

# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

Boning is the invisible structure used to shape corsets, bustiers and other form-fitting bodices such as those in evening gowns and wedding dresses. It literally becomes the bones of the garment. Flexicurve is easy to use as it is flat and has a woven construction that can easily be stitched through.

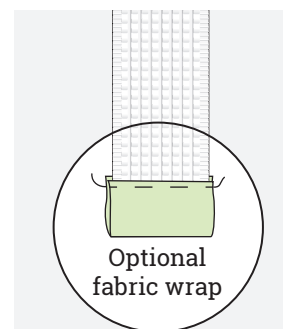
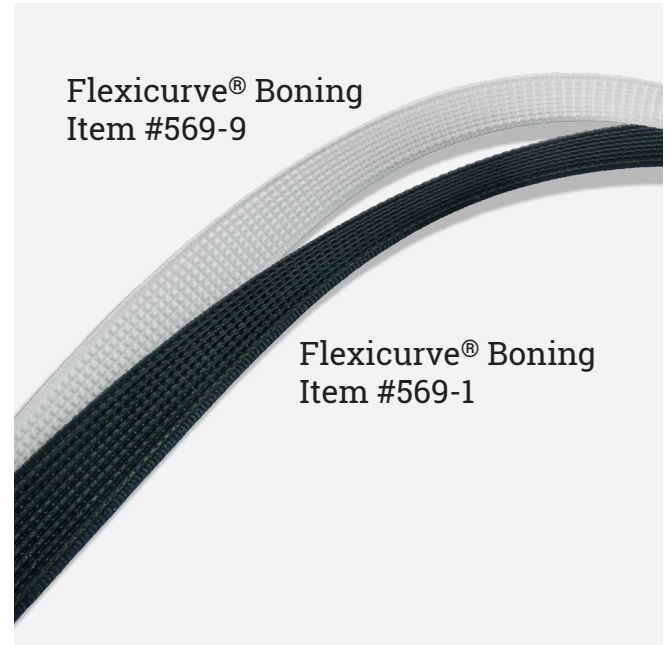
## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Where does it go?** Boning is usually placed on the wrong side of the garment, centered over a pressed-open seam, and stitched to the seam allowance. It can also be attached in the same fashion to the seams of the lining. For gowns and some strapless corsets, additional boning can be added to the lining or underlining between the seams. See page 7 for more placement information. Also see the tutorial “How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes”.

**How much do you use?** You need a piece that is 1/2” shorter than the measured seam, so the boning ends 1/4” before the top and bottom stitch line. Add the seam measurements together; then add a few inches to the total so you don’t run short!

**How do you cut it?** Use scissors to cut straight across the boning; then round the corners so it is longer in the center and slightly curved. Don’t worry—the tiny polyester “bones” won’t come out.

**Do the ends need to be covered?** No, but boning ends can cause skin irritation, so you may wish to cover them. Use boning caps to simply push over the cut ends. If boning caps are not available, cut a small piece of firmly woven fabric or ribbon and fold it over the cut end of the boning. Hand or machine stitch it in place.



Does it need a casing?  
No, Flexicurve Boning  
is ready to stitch  
onto the seam.



# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

## Method One – Attach boning to the center of a pressed-open seam:

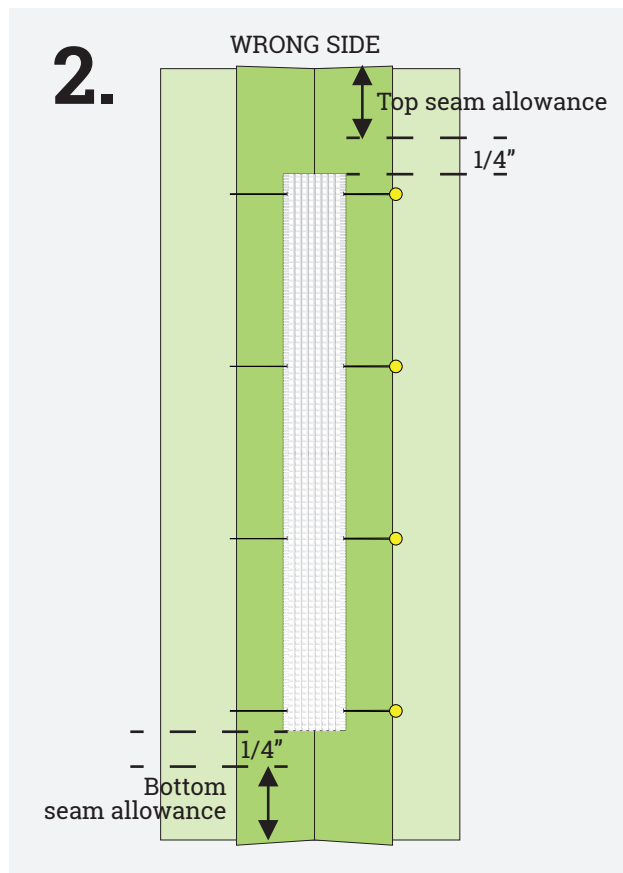
1. This technique is for straight seams. Cut the length required for each seam. See page 1.

Boning can be completely hidden or it can be applied so that the stitches show on the outside of the garment. Visible stitching will appear as topstitching and add a tailored, structured finished appearance.

2. For either finished appearance, first place the boning against the wrong side of the garment, centered over the seam so ends are 1/4" from top and bottom seam allowance. Pin.

You will need:

- Dritz® Flexicurve® Boning, #569-1 or #569-9
- Your project
- Scissors
- Matching thread
- Sewing machine



Pin or hand-baste boning in position before machine stitching for best results.

Notice the curve of the boning. This should be placed so it curves toward your body. Ends should not point outward, or the seam will not conform to your body. Use an iron to flatten the curve somewhat before attaching.



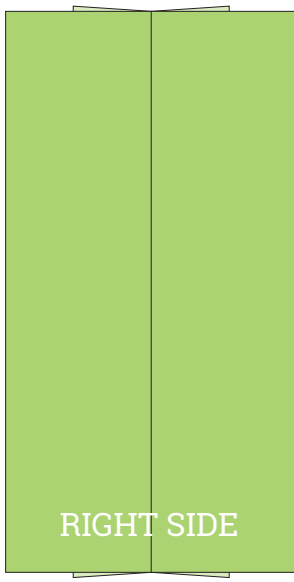
# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

**Method One – Attach boning to the center of a pressed-open seam (continued):**

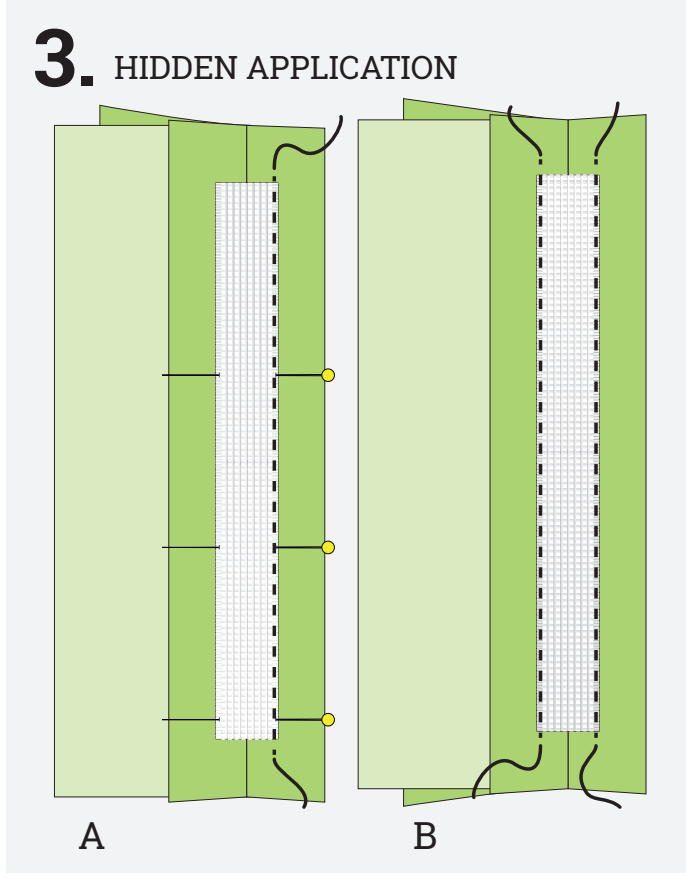
**3. HIDDEN APPLICATION:** To attach so that it is hidden, stitch the boning to the seam allowance only, being careful to keep it centered over the seam as you stitch. Fold the garment to the side, so only one seam allowance is extended. Stitch boning to this seam allowance along one edge (3A).

