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How to Make Curtains and Draperies
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
New York State College of Home Economics
32 pages

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how to make CURTAINS & DRAPERIES

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

how to make CURTAINS & DRAPERIES

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Purpose of Window Treatments

Windows, often called the eyes of a house, should be treated simply and never look overdressed or cluttered.

Window treatments should help control light and air, provide privacy, and beautify a room. What you use—hangings, blinds, shades, awnings, or combinations of these—will depend on your needs.

Control Light and Air

Well-planned houses have ample light and air and comfortable controls for both. Careful orientation to the sun helps to minimize glare. Light may be softened by a roof overhang, by plantings, and by other buildings.

Sheer and translucent fabrics, if hung or drawn across the window, also soften light and glare and make the window seem less bare. Heavier draperies shut out summer heat, winter cold, and drafts. Hang them so they do not obstruct a view, ventilation, or part of a heating system—that is, not over windows that open or over registers or radiators. Instead, hang draperies on the wall, with the inner edge just to the beginning of the glass. This requires stack space, additional yardage to cover this space, and treatment of the entire wall area.

Provide Privacy

If you wish to obtain complete privacy or to shut out light for television viewing, choose lined traverse draperies of opaque material, venetian blinds with horizontal or vertical slats, or shades.

Translucent materials and bamboo blinds provide semi-privacy; sheer curtains give some feeling of seclusion.

Add Beauty

From the outside, window hangings should harmonize with the architecture and color of the house, not attract undue attention because of conspicuous color, pattern, or the way they are hung. The windows seen as you pass by should appear to be treated alike and similar in color. Inside the house, curtains and draperies can contribute color, pattern, and/or texture; the folds of fabric can add pleasing softness to severe structural lines. If selected to remain a part of the room background, hangings help to make a room look spacious and to frame a view beyond the window.

For a restful effect, choose a *color* similar to that of the wall. For greater emphasis at the windows, choose a slightly different hue or one a little lighter or darker, or brighter or softer.

Choose *textures* as carefully as you do colors. Shiny, smooth textures usually look well with contemporary, new furnishings; dull, soft ones often compliment traditional furnishings and those that begin to show wear. Interesting shadows result when light shines through textured fabrics or through blinds.

If *patterned* fabric is used, either the background color or an important color in the design should blend with the wall color. Look at the fabric in loose and in close folds to be sure you will enjoy it if drawn across, as well as stacked at the sides of the windows. If more than one width of patterned fabric is needed for half the window, check to be sure widths can be joined economically.

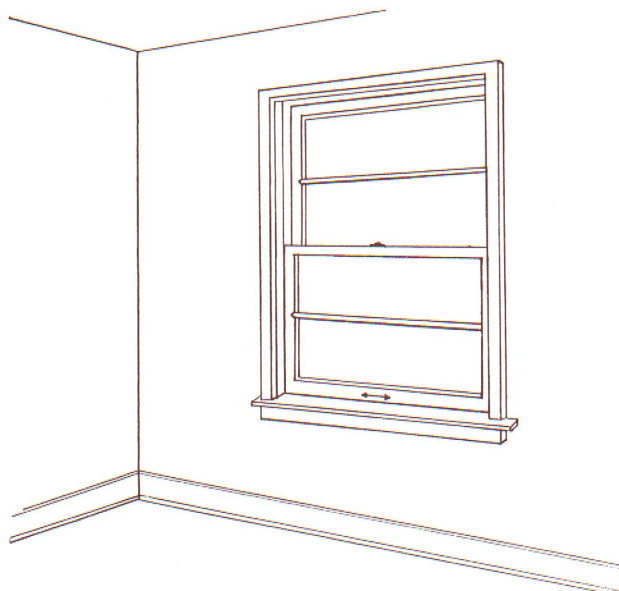
Sheer fabrics should be flawless. Hold yardage to the light to detect imperfections.

Types of Windows

The type of window you have influences the treatment; compare these basic types with your windows.

