

Very simple pleated mask

To be clear – I'm not endorsing the wearing of face masks to avoid catching or passing on Coronavirus! I just thought it might be useful to produce instructions for a simple mask, like those I've just made for Charente. There's no filter pocket, and no wire to bend over the nose – they are basic!

Materials: For EACH mask you needs:

- * 2 squares of fabric 20cm x 20cm **and**
- * TWO lengths of bias binding 1m long (**or** TWO fabric strips 4cm x 1m)



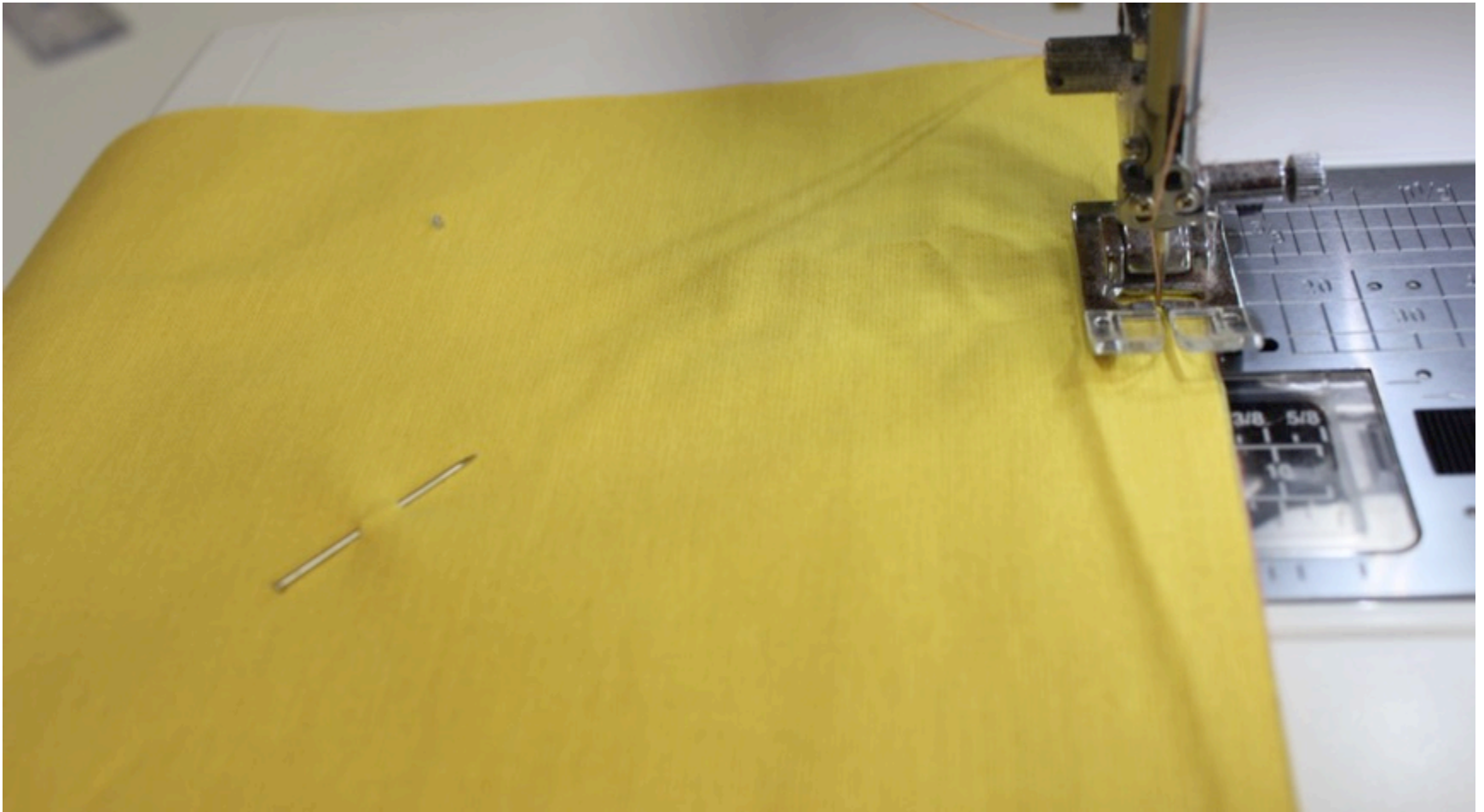
Slide 3: Pin your 2 squares R.S. together

Batch production tip: Place the 2 fabrics R.S. together before cutting out. Then when they ARE cut out the squares are perfectly lined up.