Then turn garment so opposite seam allowance is extended and stitch the second edge to this seam allowance (3B). Make sure the boning remains centered and flat against the seam at all times.

Use a regular presser foot or a zipper foot to stitch along the flat outer edge of the Flexicurve boning to attach.



COMPLETED APPEARANCE



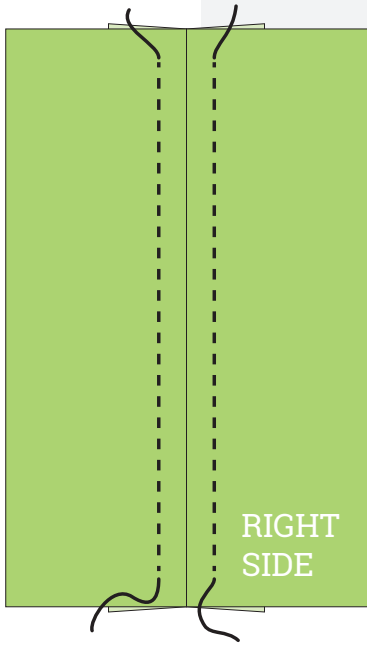
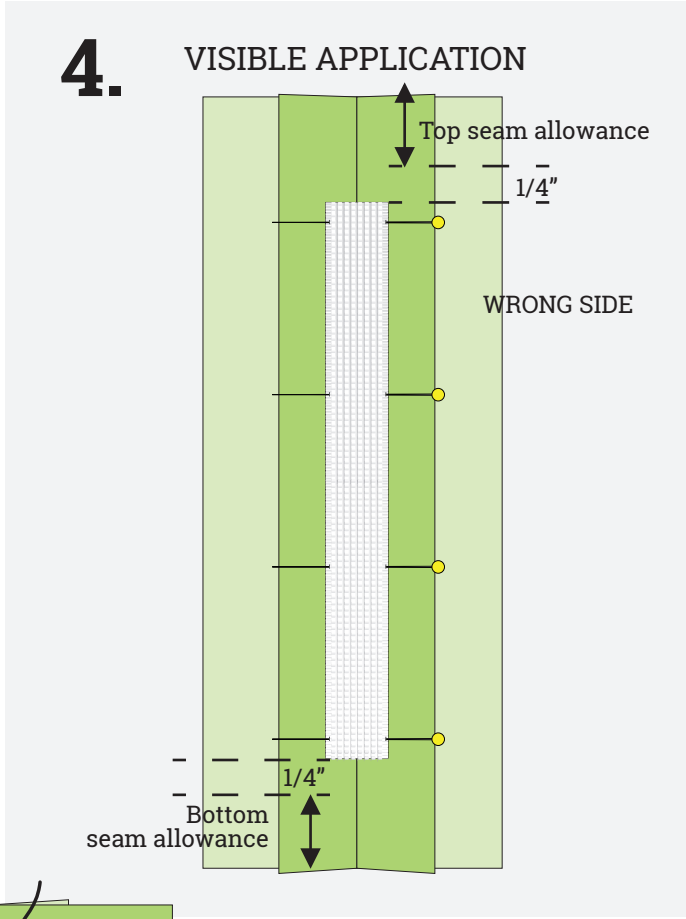
# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

## Method One – Attach boning to the center of a pressed-open seam (continued):

4. **VISIBLE APPLICATION:** To attach so that the stitches show on the outside of the garment, stitch boning to the seam allowance only as in step 3 using a basting stitch. Hand-baste if the fabric is slippery or ravel.