Double-Hung Windows

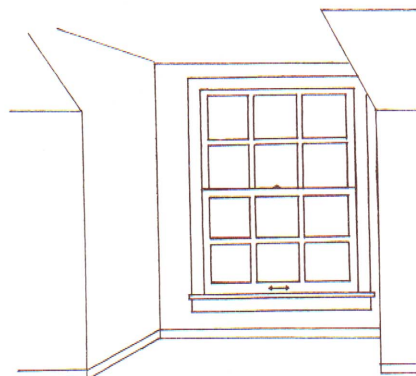
Double-hung windows are widely used; they have two sashes, one or both of which can be opened. They are easy to treat unless poorly proportioned, divided, or placed.



Double windows are two windows with little wall space between; preferably they are treated as one.

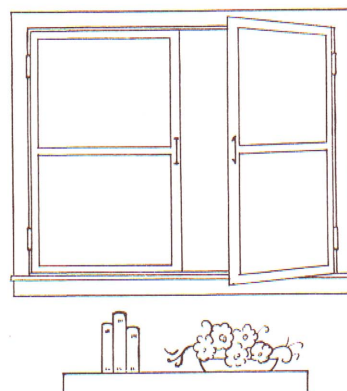


Dormer windows are added where light and air are especially needed. If well-designed from the outside of the house, the window usually fits the opening. However, as shown here, fabric can be hung partly on the wall rather than hung to cover the window.



Casement Windows

Opening-in. To permit opening and closing the window easily, fabrics should be fastened to the window and swing with it. Or they may hang from a crane fastened to the trim or to the wall, and swing out of the way of the window.



Opening-out. Fabrics should be hung inside where they will not be damaged by the weather and out of the way of window cranks or handles.

Awning windows have wide, horizontal sashes that open out and, if properly built, do not admit rain. Fabrics are hung on the window trim or wall.

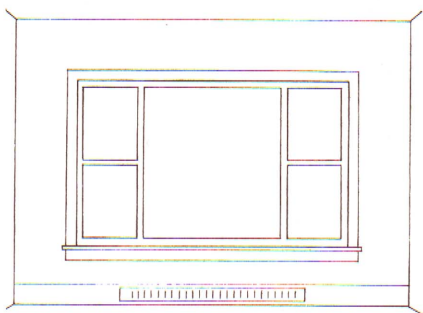
Jalousie windows have narrow horizontal strips of glass which can be cranked open at any desired angle. Fabrics should not obstruct light or shut out air.

Fixed Windows

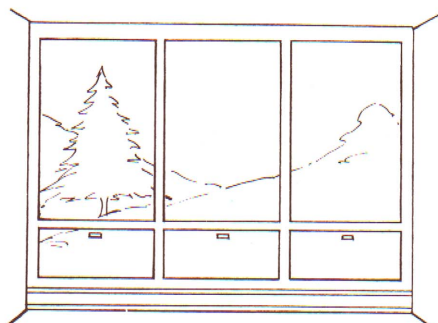
Fixed windows do not open; they may be single or used in combination with side or lower panels which do not open to admit air.

The picture window shown does not open. Note

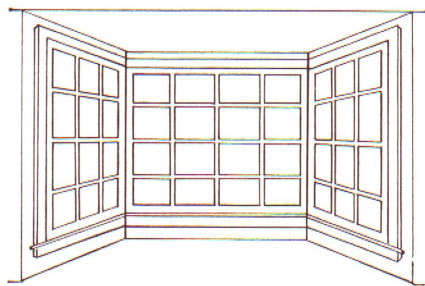
the baseboard radiator indicated below, which should be left uncovered in order not to obstruct heat.



Glass walls are groups of windows occupying entire walls. In the illustration, the lower sections open for ventilation. Treatment should not interfere with air flow but may be desired to cut glare or add warmth.

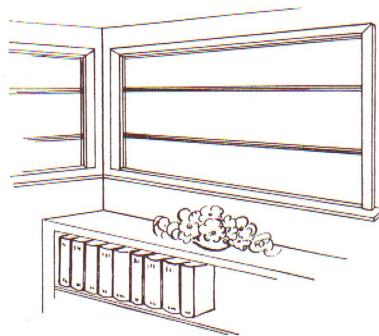


Bay windows usually are added where light or air are especially needed. Center sections often are fixed; side windows may or may not open. Fabric may be needed to cut glare but should not shut out light or view.