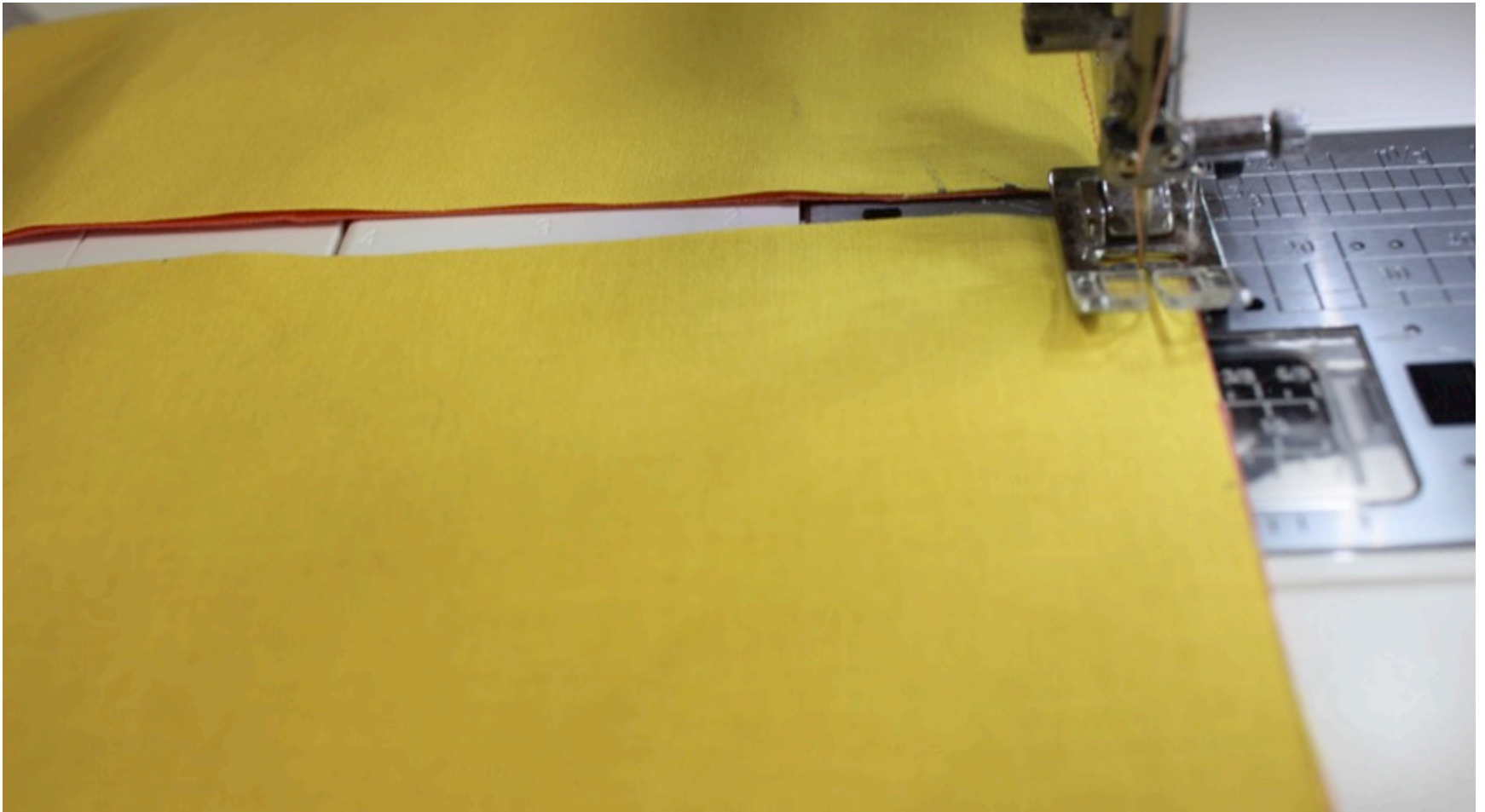


Slide 4: Sew a narrow (6mm or ¼") seam along two opposite sides.

Batch production tip: Chain stitch them, to save time. See >>>



Slide 5: This is what I mean by “Chain stitching” – stitch one seam then immediately start stitching the same seam on the next square, feeding that 2nd square under the presser foot. Cut the stitches between each square when you’ve stitched them all.



Slide 6: Press the seams to “set” the stitches then turn through to the R.S. Make sure your seam is right on the edge then press flat as shown below.

