

Nebraska's Rising Sun



SKINNY BIAS STEMS

Here are directions for preparing narrow bias for skinny stems, such as those in Nebraska's Rising Sun by Sandi McMillan and Laura Franchini, patterned in *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine* no. 384. On a scrap of muslin, mark a line the width of the finished stem ("X"). Mark another line this length parallel to it and about 3" away (Fig. 1). Place the muslin on a pressing surface. Insert a pin in and out at one end of the drawn line, securing the muslin to the pressing surface. Then insert the pin in and out at the opposite end of the same line (Fig. 2). Likewise, insert a second pin at each end of the second marked line.

Cut bias strips a scant three times the finished width of the stem. The ends should be cut on the bias. Join bias strips with angled seams to make continuous strips for the stems and vines as needed. Thread the angled end of a strip with the right side against the muslin through the openings of both pins; the bias strip will fold in thirds as it is pulled through. Using a medium-hot iron and steam if desired, pull the strip through the pins, pressing the folded bias (Fig. 3). If you can't get the narrow bias tip underneath the pin, lightly coat it with Fray Check and allow to dry before insertion.