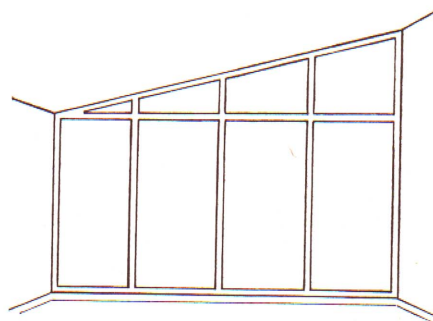


Bow windows are sometimes called curved bay windows and are similar in purpose and treatment. Special curved rods are needed.

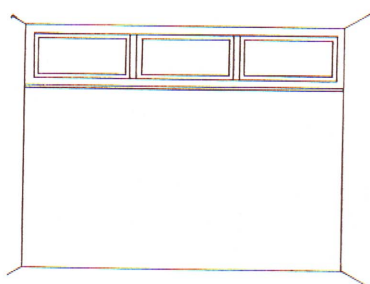
Corner windows may or may not open; some are double hung. Fabrics often hang at the sides and draw to the corner.



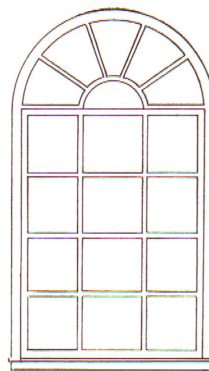
Slanting windows, sometimes called cathedral windows, usually occupy entire walls. Often the slanting upper section has no treatment, the lower section is treated as a glass wall.



Clerestory windows are shallow and placed near the ceiling. Usually no treatment is needed or effective.



Arched windows are found in some lovely old houses; they should be featured because of their design rather than their treatment.

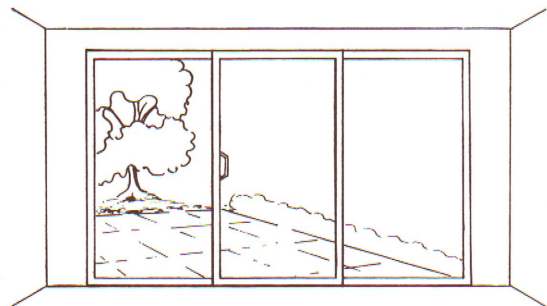


Sliding Windows and Doors

Horizontal sliding windows can be treated the same as casement windows that swing out.

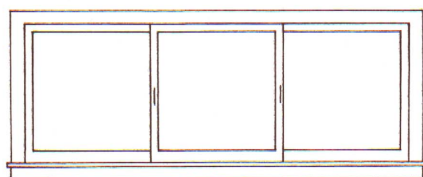
Sliding glass doors require no treatment unless traverse curtains or draperies are used to cut glare or add warmth.

French doors often open onto a porch or patio. Treatment, if needed, should not interfere with the use of the doors.



Strip Windows

Ranch or strip windows are horizontal in shape and often used to allow furniture placement on the wall beneath. Hangings usually end at the apron, or about 2 inches below the opening, if there is no trim. In this illustration the center section slides in either direction; strip windows also open out.

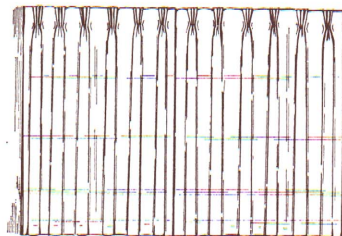


Types of Curtains and Draperies

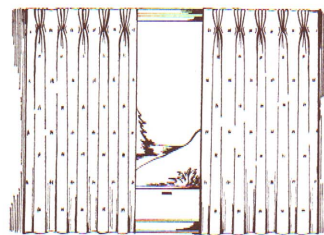
Before you decide on the type of window treatment, consider the window itself, others in the room if more than one kind, those in adjoining rooms, and the effect from the outside of your house. Not all windows in one room or in adjoining rooms need to be treated alike; in fact, some variety may be more interesting. But they should not be so different, either from the inside or outside, that they attract unwanted attention.