Working from the right side of the garment, with the seam and attached boning pinned perfectly flat, topstitch evenly along each side of the seam, catching the boning and the seam allowance underneath.

Not sure about the required length of boning for each seam? Follow instructions to pin or baste, starting 1/4" below the top seam. Stitch the boning toward the waistline, stopping so that you can cut the boning to end 1/4" from the waist seam. Complete the stitching and repeat for each seam.



COMPLETED APPEARANCE



# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

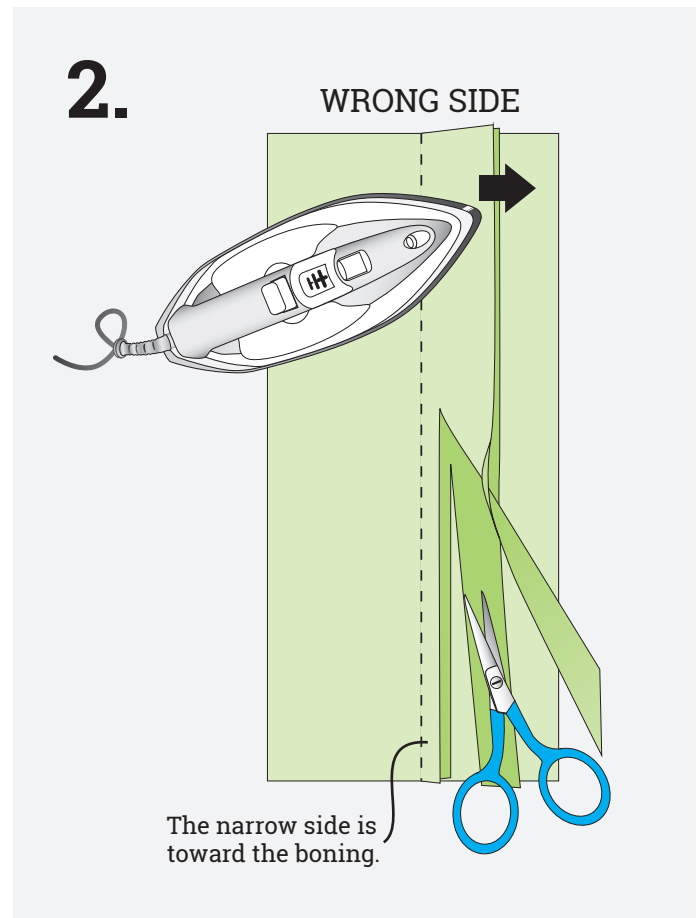
## Method Two – Attach boning to a seam pressed to one side:

1. This technique is good for curved seams, and is recommended if you have a princess seam to bone. It also works fine on straight seams. One row of stitching will show on the right side of the garment when complete. Cut the length of boning required for each seam. See page 1.

2. Press the seam allowance to the side. To eliminate unnecessary bulk, grade the seam allowance, so the wider seam allowance is against the garment and the narrower seam allowance edge faces the boning.

## You will need:

- Dritz® Flexicurve® Boning, #569-1 or #569-9
- Your project
- Scissors
- Matching thread
- Sewing machine