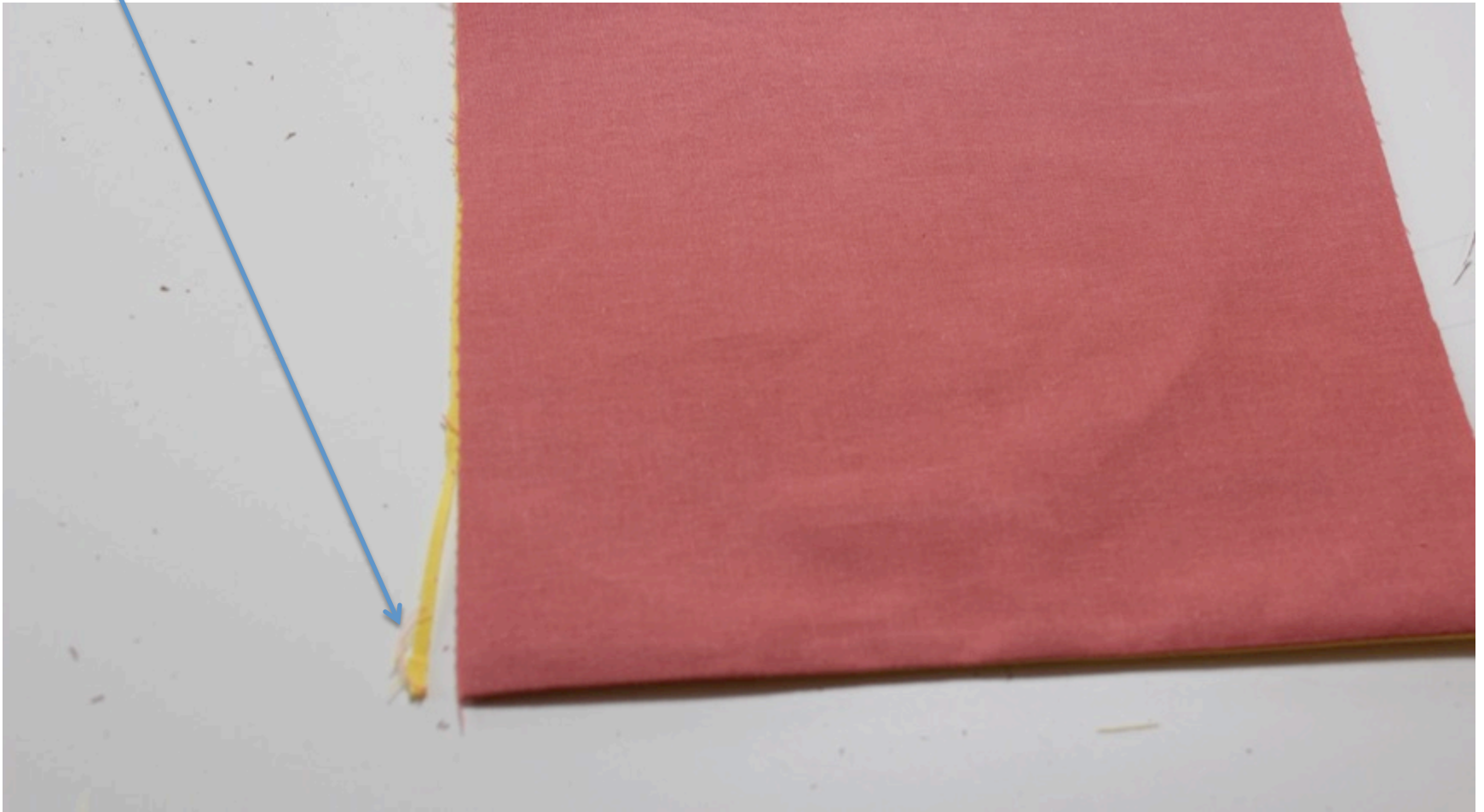
Tip >>>



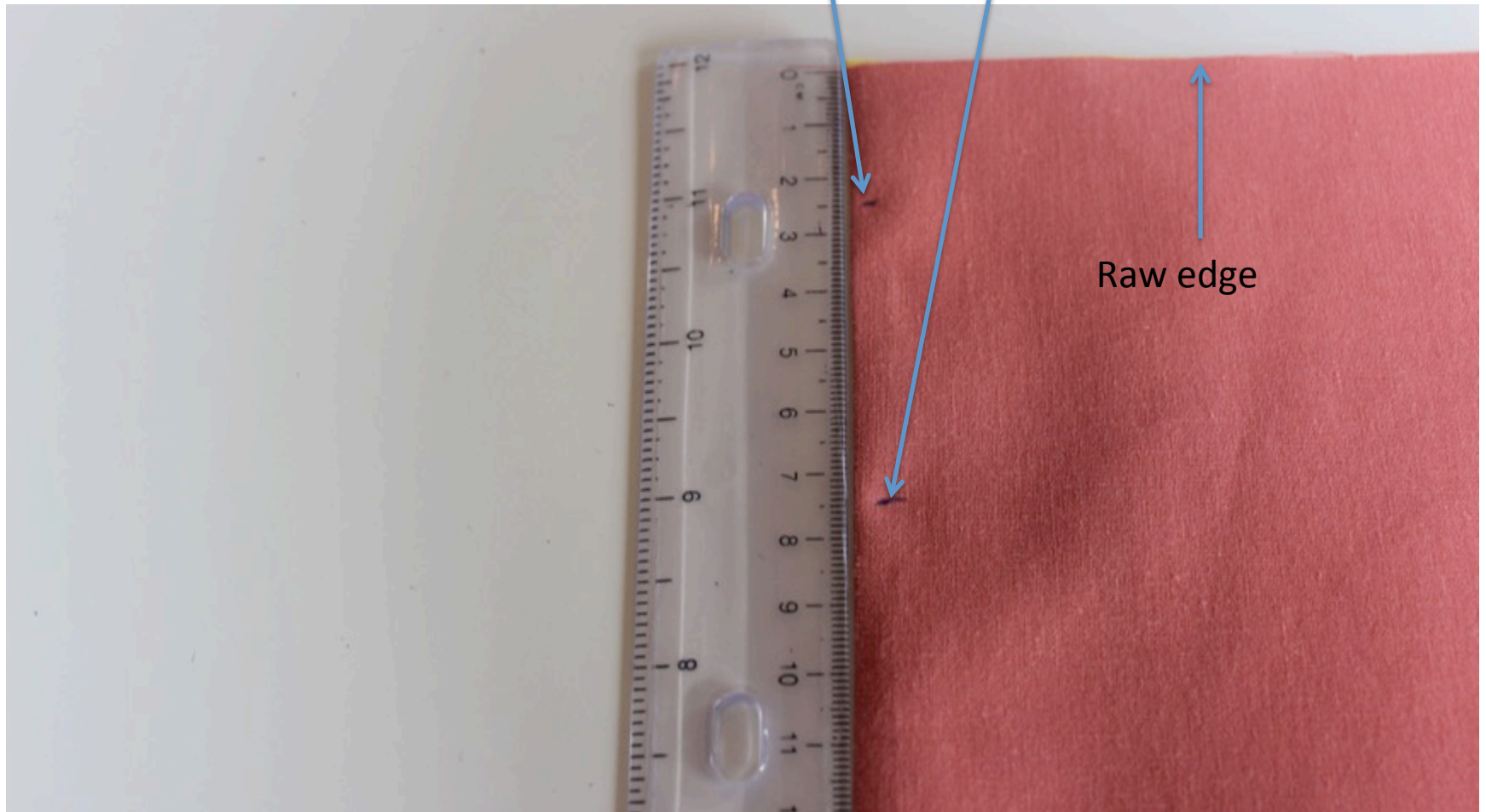
Slide 7: To help press the square flat it might be useful to use a sleeve board or sleeve roll to press each of the two seams first.



Slide 8: Check the two sides of the square are identical in size and trim off any excess.



Slide 9: On **each** of the two sides where you've stitched a seam, using a "Frixion" or similar pen, mark 4 points – 2.5cm and 7.5 cm down from **each** raw edge. [See >>>](#)



