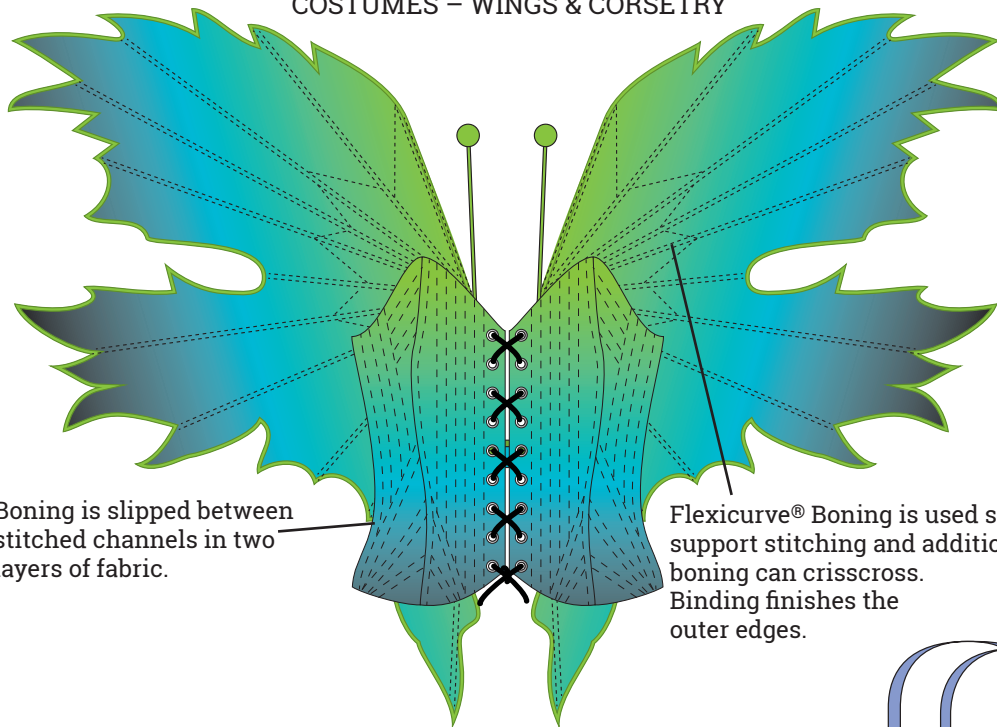


# How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes

Boning is the invisible structure used to shape corsets, bustiers and other form-fitting bodices such as those in evening gowns. It is also a great structure for costuming. Think about wings, bustles and warrior corsets involving many, many rows of boned structure. Your pattern may call for boning in the most basic way. But imagination sets in and Voilà – boning appears everywhere. Here are some tips to get those creative juices flowing.

## COSTUMES – WINGS & CORSETRY



Boning is slipped between stitched channels in two layers of fabric.

Flexicurve® Boning is used so that support stitching and additional boning can crisscross. Binding finishes the outer edges.

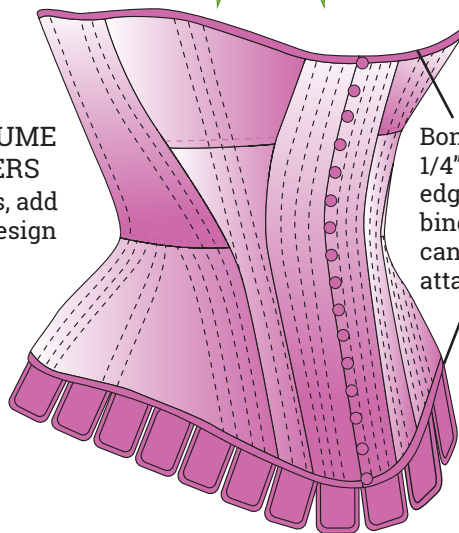


## HATS & FASCINATORS

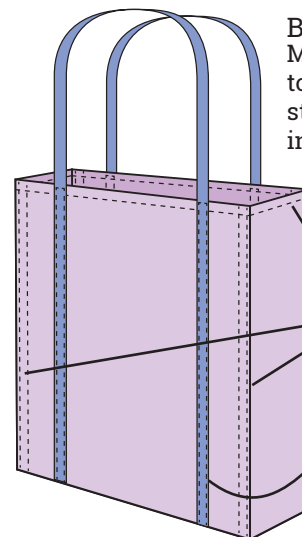
Create loops or dramatic V-shaped crowns with fabric- or ribbon-covered boning.

## FASHION OR COSTUME CORSETS & BUSTIERS

Use on all seams plus, add additional rows for design and stability.



Boning ends 1/4" – 3/8" from edge so binding can be attached.



## BAGS & TOTES

Make a channel in the lining to insert boning for square structure. Or encase boning in fabric for a sturdy handle.

Boning is placed at corners. It can go at the top edge too!

A casing is wrapped around boning for handles, then topstitched to bag.