Traverse Curtains and Draperies

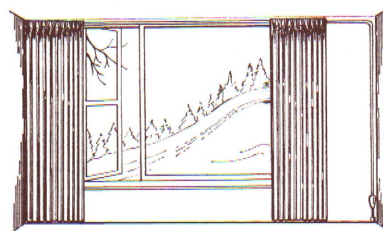
Sheer fabrics, unlined, may be pleated as are draperies and hung on a traverse rod; they may cover the window or be pulled back as desired.



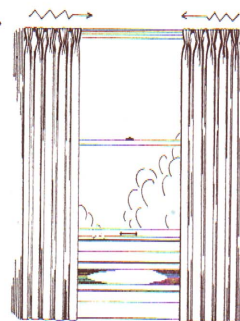
Heavier fabrics, both those which allow some light to show through and lined opaque materials, are pleated and hung in a similar manner. If used on a window wall, draperies will cover part of the side windows when pulled back.



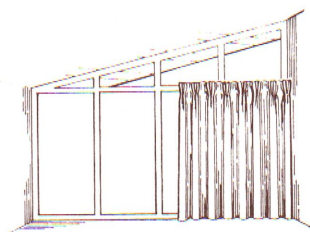
For a picture window, draperies when pulled back may hang in the stack space on the wall, not to obstruct a view or air. Or, they may hang over the side window to cut glare.



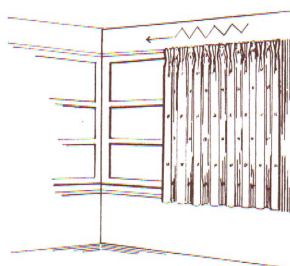
Traverse draperies on smaller windows cover more of the glass and shut out light, air, and view because of the stack space required when pulled back. Preferably the inside edge of the draperies should come only to the beginning of the glass, and then would extend on the wall. The window opening thus seems wider than it does tall and narrow, as shown here.



For slanting windows, the upper section admits light softened by the overhang; traverse draperies are used for the lower section. Draperies made to fit the entire window would have an uneven hem-line when drawn back.

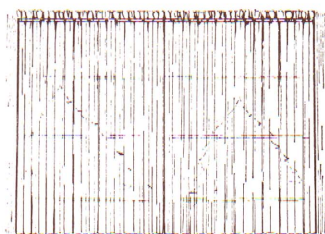


Pulls may allow fabric to draw one way, rather than two ways, to the left or to the right; in this case, the fabric may be drawn to the corner.



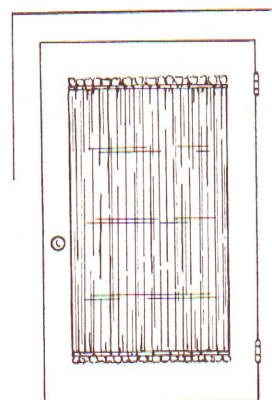
Panel Curtains

Panel curtains, with the rod inserted in a casing, hang in pleasing folds over the entire window and are stationary rather than drawn. Similar panels may hang at the sides of windows only. For a single window with about a 28-inch opening, allow two lengths of 36-inch fabric, one length for each panel. For wider windows, allow two lengths of 50-inch fabric, one length for each panel. Fabric should seldom be split in width, unless the added partial width is needed for fullness.



A *sash curtain* on a door is similar to a panel except that rods fasten the curtain both top and bottom to hold the fabric in place when the door is opened.

Swinging rods may be used for panel curtains or draperies to move fabric when windows open in, or for dormer windows and doors, for example.



Cafe Curtains

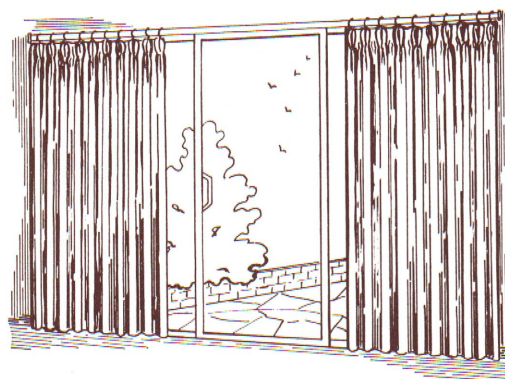
Cafe and tiered curtains should be used only on windows with divisions, not over a solid pane of glass. Rods should be so mounted that they do not show from the outside of the house. Scallops, if used, should be shallow rather than deep, because of outside appearance. Hems should not show beyond the sash, or if the window has metal construction, as little as possible.