Slide 10: Here you can see all 8 markings.



Slide11: Create two pleats. Pleat (1) fold the fabric on as shown:
7.5cm mark



Slide 12: Bring this fold down onto the two 2.5cm marks above it and press:



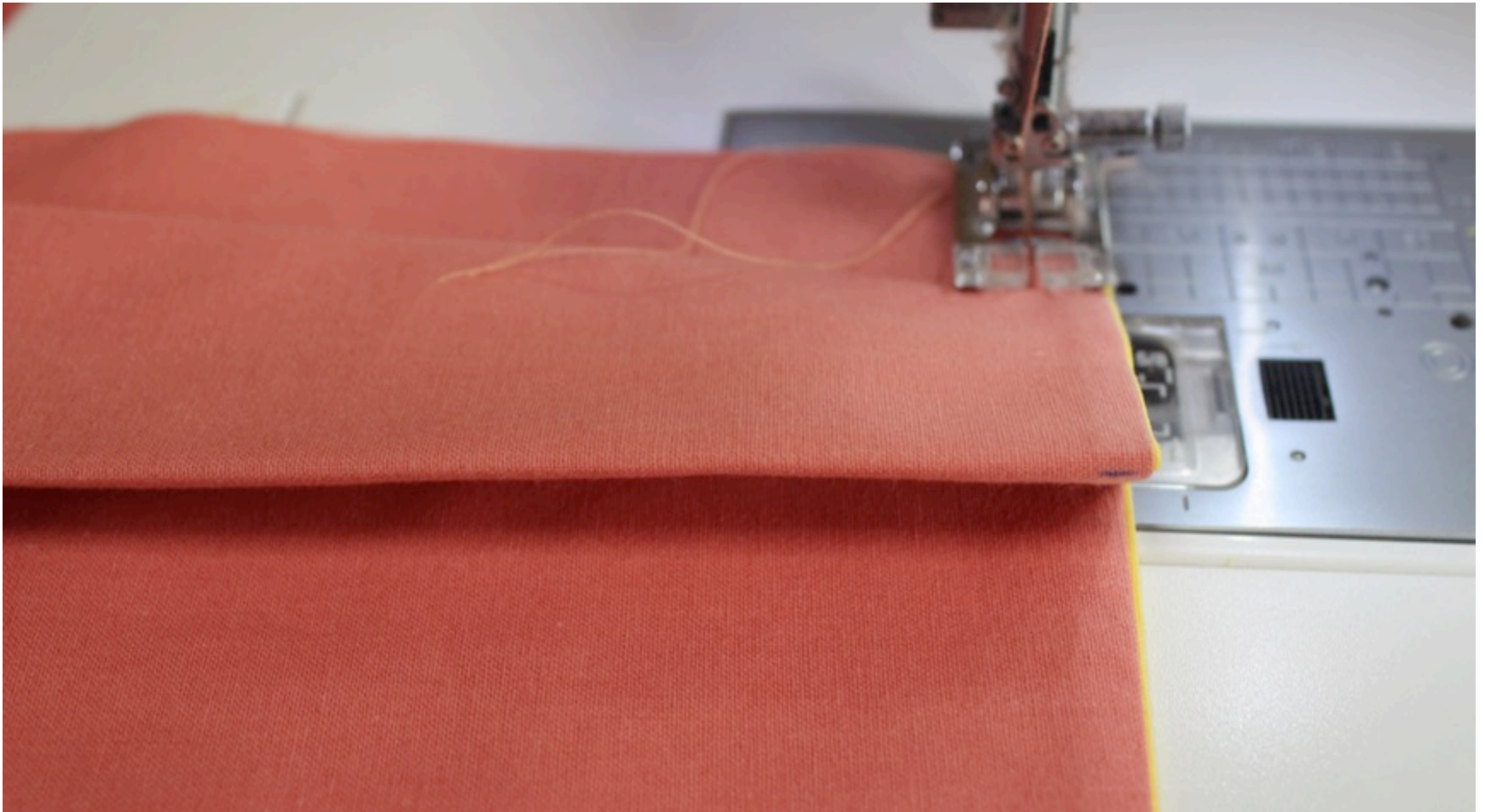
Slide 13: Turn it around and repeat, so you have a “Box” pleat – with the two folded edges pointing outwards, away from each other.



