

Binder

Singer manufactured a Binder and a Multi-Slotted Binder. The difference is the number of slots, which allow you to add contrast through your binding. The Binder has two slots allowing you to use two different color or sizes in your binder, providing beautiful contrast in your garment. The Multi-Slotted Binder has five slots which allows up to five sizes of binding. Singer's Multi-slotted Binder also has two guide pins which protrude from the end which serve to keep your binding straight while sewing.

Greist Manufacturing Company created several types of Binders to fit a wide variety of sewing machines; however, they all have five holding slots. Regardless of the one you might have, the directions are the same for all. The only exception is the Singer multi-slotted binder gives you the ability to place the binding into slots to help guide the bias material.

History Nugget – Singer Manufacturing Company received a patent for a binder on June 3, 1856. The United States Patent office shows Greist patented a “binding attachment” for the Singer Co. in 1884. Later in 1900, Greist perfected his binder and was granted another patent for a binding attachment for The Greist Manufacturing Company.



Left to Right – Singer Binder, Singer Multi-Slotted Binder, Greist (note the Attachment Foot in the background), and Greist Top-Clamping.

The Binder attachment does take some practice, however once you

understand where to place the binding, the material, and how to adjust where the needle enters – it is actually quite fun. Hopefully, you can learn more quickly than I through my trial-and-error.

Binders come with two slots or with five slots for the purpose of accommodating single fold bindings of as many different widths, ranging in size from 1 to 5 inclusive. For the #5 slot, **unfolded** binding must measure 7/8” to one inch in width, depending on the texture and weight of the material. Fabrics with a stiffer finish will work very well when cut 7/8” wide, while softer fabric must measure from 15/16” to one inch in width. Practice with varying widths before actually working on your garment. When working with pre-folded binding, it must measure 1/2” in width. Sewing machine manuals referring to the “no. 5” folding binding are following today’s standard size of about 1/2”.

About one yard of yard-wide material will make about 30 yards of 7/8” bias strips.



The photo at the left shows the two types; the two slotted and the five slotted. The single fold binding must be used in the slots of the binder with the widest half of fold in binding in the lower half. Select your width of binding and clip the end to a point, allowing it to be easily drawn into the slot. For softer materials,

I spray the end with some spray starch and give it a quick press with the iron. This stiffens it just a little and guides more readily into the slot.

Attach the Binder

Before you attach the binder to your sewing machine, take a minute to see how the binder can be adjusted for varying sizes of binding.

Vintage binders - Hold the shank of the binder by one hand (the part which attaches to the sewing machine) and with your other hand move the part of the binder which lays against the machine bed. You should see it move left to right. This is how you adjust where the needle goes into your fabric in relation to where the binding comes out of the scroll.

Greist binders which attach with the keyhole slot (bottom binder in the photo above) – loosen the thumbscrew on your Attachment Foot, slide the binder left or right.

New binders – loosen the small screw located on the binder, slide left or right.

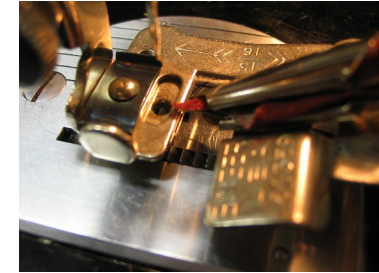
To place the binder on your sewing machine, raise the needle to the highest position; attach the binder in place of your regular presser foot. Ensure the needle goes through the hole in the binder.

If you examine your Binder, you will notice that there is a cone-shaped scroll which has several small slots in graduated sizes. These slots are arranged to hold various sizes of commercial single fold binding, ranging from the smallest size 1 to the largest size 5. The largest slot which holds number 5 bias tape will be the one which you will use most often.



Greist Attachment manual, 1957

Insert the Binding in the Binder



First cut a long point on the binding as noted previously. You will be

inserting the point into the funnel shaped scroll of the binder until it comes through the very small end of the scroll. Place your folded bias binding in the slot of corresponding size. I used the very first slot for mine. I also use a stiletto to help push the binding through; a large, strong pin will also work. You want to keep pushing until it comes out and about ½” past your needle area. In the beginning, it may be helpful to insert your binding before placing the binder on your machine.

The two pins are to help you guide the binding if you have the multi-slotted binder. Place your binding in-between the pins.

Lower the needle into the fabric. If you need to make any adjustments on the binder for different sized materials remember to move the scroll to the left or right as needed. The line of stitching will be nearer the edge of the binding by moving the scroll to the left and farther away by moving it to the right.

Insert Material to be bound in the Binder



Place the edge to be bound as far to the right as it will go in-between

This is the

the two halves of the scroll. **most important part or your material will not be in the middle of your binding.** Look closely at the pictures to see where I have inserted the material.

Now begin sewing.....



You can also make **French folds** with the binder. Your procedure is the same as before with one exception –

the fold (formed by the binding) is not stitched to the edge of the material as in plain binding, but *on top* of the material wherever you wish. Place your binding in the proper slot as before, now place your material under the binder instead of between the slots. A French fold adds a decorative touch, similar to adding military braiding.

When sewing outside curves guide the edge of the material from you toward the left, turning it while you sew. The pre-folded binding allows for sufficient binding when you encounter curved edges.

When sewing inside curves, straighten out the short part of the material edge which is just beginning to go into the slot of the binder. Sew slowly.

Two or Three-Tone Binding

The multi-slotted binder allows you to simultaneously use three different bindings, giving you the necessary trim which is also reversible.

The bindings used are sizes 1, 3, and 5. You won't necessarily find these sizes when looking for binding in today's sewing market. A quick history check showed that binding was indeed made smaller in the past. Whenever you have a need for a smaller binding, your bias gauge will come in handy as you will need to make your own. However, the directions will be helpful when using two or more binding sizes.

Size 1 is entered into slot 1, size 3 into the second, and size 5 into the last. Binding sizes 3 and 5 will look like double piping after being sewn, while size 1 will enclose and hold the material being piped, as well as both piping. When combining binding sizes, always eliminate a size between each width being used. For example, sizes 1 and 3, 2 and 4, or sizes 3 and 5 will work very nicely.

Happy Sewing!
Charlene

www.thesewbox.com
<http://thesewbox.blogspot.com>