Cafe curtains hung next to the glass are shown on page 9. Rods are held to the casing at each end by a spring and suction cup.



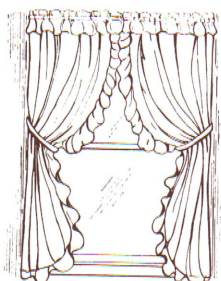
Curtains on Decorative Rods

Curtains and draperies may be hung from decorative rods and rings of metal or wood. Rings are fastened to the back of the pleats and slip over the pole.

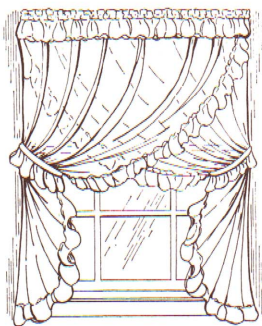


Ruffled Curtains

Ruffled curtains are most suited to informal rooms, people, and architecture. Tailored, pleated ruffles may be acceptable in a living room. Tie-backs help to hold the fabric so it will not be damaged against the screen or by snow or rain. If used, they should be long enough to permit the curtain to fall in a curve rather than be sharply tied back. The center of the tie, or the end, should be at the division in the window.

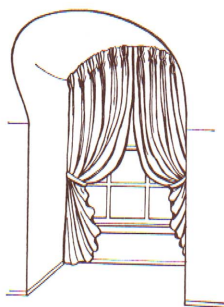


Crisscross curtains frequently hide the view entirely from the upper part of the window unless the fabric is extremely sheer and flawless. Cross-lines conflict with the straight lines of a window and often make it appear overdressed.



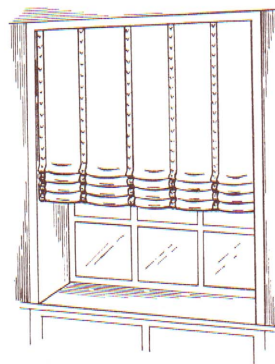
Arched Window Curtains

Custom-made rods frequently are needed for windows of unusual shape or size. Curtains for such windows should be sheer to admit light.



Roman Shades and Austrian Curtains

Decorative shades and elegant Austrian curtains can be made by using commercially available ring or shirr tapes. About twice as much fabric is required for fullness in these curtains as for Roman shades. Both may be hung close to the window or flush with the wall, as shown.



Fabrics for Curtains and Draperies

The term "curtain" includes both sheer and translucent materials which admit light and air. Draperies are of opaque, or nearly opaque, materials and are usually, but not always, lined.

Desirable fabrics *hang well*. They should be pliable enough to fall in pleasing, compact folds, rather than bulky ones, when across the window or when drawn back.

Desirable fabrics *wear well*. They should not fade, rot from sun or heat, split, stretch, pull out of shape, shrink or lose their original texture, design, or finish when hanging at the window or when cleaned.

Life expectancy rates, published by the National Institute of Dry Cleaning, are for lined draperies 5 years, for unlined draperies 4 years, and for sheer curtains 3 years.

A lining may help to prolong wear and improve the appearance of draperies. Treated linings such as *Milium*, *Thermaline* and *Weather-wall*, help to keep out cold in winter and heat in summer. Such linings may drape differently than does the outside fabric; some require special handling in drycleaning. Some fabrics are woven with a backing and require no additional lining.

Desirable fabrics are *easy to care for*.

Fibers

A variety of fibers are used in curtain and drapery fabrics. Each fiber has advantages and disadvantages; learn the characteristics of each and choose the best for your purpose.

Natural fibers

Cotton, linen, silk, and wool are natural fibers. Fabrics of cotton and linen fibers usually hang well, wear well, and are relatively easy to care for. Because they absorb water readily, they are easy to dye, are available in a wide color range, and hold colors well, if good dyes and manufacturing processes are used. Strong sunlight weakens them after long exposure.

Cotton may be given special finishes which will make the fabric wrinkle resistant; soil, spot, and stain retardant; water repellant; and mildew and flame resistant. Because of these finishes, the fabric will continue to look new, be damaged less by screens, rain, and snow, will dry quickly, and require little or no ironing. Good quality finishes should last as long as the fabric.