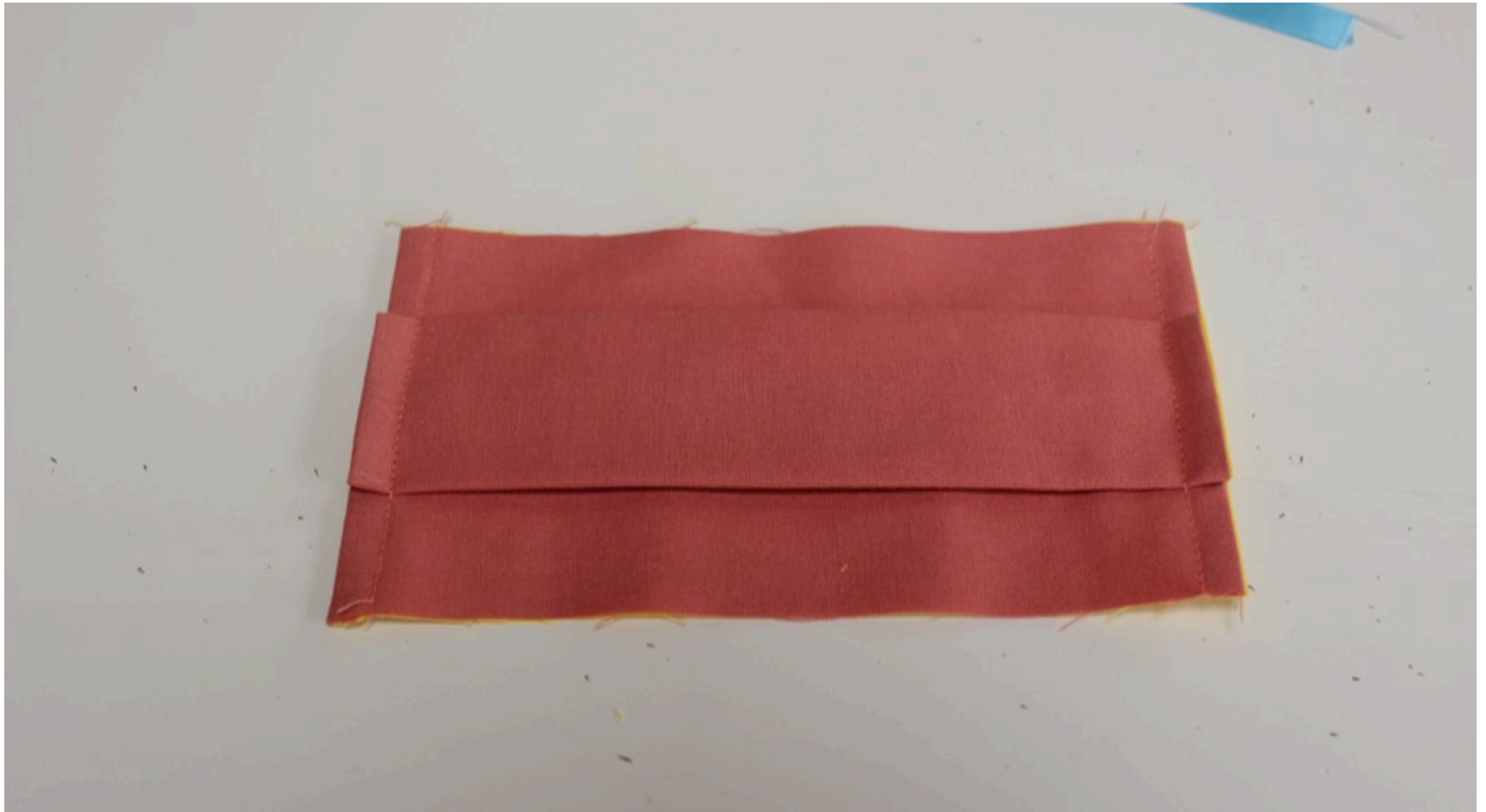
Slide 14: Turn over and press from the W.S.



