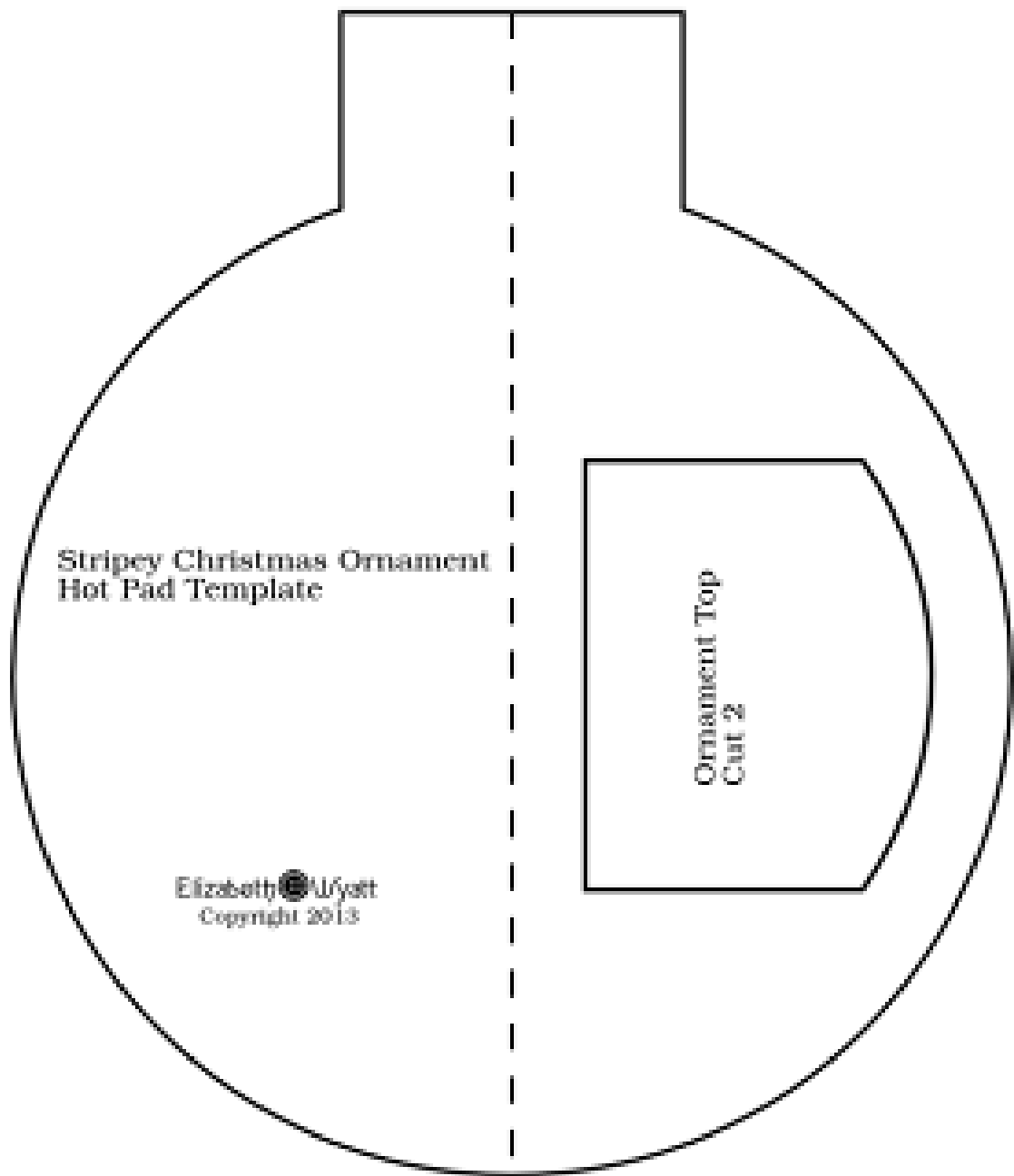


Stripey Christmas Ornament Hot Pad Tutorial



Here are the materials you will need:

- 12 strips in various fabrics for the top, 1 1/4" x 10" long (I used 7 different fabrics)
- 10" square of each:
 - - backing fabric
 - [Insul-Bright insulated lining](#)
 - cotton batting
- 24" length of 1/2" double fold bias tape (store bought or [make your own](#)) Look last page.
- 4" x 6" scrap of grey fabric for the ornament top
- 2" x 5.5" strip of grey fabric for the hanging loop
- Christmas Ornament Hot Pad pdf template and pattern piece - **click on the image below to download:**

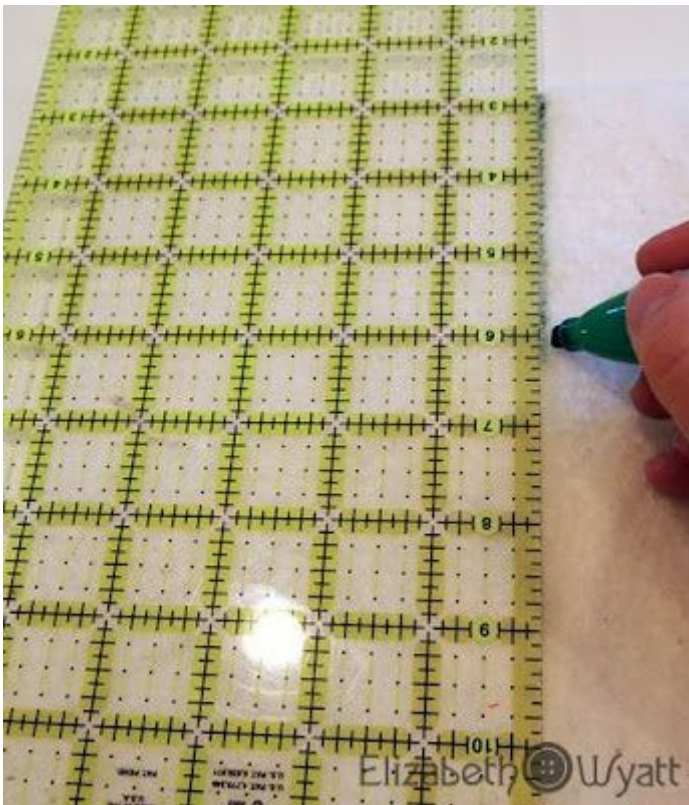


MAKE THE ORNAMENT BALL



Step 1: Stack the three 10" squares with the backing on the bottom, Insul-Bright in the middle, and cotton batting on top. Make sure that the shiny side of the Insul-Bright is facing up, toward the cotton batting and that the backing fabric is right side down, against your work surface.





Step 2: Draw a line from the top to the bottom of the cotton batting, 5 1/4" from the left edge. A Sharpie works great for this.

Step 3: Align two strips with right sides together and lay them on the cotton batting with their right edges even with the line you drew in step 2.



Step 4: Stitch through all layers along the right edge of the strips with a 1/4" seam allowance.



On my machine,
I reduced the pressure from
4 (normal) to 1.5



You may find it helpful to reduce the presser foot pressure for stitching through these bulky layers. If you have one, a walking foot is also helpful as long as you are still able to maintain the 1/4" seam allowance.



Step 5: Flip the top strip so that it is laying flat against the batting and press.



Step 6: Place your next strip face down over the strip on the right, with right edges even.



Step 7: Stitch through all layers along the right edge of that strip with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.

Step 8: Continue adding strips in this way until you have sewn on 7 strips.

Step 9: Flip your work around and continue adding strips to the left side until the batting is mostly covered and all 12 strips are sewn on.





Step 10: Print and cut out the hot pad template. Lay the template on top of your piece with the dotted center line matched up with the center seam of your strips.





Step 11: Trace around the template with a pen. I just use a regular ball-point pen. It will never show.





Step 12: Cut out the ornament shape along the traced outline.
(Ignore the line across the top in this pic - I was still experimenting on this one!)

And here it is all cut out.



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Step 13: Now it's time to add the bias binding. Unfold the bias tape so that you have a single layer of fabric on one edge.

Step 14: Align and pin the unfolded edge of the bias tape along the outside edge on the back of the pot holder with right sides together. Start pinning the bias tape at the corner where the square topper shape meets the round ornament edge, as shown below. Leave an unpinned tail about 1" long. This will be tucked under the top piece when you are finished. Continue to pin all the way around, ending with a free tail just like at the beginning.