Linen is strong; it wrinkles unless resin treated.

Silk must be handled carefully; it dyes readily, but loses color easily and deteriorates in the sun rapidly.

Wool (mohair for draperies) should be treated for moth protection; it shrinks unless given special care.

Man-made fibers

Man-made fibers add characteristics such as crease resistance, stability, and easy care. Ordinarily they are not affected by mildew, moths and other household insects, although moths may chew their way through stored fabrics.

Some man-made fibers are not sensitive to heat. These include rayons (Avisco, Bemberg, Fortisan, solution-dyed Coloray and Colorspun), glass fibers (Fiberglas, Modiglass) and metallic fibers (Lurex, Metlon).

Others are heat sensitive, including acetates (Celanese, Arnel, and solution-dyed Chromspun and Celaperm), nylons (Nylon, Antron) and Polyesters (Dacron, Fortrel, Vycron, Kodel).

Rayon is a versatile fiber, can be made to look like many other fibers, is easy to sew, inexpensive, and fairly durable. New processes are making some rayons stronger when wet. *Fortisan* is strong, resists stretching and sagging, and has fair resistance to sun. Wrinkle and shrinkage resistant and water repellant finishes are desirable.

Glass fibers absorb water slowly, therefore fabrics dry rapidly. Color may be added in the glass melt and should be fast. A heat (coronizing) treatment permanently softens the fiber so fabrics now drape well, though they are heavy in weight. They do not wrinkle, and rarely need pressing; occasionally top

pleats are improved by hand touchup. They will not burn, shrink, weaken, or deteriorate when hung in strong sunlight; they resist mildew and insects.

However, glass fabrics may split from abrasion, such as rubbing against the sill or floor, and printed designs may wear off. Initial cost is relatively high, but length of life may compensate for this. Hand wash, do not rub or wring; drip dry.

Metallic materials are used with other fibers for sparkle and richness. Most do not tarnish, are supple, can be washed and ironed if low temperatures are used, and drycleaned with care. They are sensitive to abrasion and may cause wear to other nearby fibers.

Acetates drape well, have greater resistance to wrinkling than rayons, and resist mildew. They are noted more for beauty than strength. Some dyes used for acetate fabrics are subject to gas and fume fading, though those used in solution dyeing should be fast to light. They should be pressed at low temperature and may be damaged by insects such as silverfish. An anti-static finish may be added to *Arnel*.

Nylon is a strong fiber which resists abrasion, mildew and insect damage, and does not soil easily. Sun damages it, though less than rayons; bright nylon fibers have better resistance than dull ones.

Polyester fibers have good resistance to sun, wrinkling, abrasion, and moth and mildew damage. Fabrics wash easily, are strong, do not shrink or stretch out of shape, and require little ironing or pressing. Some are heat sensitive. However *Kodel*, one of the newer polyester fibers, may be ironed at a much higher temperature (cotton setting) than other polyesters.

Yarns

Fibers are made into yarns; yarns are made into cloth.

Blends and combinations of fibers are highly desirable if the fibers are wisely used. The percentage used will determine performance.

Blended fabrics have yarns made from two or more fibers.

Combination fabrics have different fibers for lengthwise and for crosswise yarns.

Blend-combination fabrics combine at the weaving stage a blended fiber yarn in one direction (warp or filling) and a single fiber yarn in the other.

Weaves

Balanced weaves (all yarns of about the same count, size, and strength) tailor well and may wear

better than do those with thick filling yarns and thin warp yarns, for example. However, uneven yarns often add desirable textured interest.

Labels

Proper labeling of drapery fabrics, which helps identify fibers, became mandatory when the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act was passed in March 1960. The label must include the generic or family name and the percentage of all fibers 5 per cent or over in order of predominance by weight, the country of origin if foreign made, and the registered identification number, house mark, or trade name.

The Flammable Fabrics Act prohibits the introduction or movement in interstate commerce of articles . . . which are highly flammable as to be dangerous when worn or for other purposes. The latter could apply to curtains and draperies.

Look for labels printed on the border of the fabric rather than attached to the bolt only.

