

SELVAGES

Woven fabric has two finished edges, which is known as selvage. The selvage is a part of fabric where we see manufacturer's information, contrasting trim etc. The selvage does not fray, although some selvages have frayed threads hanging off after the finished edge. This fraying will not affect the fabric in any way.

In another words, the selvage is the band of more tightly weaved fabric that runs up either side of the fabric meterage. If the fabric is being weaved on a loom then these are the edges where the thread turns back on itself to begin weaving the next row.

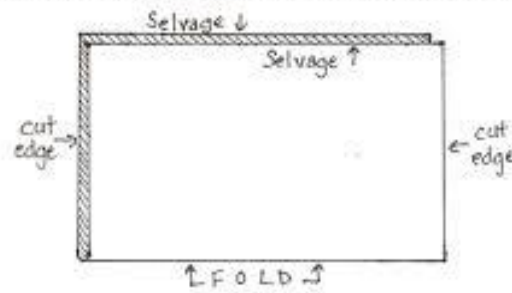
The selvage is usually $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and it is mostly woven tighter than the rest of the fabric which prevents the fabric from tearing when it is finished at the mill.

Since the selvage is constructed differently than the rest of the fabric, they may shrink differently than the rest of the fabric when washed. Most designers don't utilize the selvage but if they do, they need to take this point into consideration.

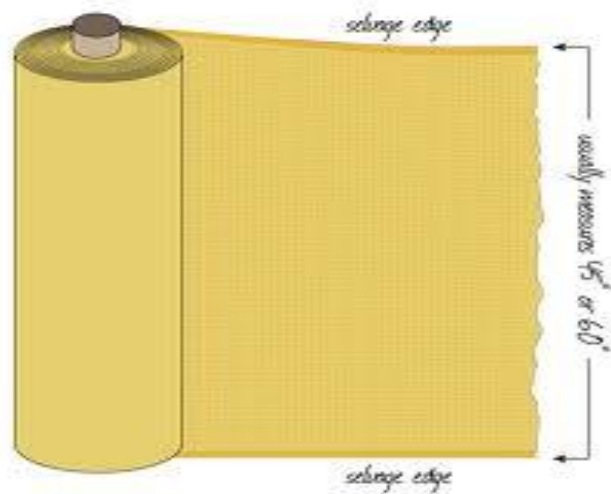
Designer fabric selvages usually feature the name of the fabric designer, fabric collection as well as the name of the fabric manufacturer.



The selvage edge is the woven edge that does not fray

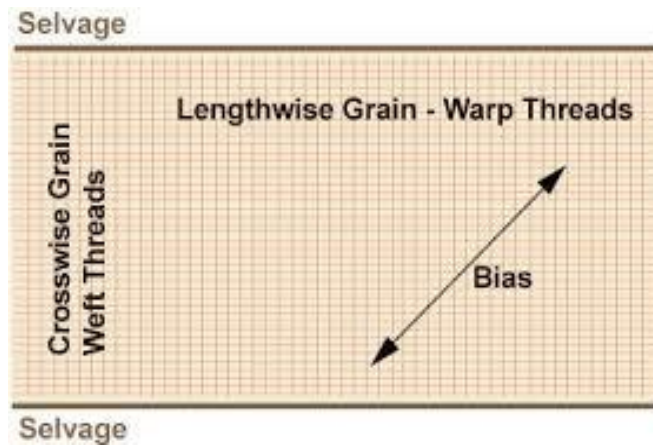


Fabric has two selvage edges and two cut edges



LENGTH WISE GRAIN

The threads that run from end to end are the lengthwise grain. In another words, lengthwise grain refers to the threads in fabric which run the length of the fabric, parallel to the selvage of the fabric.



Because the grain line can make or break the way the completed outfit lays or drapes so it's important to know the grain lines as this can help the end product to be the best that it can be.