Slide 15: Set your sewing machine to 3.0 and then stitch these pleats in place, stitching 1cm (3/8") in from the edge. [See also >>>](#)



Slide 16: Both sides of the box pleat are stitched in place – you should find that stitching 1cm (3/8") in from the edge means you avoid stitching over the bulkiest part.



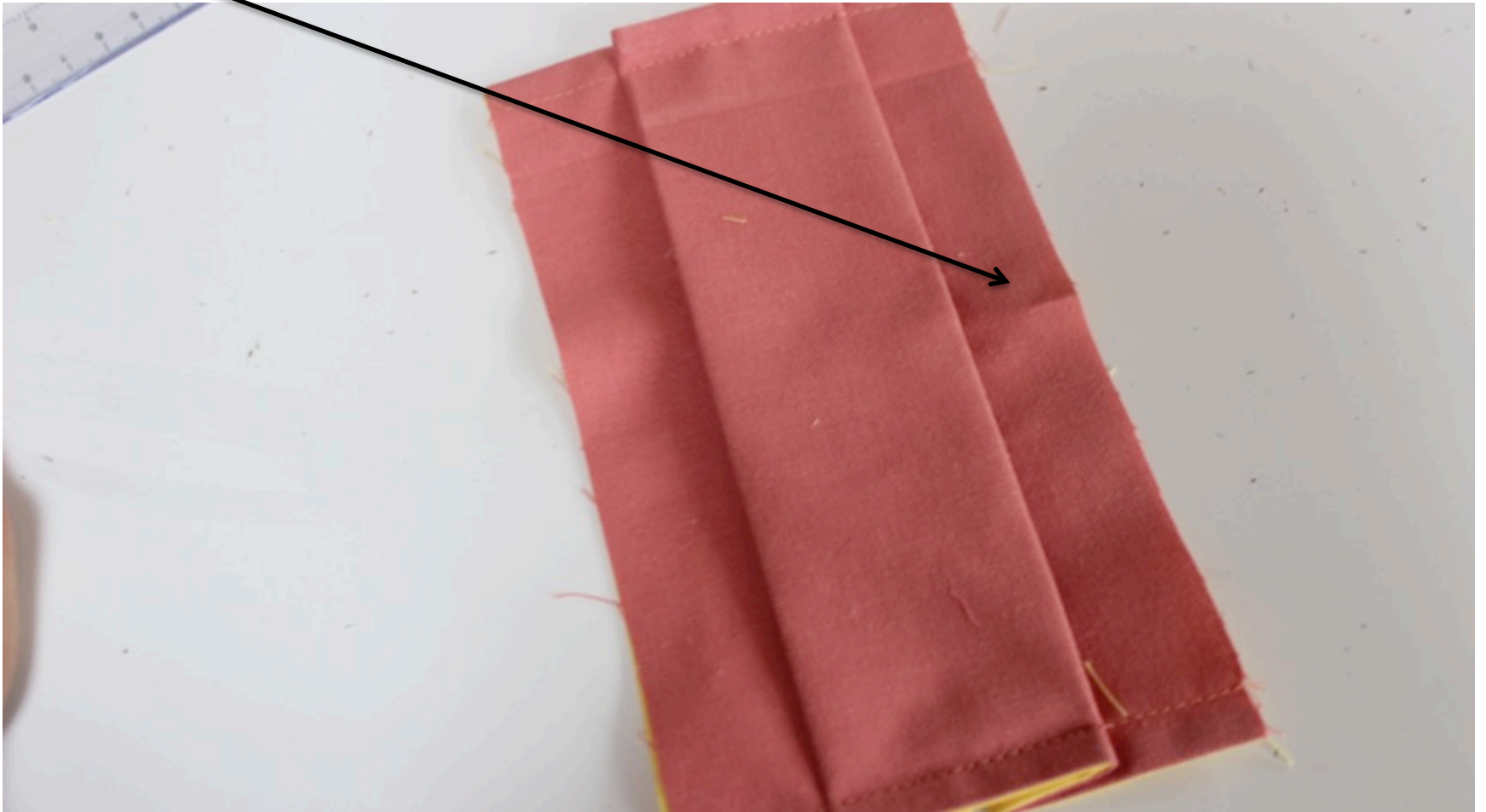
Slide 17: The W.S. **Batch production tip >>>**



Slide 18: Again, chain stitching speeds up the process when batch producing the masks.