Learn to read and interpret labels accurately to judge the performance and wear you can expect

from the fabric and the care it will require. For example, a small percentage of a fiber may add glamour but usually adds little to durability and may increase cost.

In addition to mandatory labeling, many manufacturers add helpful information such as:

- *An As-L22 label* indicating minimum performance of a fabric for its end use, and directions for its care.

- *Sure Care Symbols* which give explicit instructions for care of fabrics.

- *Shrinkage specifications.* Shrinkage should not exceed 2 per cent—about 4 inches per 5-yard length. Guarantees allow for a “return” caused by the weight of the draperies.

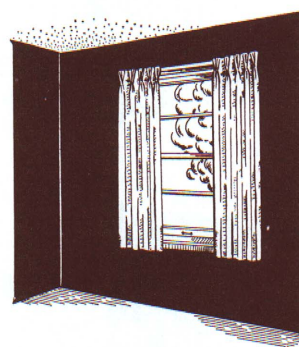
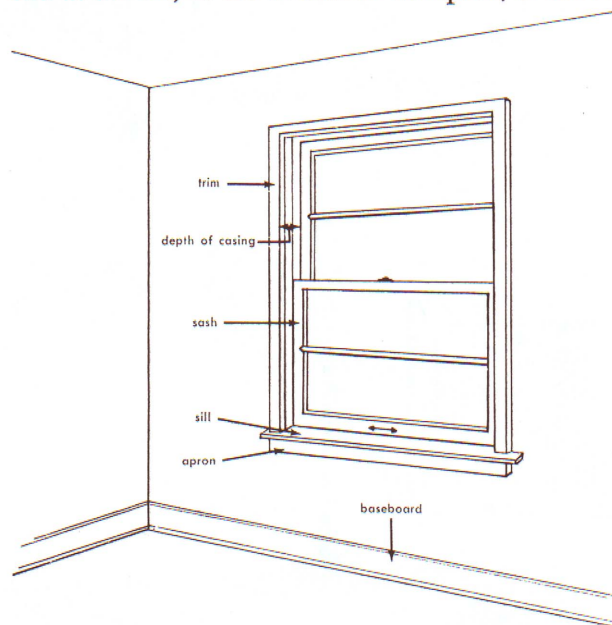
- *Color fastness.* Labels should specify whether fast to light, laundering, drycleaning, crocking and/or gas fumes. Labels usually indicate “resistance” rather than “proof.” The term “vat” in the label indicates good color fastness. Also new dyes have been developed which the manufacturers say, for all practical purposes, are sunfast, washfast, fast to drycleaning, and fast to rub-off.

How to Hang Curtains and Draperies

Lengths

All hangings should begin and end in line with some structural part of the room. At the top they may extend to the ceiling, be concealed under a cornice board or valance, be in line with the top of the trim around the window, or be even with the top of the sash for a recessed window. They may end at the sill; at the bottom of the apron, or about

an inch below the opening if there is no frame; about an inch above the floor; or at the top of the baseboard or other architectural division in paneling under the window. The length of the hanging should be in proportion to the length and width of the window and depends also on the place of the window opening in the wall. Most fabrics are hung straight, though occasionally they are tied back loosely.



Widths

Hangings must be wide enough to hang in ample graceful folds. If they are on traverse rods, allow fullness of at least twice the distance they are to cover; for sheer, soft fabrics, fullness of as much as three times the distance may be desirable.

Cornices and Valances

Cornices or valances can be used to simplify the window treatment by covering the trim, the hardware, the draw cords, the roller of the shade, or the top of the fabric. They may also be used to frame a group of windows, or used over the top of a fabric wall to help reduce the effect of high ceilings and windows.

