So this is my bias bar, I have plastic bias bars; metal ones are a little bit nicer. And I use this bias bar to make this curved piece of fabric for my basket handle. If I were to use a regular piece of fabric, not cut on the bias, then it would be very hard to get this piece to lie flat when I come around the curve because this piece stretches and it can give me more give on the outside where I need it and less give on the inside. So when I tack this down, it will lie flat. I cannot do that with straight of grain or cross grain fabric.

So how does this work. I take a piece of fabric that’s been cut on the bias. And what I do is make sure that the fabric is wider than my bias bar. And I don’t need a bias bar like this, I could cut it out of cardboard, but do you see that it’s wider. And I put wrong sides together; and then I’m going to stitch, like I did here, so that I have this tube that looks like this. Now I’ve trimmed my seam on this tube before I put the bias bar in, so this fits around that bar. And what I would do is I would then turn this seam, so that the seam is in the back, I take it over to the iron and I press that on here. And as I press it, it comes off and actually what I’m pressing, I use a hot iron and I usually put steam it at this time because I really want that to stay, like you can see over here. And on the back, I like to open that seam. It’s not necessary, but you can open it.

So when that’s all been pressed, and I’ve got a piece that will curve when I want it to curve, and that’s what you use those bias bars for.