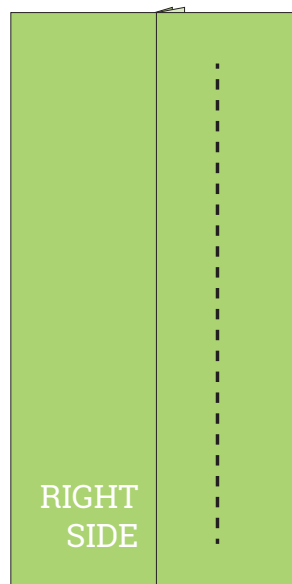
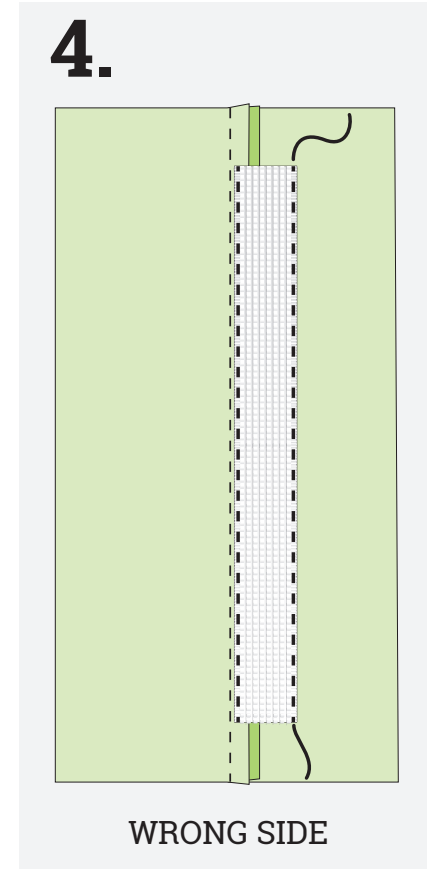
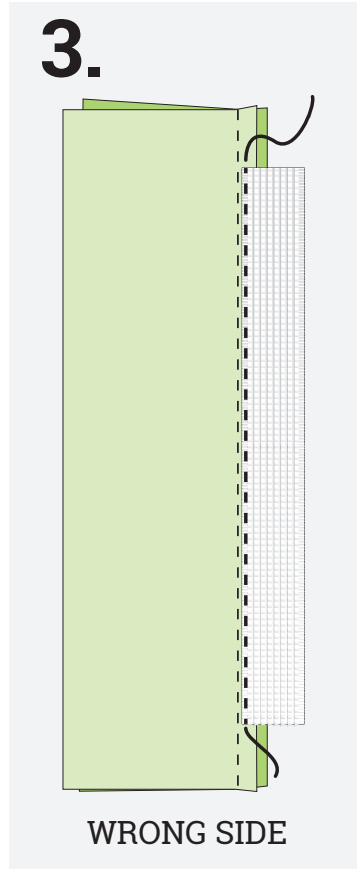
# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

## Method Two – Attach boning to a seam pressed to one side: (continued):

3. Folding the garment out of the way, place the boning against the graded seam allowance so one long edge butts against the seam stitching. Stitch the boning edge closest to the seam.

4. Fold the seam allowance back over the garment and pin all layers together. Stitch along the opposite edge of the boning through all layers. Seam edges will be encased under the boning.

When attaching boning, complete one seam at a time. Examine and/or fit the garment after each seam to ensure that there are no ripples and that panels have not slipped while stitching.



COMPLETED APPEARANCE



# How to Use Flexicurve® Boning

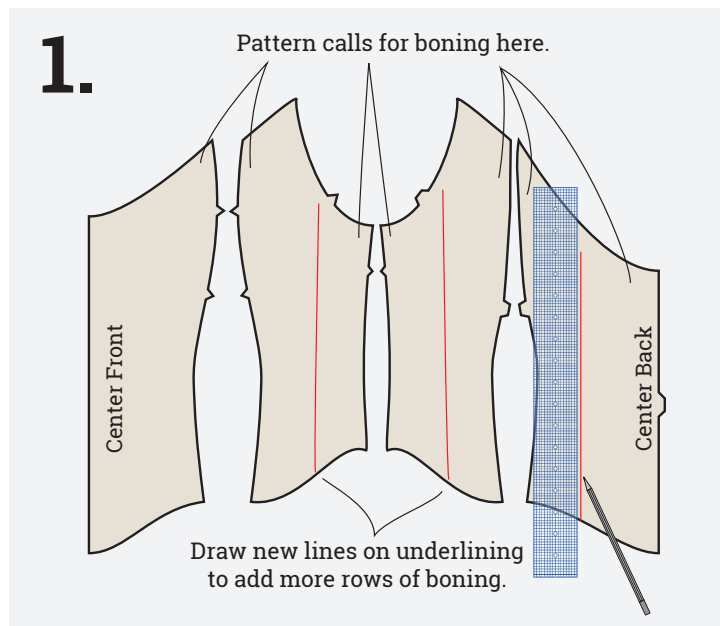
## Add additional rows of boning to your garment:

1. Add underlining to your garment if you plan to add rows of boning. Cut underlining to match each pattern piece. Use a ruler and fabric marker to mark new boning locations on underlining.

