - [Michelle] You're gonna stick your needle in here. You want it to match up to your line on this side, that really important. I know it's a little bit fussy, but when you're finished, it'll be worth it. - [Faith] And bias is always a little fussy anyway. - [Michelle] It is. - [Faith] Bias tape. - [Michelle] Because it's stretchy. But it needs to be stretchy if you're going to go around a corner or curve. - [Faith] You are a corner queen. - [Michelle] I am, I don't do miter corners anymore on my quilts. - [Faith] You used to. - I used to, but they're just like, I'm kind of a perfectionist and I was just never happy with how they came out, so I had to make this app quilt, it was called a personal app quilt once, so it looks like an app on Instagram. So it had to have, yeah, so it was going and traveling in the show and so I made one and it had these curved corners and I was like pretty excited about that. - You're like, oh, this is better. - [Michelle] So here you have it. It's like kinda offset, so you can see when you start to cut, you're gonna cut and it's gonna keep going continuously. - [Faith] So first we sew? - [Michelle] Yeah, first we sew. You can kinda see these are lined up. Let me just make sure they're really lined up good. - [Faith] I felt the need to tell the people that you can do... (laughing) - [Michelle] What, you can do what? - [Faith] You can do mitered corners, you choose not to. - Yeah, yeah, I can do mitered corners. - Picasso can make a face, but he chose to go a little wild with it. - Correct, yeah. - I'm gonna call you the Picasso of mitered corners, Michelle. - Do you know, that's what I did for my honeymoon. We went to New York City to see the Picasso Retrospective. - [Faith] You're kidding me? - [Michelle] Yeah, that's what I did. - [Faith] Very auspicious beginning. - Well, I thought it was good. (sewing) Just make sure the bottom is pulled out. (sewing) So what happens? Have you ever tried to do a Facebook Live and just go terribly wrong? - [Faith] Mm-hmm, oh, sure. - [Michelle] So that's what I'm hoping won't happen to me. - [Faith] One time I tried to put on face paint, but it melted under the lights. - Oh, my god. - So that's in the archives. It's no longer-- - But people still got to see it live? - Uh-huh. It was a long day. - [Michelle] Okay, so iron your seam open. - [Woman] Michelle, are you backstitching the seams? - I did, but I'm going to be cutting them off, so it probably won't matter, but you might wanna do that just to kinda secure that, if this is kinda your first try. - The question was are we backstitching at the beginning and yes, but it doesn't really matter. - So now-- - Moment of truth. - [Michelle] Yeah, yeah, this is a little bit scary. You see how it's laid out like this. - [Faith] Yes. - [Michelle] You can see they match up, the lines match up. - [Faith] I'm breathless with anticipation. - [Michelle] I'm a little nervous. - [Faith] You should be. (laughing) - [Michelle] So, okay, here we go. You're gonna just start by cutting along the lines. (cutting) I used to have to make yards and yards of piping, bias piping, for my Workroom business, so I used to make huge tubes of this, just cut and cut and cut and cut. So as you can see, my gosh, I did it right, it's working. I did practice before I came though. - I was asking you earlier, because I'm like a full rotary cutter convert, if this takes more time because you're using the hand scissors and you said not really. - [Michelle] No, it really doesn't. If you're going it the traditional way by cutting strips and then putting them at an angle and sewing them together on the diagonal, you still have to cut all the strips. I think you save a little bit more fabric this way. You know, personal taste. - [Faith] Well, and I wouldn't have guessed you could have get this much bias out of this little piece. - [Michelle] This little tiny piece, right? Yeah, it's pretty great. It's kinda like Quilt Magic. Well, I love bias tape. I think it really adds to, can really make it add to your project. - [Faith] I'm like at that advanced beginner's stage where the basics no longer mystify me, but the magic is the really exciting part. Like Anna Maria Horner showed us you can iron around, if you take a template and you wrap it in tin foil, then you can iron around it. - [Michelle] I didn't know that. Thank you, you'll