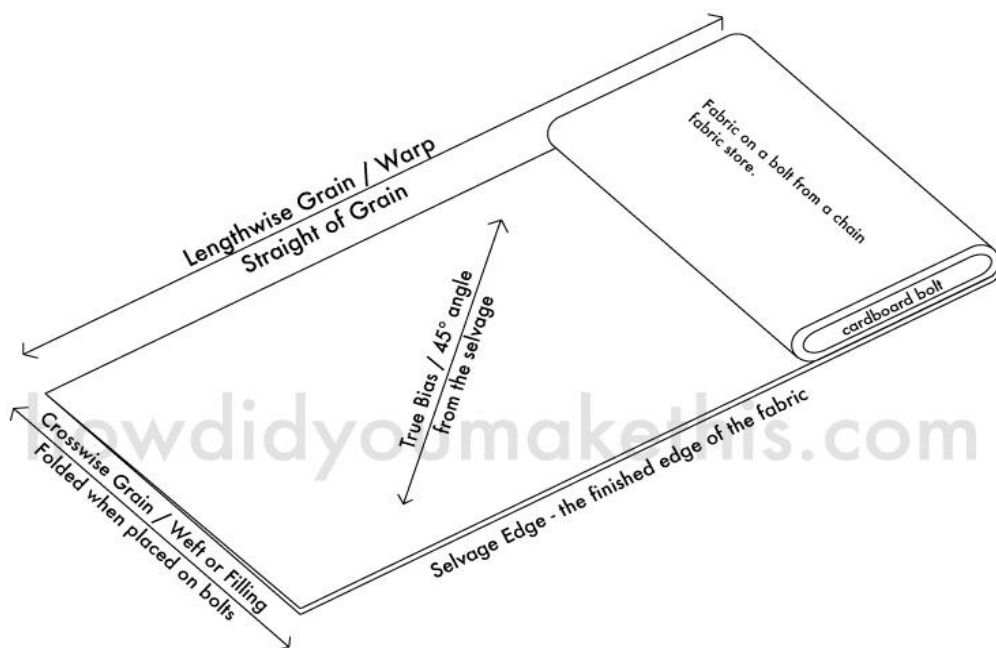
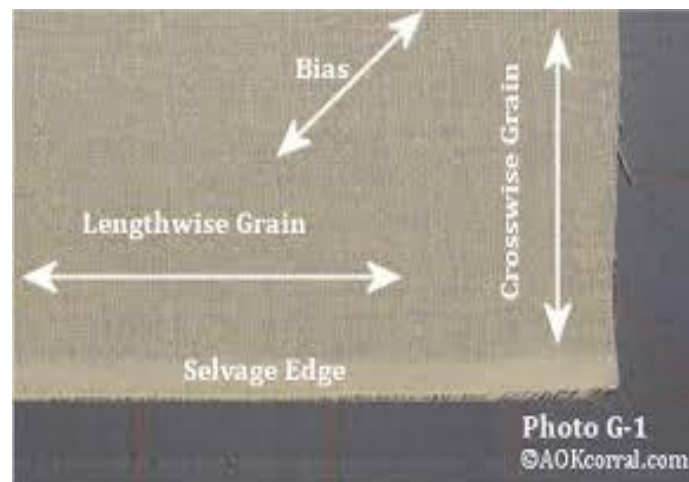
We get a different drape with each grain line of the fabric. If we have the length wise grain perpendicular to the floor than we will see that the garment will have more body and drape as compared to the crosswise grain.



If the fabric is off grain, it would be difficult to lay it right and thus it would be imperative to correct this problem before cutting. Off grain, means that the crosswise and lengthwise grains are no longer at the right angles to each other. This can be the result of the manufacturing process, rough handling or simply from laundering it before use.

BIAS

The Bias grain runs at a 45 degrees angle to the lengthwise and crosswise grains of the fabric as it is on the bolt.



Every piece of woven fabric has two biases, perpendicular to each other. Non woven fabrics such as felt or interfacing do not have a bias.

The bias has stretch in woven fabric and will hand differently than a garment that has been cut on the straight or crosswise grain. It has the most stretch and thus gives fabric a flowing drape over the body. This property facilitate garments and garment details that require

extra elasticity, drapability or flexibility, such as bias-cut skirts and dresses, neckties, piping trims and decorations, bound seams etc.

Silk crepe hung with the bias perpendicular to the floor moulds to the dress form, revealing every contour underneath as seen in below picture:



The 'bias-cut' is a technique used by the designers for cutting clothing to utilize greater stretch in bias or diagonal direction of the fabric, thereby causing it to accentuate body lines and curves and drape softly. For example, a full-skirted dress cut on the bias will hang more gracefully or a narrow dress will cling to the figure. Bias cut garments were an important feature of the designs of Madeleine Vionnet in 1920s and 1930s and bias-cut styles are revived periodically.

A garment made of woven fabric is said to be 'cut on the bias' when the fabric's warp and weft threads are at 45 degrees angle to its major seam lines.

Because of the inherent elasticity of bias, it requires special care in cutting and sewing to utilize the stretch without distorting the fabric. It is also imperative to hang a bias garment for at least 24 hours before hemming it.