Slide 19: Mark the midpoint on each of the raw edges – either fold in half and pinch or measure and mark with a Frixion pen. [See >>>](#)



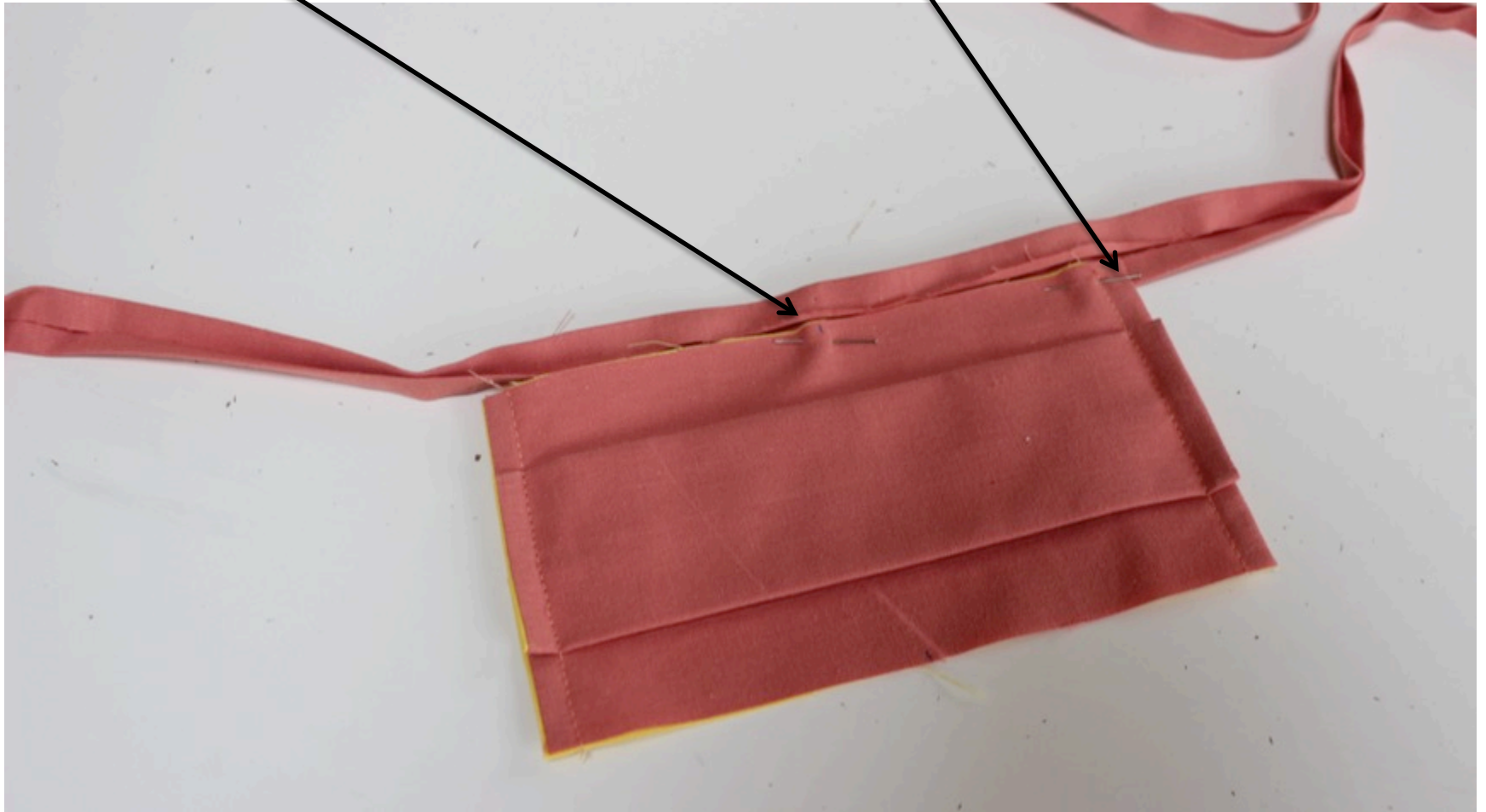
Slide 20: **Batch production tip:** Having marked each midpoint on one mask, use that mask to mark the midpoint on each of the raw edges on the remaining masks.