have to show me that afterwards. - [Faith] I will. It's on our Daily Challenge with her. - [Michelle] This was that last little piece that was left over. - [Faith] Holy smokes, come on. - [Michelle] Let's just see how much that yielded. This is 36 inches, so we have one, two, two-plus, 2 1/8. - From 14 inches. - Yes, from 14 inches of fabric. - I love it. - That's really pretty good. What happens if you use a bigger square, you'll have less seams. So say when you get to this part, we'll see, there's one that has a few seams that are kind of close together, so you can avoid that like this by just make a bigger square. So, then you're gonna use-- - [Faith] It looks so cool in the stripes. - [Michelle] Yeah, doesn't it? Isn't that like really fun? - [Faith] Yes. - [Michelle] So to make quilt binding, you would just fold it in half like this. - [Faith] Do you ever do binding that is not on the bias? No, because you do the curved corners. - [Michelle] Right, but if it's a really big quilt, what I do is I do a straight cut and I actually plan out my corner to be on the bias because you save so much fabric. Bias cut takes a lot of fabric. - Yeah, it does. - So say I'm doing a queen-size quilt, the whole side can be straight and then just the corner can be on the bias. Takes a little bit of planning, but it's-- - That's so smart. - [Michelle] And you know why we, this is a quiz, you know why we, quilt binding is doubled in half? - I just learned this. I've made maybe four quilts with it not doubled and just feel shame. But I am a shame-based learner. It helps me remember. Because the edges get the most wear. - Right, right. - So it needs the most amount of protection. - Right. And when you wash it and everything. If it's a quilt that will be a wall hanging or something like that, you really don't have to worry. And how about single-fold bias tape and all that, do you know how to do that? So we can show that on this end if you'd like. - [Faith] Oh, sure. - [Michelle] And there's some tools that you can use, but we don't happen to have them here, so I'm just gonna show you quick, so basically... - [Faith] And this would be more for a garment? - [Michelle] Yes, for a garment or you could do it for a wall hanging or something like that. Maybe like a little clutch that you're gonna use or a sewing tote or something like that. So, here's your single fold. - [Faith] I also, I hope that Tim is getting some action shots of this iron which has memorized and delighted the whole office. - [Michelle] Yeah, it's pretty cool. It's an iTouch Oliso iron, so when you let go it lifts up so you don't have to lift it up and down. - [Faith] I can't wait to use it. - [Michelle] So that's the single fold, and then when you purchase, because you can also purchase quilt binding and single fold and double fold, and when it comes in a package and it's double fold, it's like this. - [Faith] When was the last time you purchased bias or branding. - [Michelle] I don't remember. - [Faith] Yeah, old news. - And then one of the things that you can do when it's really fresh, you know what a wooden clapper is? It's like a sewing notion and it's just this long piece of wood and you can lay it on top and it will pull the moisture out of it and keep a nice crease. - That's one of those tools where you're like, I don't need extra stuff cluttering up my sewing station and then you use it and you're like, why wouldn't I do this. - I do see a lot of people, lately some of the garment sewers that I follow using the clapper quite a bit. - Yeah, for seams. - So it's kinda cool. - Should we show them that version too just for a different perspective. - [Michelle] Yeah, so I did the same method, but I used a black and white. I just love to use polka dots and stripes and something a little bit unexpected. And then some so think that fun print. - [Faith] And this looks a little bit smaller, so maybe this is two inches? - [Michelle] Yeah. I kind did a little, I thought I was doing two inches, but the ruler kinda (laughs) messed me up a little bit. - [Faith] That is really cool. I also like the ruler because it sounds like a robotic pet. - [Michelle] Yeah. (laughs) And it has a 30 minute shut off, so I can back and forth in what I'm doing. - [Faith] What is this wool pad you're ironing on? - [Michelle] This one actually is, I got from Mountain Mist. It actually has 90% wool, 10% polyester. It's called hydrophobic. - [Faith] Hydrophobic wool? - It's a hydrophobic mat and the reason is because a lot of people that use steam, some people don't use steam and water

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and all. A lot of people using pressing spray and a dry iron, so that's just their personal preference, but if you use a lot of steam, the 10% poly, it's hydrophobic so it like wicks away the water, the moisture, so it dries out quicker. - [Faith] Oh, very efficient. A good little size for-- - [Michelle] Well, this actually comes in a bigger one. It's die cut. So at home I have a giant one and this is the one I travel with. - [Faith] Oh, well I-- - [Michelle] So, anyways. - [Faith] I cannot wait to use this. - [Michelle] Oh, I'm so glad. - [Faith] I might call you, though. It's scary, the cutting part. - [Michelle] You know what, I'll leave you the step outs, extra step outs I have made and I'll do them all in a little row so you can remember. - You're so generous. Thank you so much and thank you for being on a live. - Thank you, it was fun, really fun. - And thank you everyone at home for joining us and we will see you, of course, next week. (upbeat music)