Step 15: Stitch with a 3/8" seam allowance, beginning and ending at the first and last pins and back-stitching at each end of the seam.

Step 16: Flip the bias tape around to the front so that it covers the stitching line. Steam press to shape it as needed and pin in place. I forgot to take a picture after I'd pinned it down. Again, you will be starting and stopping the stitching at the corners where you did before. Just leave the "tails" of the bias loose.



Step 17: Working on the front of the pot holder, stitch the bias tape down, about 1/8" from the edge.



MAKE THE TOP AND HANGER LOOP

Step 18: Fold the 2.5" x 5.5" strip of grey fabric in half lengthwise and press. Open up and fold each edge to this center crease. Refold in half and stitch along the long edge.



Step 19: Using the pattern included on the template, cut 2 tops from grey fabric.



Step 20: Turn the curved bottom edges under by 1/4" and press.



This step can be a little tricky. To make it easier, you may want to sew some basting stitches along the edge with a 1/4" seam allowance. This will give you a nice folding guide.

Pardon the rumples along my stitching. My machine is not well.

Step 21: Fold the hanger in half with the two raw edges together. Place the folded hanger in between the two top pieces, centered on the top edge and raw edges even. Pin and stitch the three straight sides with a 1/4" seam allowance. Clip the corners.



Step 23: Turn the top right side out and press.



Step 24: Slide the top over the hot pad, tucking the bias tape tails inside. Use your fingers to make sure the top corners of the hot pad are flat inside the top and the bias tape tails are all tucked in. Pin along the curved edge to keep the top in place.



Elizabeth Wyatt

Step 25: Stitch through all layers along the curved edge of the top, being sure to catch the back layer in the stitching.





Elizabeth © Wyatt

How to use a bias tape Maker

Folding and pressing the bias strips to make bias tape can take a long time if you're making a lot of it. In order to make bias tape, you need to press the binding in half to find the center, then open it up and press both of the edges to meet at the middle. That's a lot of folding and pressing. But a bias tape maker can make quick work of it without singed fingers.



Keep in mind that bias tape makers come in different sizes, so it's important to use the right size bias tape maker for your bias strips. (I use and recommend [Clover bias tape makers](#). I have one in each size that they make.) I tend to use 3/8" binding for a lot of apparel sewing projects, and for bias binding that's 3/8" wide you'll use the 3/4" bias tape maker. (The width indicated on the bias tape maker package is twice the width of your finished binding, because you'll fold the binding in half again when you apply it. So for 1/2" binding, you'd use the 1" tape maker and 2" wide cut bias strips. Makes sense, right?)

The process is very simple. Once you've got your strips assembled, you simply feed one end of the strip into the wide end of the tape maker. It helps if the end of the strip is cut at an angle.



There's a little groove down the center of the bias tape maker so you can use a pin or bodkin to pull the fabric through the tape maker if it doesn't slide in easily. Then gently coax the strip out the narrow end of the tape maker and you'll see that the fabric is being folded as it passes through the tape maker.



I like to pin the end of the strip to the ironing board to get started. Then slowly slide the tape maker along the bias strip, moving your hot iron along with it, just a couple of inches behind the tape maker so you're pressing the folded bias as it emerges from the tape

maker. Once you reach the end of your ironing board, simply unpin the strip and shift the binding so you can fold and press the next section. Easy, right? With practice, you'll get really fast at this and your bias tape will be smooth and professional looking.



Continue to slide and press, and when you come to a seam, stop and coax the fabric into the tape maker carefully if it needs help. (It's best to keep the seam allowances open so the tape will be less bulky.)

When I'm finished pressing my bias tape, I like to wind it around a piece of heavy cardstock to keep it nicely pressed and ready for use. I usually make quite a bit of binding at one time so I have extra for other projects. Like for the fabric bunting I made for S's birthday party. If you make more than you actually need you'll slowly build up a stash of binding for those unexpected projects.



Instructions for applying the bias tape are included in most of our patterns, as well as in [my book](#). (I use a slightly different approach to sewing binding than most people.) And April wrote a really nice tutorial for us about [bound seams](#), if you're thinking about using bias tape to finish the seams on the [Secret Agent Trench Coat](#), the [Sunday Brunch Jacket](#), or any other projects without a lining.