



This tutorial will show how to take boning casing tapes out of strength layer fabric, using the pressing bar tool

This method can be used on many different fabrics and corset styles.

Boning tapes made with this method can be used as internal or external boning channels.

Tutorial sample is made using 200g cotton calico, 8 and 10mm wide spiral steel boning.



Making our own boning casings means we have full control over the look and durability.

It also opens interesting options like creating sturdy lightweight corsets made out of fabrics such as mesh and net.

Start by choosing the boning type and width. If using more than one size of boning on the same corset, plan out bone casing details for them separately.

Find the pressing bar size closest to the width of your boning. Choose the larger one if your boning falls in between two sizes.

Prepare your strength fabric by ironing it.



Cut the strips of strength fabric on the fabric grain to save fabric or on the bias for easier sewing and less wrinkling.

Width of the strip should be around:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Pressing Bar Width} \times 2 \\ & + \\ & 2,5\text{cm or } 1'' \text{ (minimum seam allowances)} \end{aligned}$$

Thicker fabrics might be making it difficult to sew the strip together evenly because you might lose a lot of seam allowance width due to “turn of cloth”.

Turn of cloth is the amount of fabric lost by wrapping or folding fabric over something.

Pressing bars come as 6, 9, 12, 15 & 18 mm.

Start by ironing the fabric strip in half.

Slot the pressing bar into the folded strip.

Push the bar all the way inside. Have it sit in the very edge of the fold.

Put a zipper foot on your machine and make sure you are as close as you can get to the pressing bar with it.

With a straight stitch, sew the folded fabric strip together.

Be careful that everything is in its place as you sew and use an awl or tweezers to help you position the bar deep into the folded strip as you sew.



With the fabric strip stitched in a tube, twist it around the pressing until you position the seam line on the middle of the bar width.

Iron open the seam allowances with the bar still inside.

Push the bar through the fabric tube as you iron.



With seam allowances presses open, trim excess width if they are wider than the bone casing you've just made.

Usually, it is enough to trim the seam allowance width in half just be sure all raw fabric edges will be covered when you stitch the bone casing on to the corset.

After you've trimmed all seam allowances, steam and press all boning casings again but this time, seam allowances facing down.

Don't drag the iron back and forth over the bone casing!

Press, steam, lift and move to a new spot.

Make samples to test your work and check if you are satisfied with the look and how it performs before you make all boning casings for your project.

Boning casings are ready to be applied to your corset, internally or externally.

Happy sewing!!!



Bone Casings : Pressing Bar Method

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