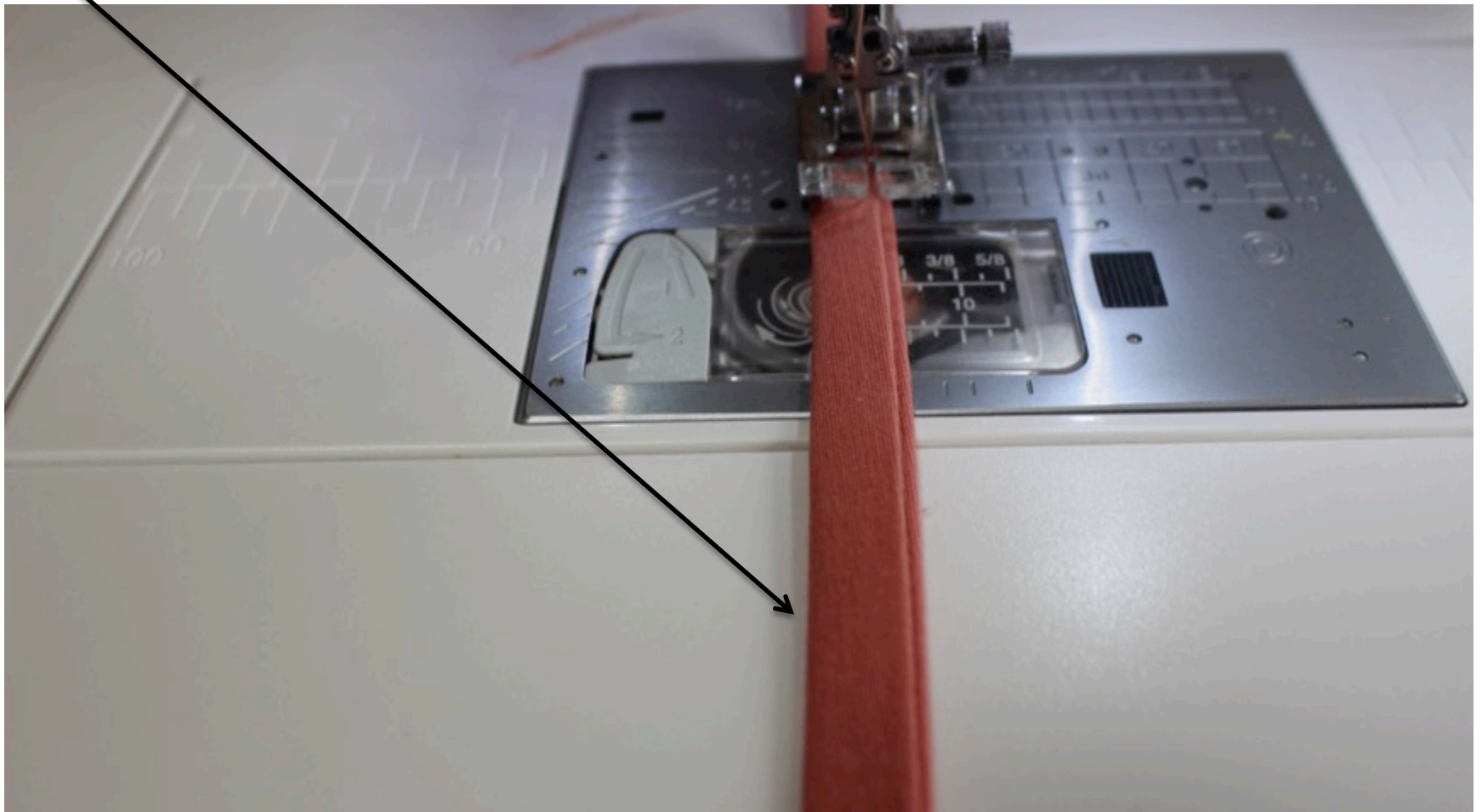
Slide 21: If you're using bias binding press it in half lengthwise. If you are cutting the binding yourself, press each raw edge along the length into the centre, and then press in half again so it's 1cm wide.



Slide 22: Take one of the 1m long ties and find the middle. Pin this to the middle of your mask – where you've just marked the midpoint. Look carefully at HOW it's pinned, with the tie open. Pin also here, on the right side.



Slide 23: Position the mask in front of you with the TOP of the mask pointing to the right and the tie on the left of it (see next slide) with the fold of the tie on the left. Start stitching the two folds of the tie together.



Slide 24: Slow down as you reach the first pin. Remove it, and continue stitching along the mask – **make sure the mask is pushed fully up to the fold.**



Slide 25: Here you can see the mask pushed into the fold as it is stitched in place. When you've stitched a tie to each of the two raw edges, turn over the mask and check you've caught in the binding on the W.S. too – go over it if you haven't.



Slide 26: There's not really any need to revers at the end of the ties, nor to turn in the raw edges – they're intended to be cut to the correct length by the wearer. However, do cut each of the 4 ends at a 45 degree angle.



Slide 27: A finished pile of masks.