2. Pin underlining to wrong side of garment fabric and baste.

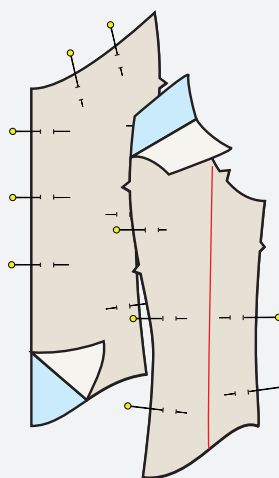
3. Stitch underlined pieces together and add boning to seams as desired.

Underlining adds body and strength to your garment so fabric can handle multiple rows of boning. If outer fabric of garment is sheer or especially thin, you may wish to add fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the underlining as well. Be sure to trim the seam allowance of the interfacing before fusing.



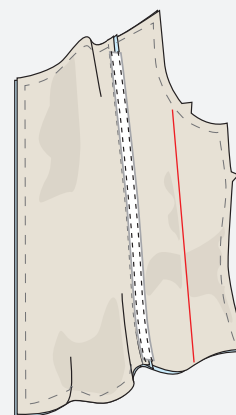
**2.**

Pin or baste underlining to garment fabric.



**3.**

Stitch sections together; attach boning to seams.

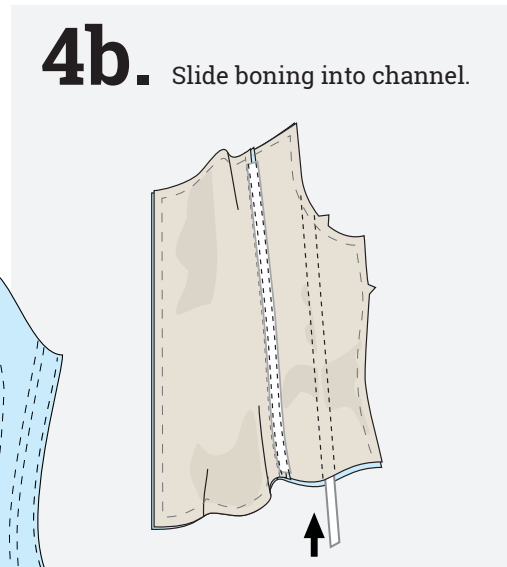
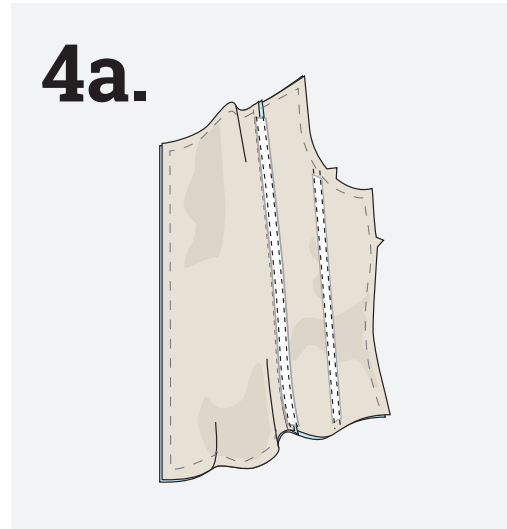


# How to Use Flexicurve<sup>®</sup> Boning

## Add additional rows of boning to your garment (continued):

4. Pin additional boning to marked lines and stitch along edges of boning to apply (4a). Or, boning can also be added by stitching rows to form channels between fashion fabric and underlining for boning. Slide boning into stitched channels (4b). Rows of stitching will show on the right side of the garment for either method.

For alternate methods of adding boning to garments see our tutorial, "How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes".



**COMPLETED APPEARANCE**  
Stitching shows on the outside of the garment.