# How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes

## How to hack your pattern for add-on boning:

There is more than one kind of boning. Try them out to see which is best for your project. Test the different techniques to achieve a truly spectacular outfit, whether for fashion or cosplay.

**Flexicurve® Boning** is the easiest style of boning to use, as it can be stitched through (no broken needles!) It is 1/2" wide with a flat, woven construction that does not require a casing. But don't let that stop you if a decorative casing is what you have in mind. See Hack #4.

**Featherlight boning** is narrower – only 1/4" – but requires a casing. You cannot stitch through it. Use the casing it comes with, or make your own. The boning easily slides out.

Both boning styles come in black or white. See How to Use Flexicurve® Boning for specific Flexicurve sewing information.

**HACK #1 – Add boning between seams:** Patterns call for boning to be placed on the seam line. For added shaping or a snugger fit, add boning between seams. Plan for the added boning to run parallel to an existing seam. Parallel rows of stitches will show to the outside. See How to Use Flexicurve® Boning.

## You will need:

- Dritz® Boning
- Your project
- Fabric and matching thread
- Dritz® See-thru ruler, #831
- Pencil or fine-line marker
- Scissors

## Optional:

- Dritz® bias tape maker
- Dritz® dress form

Boning is flexible, and will bend in a soft curve. It is stiff enough however so that it will not form a sharp angle. Sharp angles must be cut.

Flexicurve Boning can be overlapped. Featherlite Boning can also be overlapped, but it cannot be stitched through, so plan to cut it wherever there is an overlapped design line.



# How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes

## HACK #2 – Underlining:

Add underlining when increasing the amount of boning. This will create a smoother garment that can better handle the extra weight and stitching. See

“How to Use Flexicurve®

Boning”. For multiple rows of boning, consider creating channels.

**DEFINITION:**

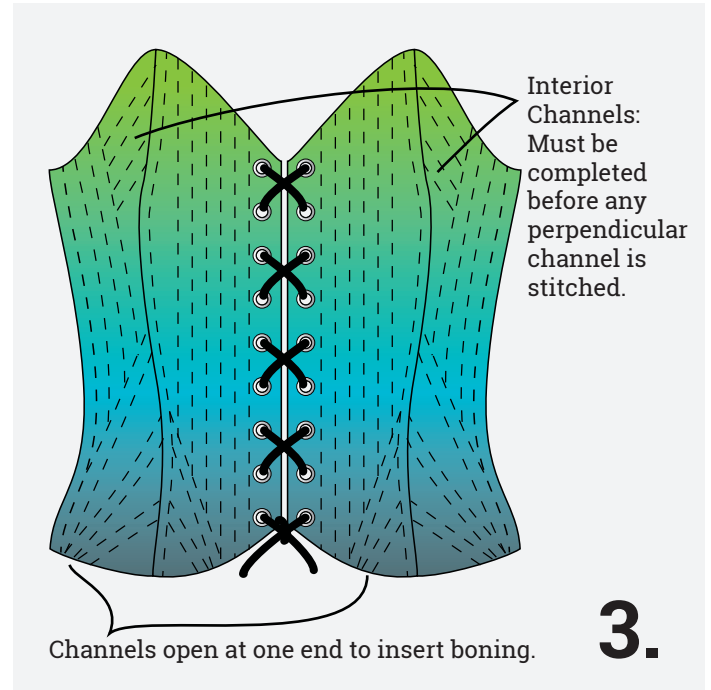
**Underlining:** A second layer of fabric cut to match the outer layer, adding body and strength to a garment. Baste to each outer piece, then handle as one layer of fabric. This is a choice when adding extra boning.

## HACK #3 –

### Creating channels:

Plan channel placement by first sketching your design. All channels must have an open end to insert the boning. Any short interior channels must be marked, stitched in advance, and filled with boning before the intersecting channels are stitched. Interior channels must start and stop between other channels so the ends of the boning do not intrude on other channels. Transfer design lines to your pattern piece and/or the underlining. Channels must be wide enough to easily slide boning – 3/8” wide for 1/4” boning and 5/8” wide for 1/2” boning – but not so wide as to allow the boning to twist within the channel. If you are unsure, always sew a test seam first.

Stitch channels from the underlining side of the garment. Be sure to stop and start 1/4” from any seam line.



**DEFINITION:**

**Channels:** Parallel rows of stitching creating an open path or channel in between. Boning is inserted between stitch lines.

**NOTE:**

Regardless of design, any edge that gets laced must have a row of boning to strengthen the edge. Eyelets cannot go through the boning however, so be sure to have enough distance to allow eyelets to be placed next to the boning.



