

Folding Quilts on the Bias AGAINST THE GRAIN

BY ANN FAHL

Stamp out
the center
crease.
Let's save
our quilts!

When I attend a guild show-and-tell, I find it distressing to see a beautiful quilt with big fold lines going right through the center. As quilts age, such furrows cannot be removed. For years, I avoided "the crease" by rolling my quilts to ship them to shows or teaching engagements. I had to purchase bulky shipping tubes to ensure my quilts would arrive wrinkle- and crease-free at their destinations.

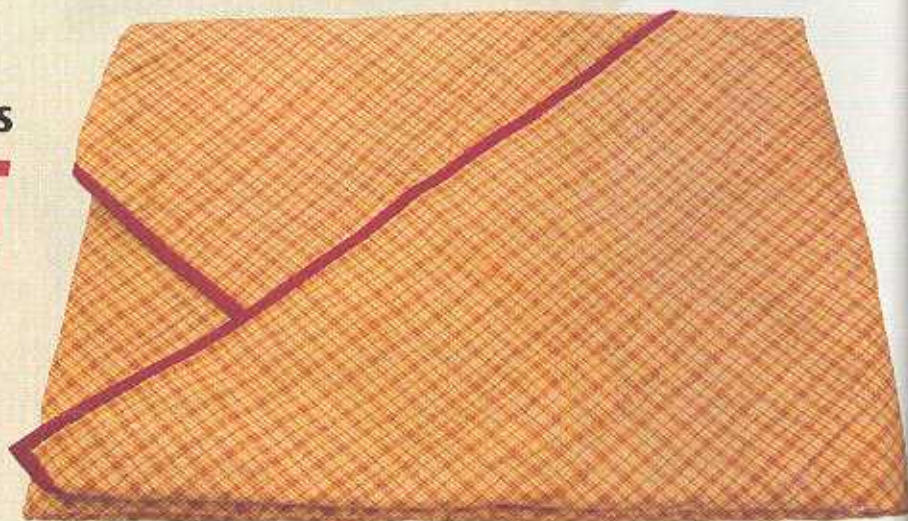
Then, while having dinner one evening with other quilters, I learned a better way: one woman mentioned that she only folds her quilts on the bias. Of course! Folding fibers on an angle causes less crimping than folding them back on themselves. This could preserve the integrity of both the batting fibers and the yarns in the fabric. This was a life-changing revelation. I realized her easy technique could not only solve my shipping problem—my quilts now travel snugly in my suitcase, saving me a lot of money at the post office—but also ensure that quilts packaged for gifts, toted to guild meetings, or stored in closets would enjoy a long life.

I asked this woman where she had learned her simple, quilt-friendly technique. She replied that she had learned it from a friend, who had learned it from a friend, and so on. So now I'm passing it on to you with the hope that you will help stamp out the center crease. Let's save our quilts!

At first, this folding technique might seem awkward. Stick with it. Keep trying. Go to your quilt storage area and refold all the quilts you have—all you need is a flat surface for folding. Immediately you will feel how the bias folds are softer and more pliable than folds along the grain.

And now that you know this simple bias-folding technique, pass it on. Tell your friends, your guild, the take-down committee at your local quilt show. Save the quilts of our generation for the next one. Help make all quilts crease-free. ♦

Ann Fahl is a quilt teacher, a prizewinning quilter, and the author of *Coloring with Thread*. She has been making and folding quilts since 1978.



BIAS FOLDING TECHNIQUE

1. Lay the quilt flat.
2. Fold corners one at a time into the center of the quilt (Figs. 1-3).
3. Continue to fold in the corners until the quilt will fit into its shipping or storage container (Fig. 4).

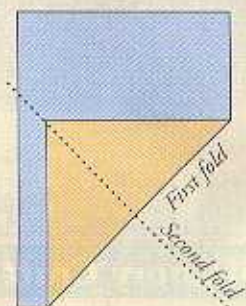


Fig. 1

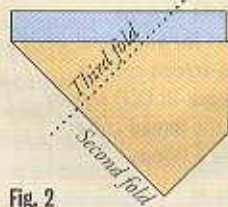


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

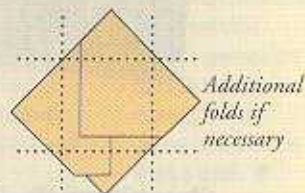


Fig. 4