# How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes

## HACK #4 – Using a casing to attach boning:

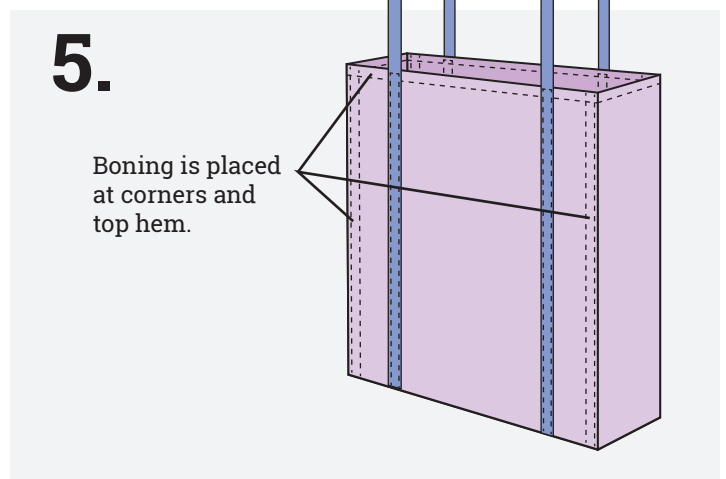
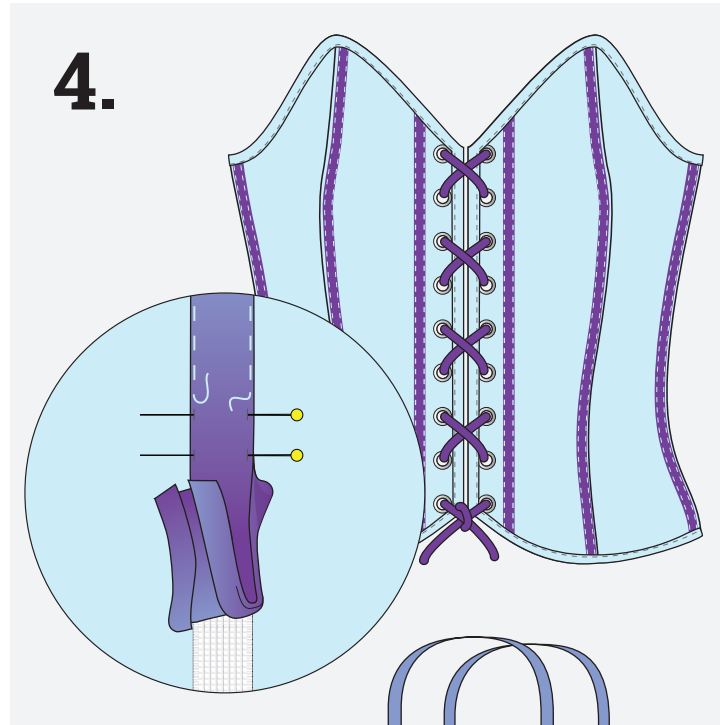
Instead of applying the boning to the inside of the garment, plan for the boning to be placed on the outside. Make a casing or purchase pre-folded binding. The casing should be  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide for  $\frac{1}{4}$ " boning and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " wide for  $\frac{1}{2}$ " boning to allow stitches to be placed flush to the boning. Always start and stop the boning  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from seam lines so that binding or lining can be stitched to the edges.

Stitch the binding and slide either style of boning through the center. If using Flexicurve, you can also wrap binding around the boning and stitch the edge, catching the edge of the Flexicurve as you stitch.

## CRAFT PROJECTS

## HACK #5 – Using boning to reinforce tote bags:

Interfacing is usually used to stiffen and strengthen totes. Even with this, corners often buckle and become sloppy. To use boning, interfacing and lining is still recommended. Stitch the boning to the lining or the wrong side of the tote at the corners. Start and stop  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam line. For added stability, place boning in the top hem of the tote. The boning should be hidden under the lining.



# How to Hack Boning for Spectacular Costumes

## HACK #6 – Using boning as the stiffener in bag handles, hat decoration or jewelry:

The secret to creating professional fabric wrapped bands is neatness. Boning is sturdy and clean edged – perfect for projects such as these.

Plan your project first. For handles, plan the handle to touch, but not to fold under the bottom of the bag. If there is a bottom seam, leave a full seam allowance with no boning so it can be inserted into the seam. If the end is to be topstitched, leave enough fabric to fold to the inside. For bracelets, test-wrap a piece of boning to the desired length. Cut boning to this length. Again, allow enough fabric without boning at each end to turn inside. For other craft projects, cut and test to decide the required finished length of the boning.

Cut a bias strip of fabric 3x the width of the boning plus 1/8" x the desired length.

For Featherlite boning, stitch the strip right sides together using a 1/4" seam allowance to form a tube. Turn the tube right side out. Slide the boning through the tube.

For Flexicurve boning, press both long edges of the strip 1/2" to the wrong side. Place the boning under one folded edge so it is flush to the fold and pin. Fold remaining edge over the boning so fold is flush to first folded edge. Re-pin to secure. Topstitch evenly along the pinned folded edge. Repeat for opposite edge. Topstitch ends as needed.