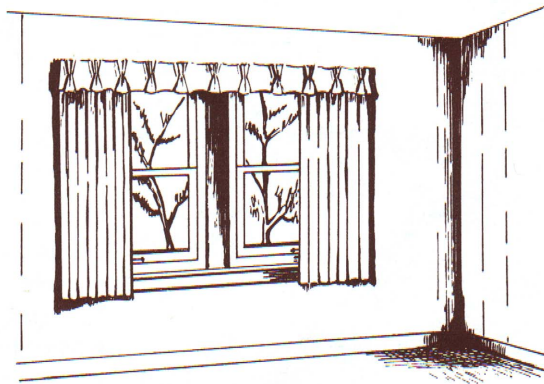
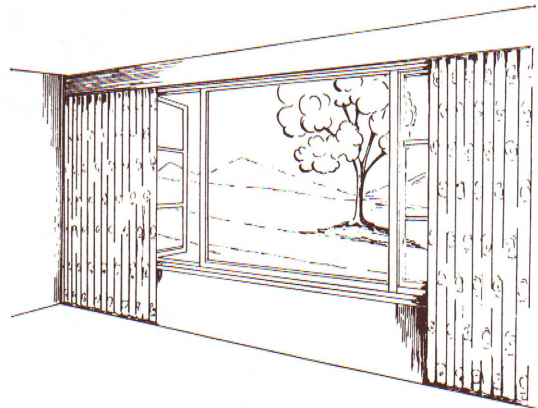
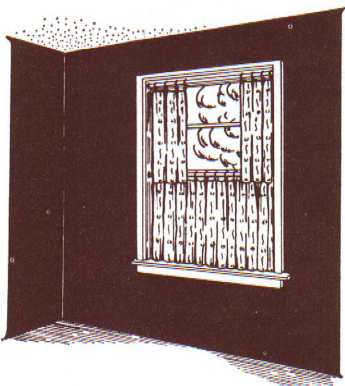
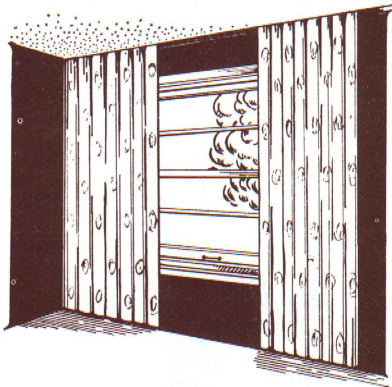
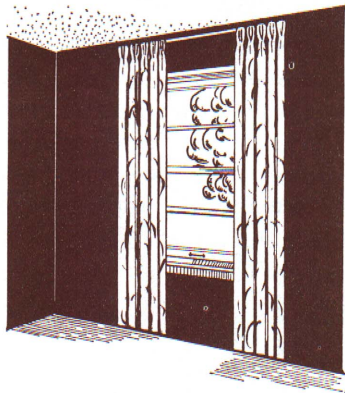
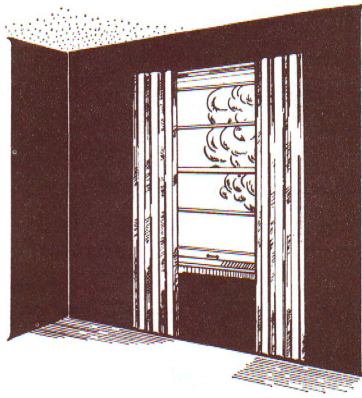
A cornice is made entirely of wood, metal, or a composition material, though it may be covered with fabric. It should seem a structural part of the room—for example, extend the entire length of one wall or across an alcove. The depth should cover the horizontal lines it is intended to hide, but be in pleasing proportion to the rest of the window, other openings, and the room. The minimum depth is 4 inches; in large rooms or rooms with high ceilings, the depth may be 10 to 12 inches. The side boards should project out in the room at least 3 inches inside measurement, but no farther than necessary for the fabric to hang or be drawn easily.

The color of the cornice should blend closely with the wall, the fabric of the drapery, or an important color in the fabric.

A valance is made of cloth, either of the drapery or of a color that blends closely with the wall or drapery. It is usually fastened to a valance board but occasionally is hung on the same rod as the curtains or draperies, or on a separate one.

Use side lengths with a cornice or valance to frame the opening rather than to attract attention high in the room.

If a fluorescent lighting fixture is used behind a valance or a cornice, specifications should be carefully followed so that the room and furnishings will be satisfactorily lighted.



Hardware

Sturdy rods, tracks, and fixtures, strong enough to support the weight of the fabric and to permit easy operation, are essential to well-tailored window treatments. Consider their cost and installation before you decide on the window treatment.

Rods

Rods are available in a wide variety, each suited to a particular need.

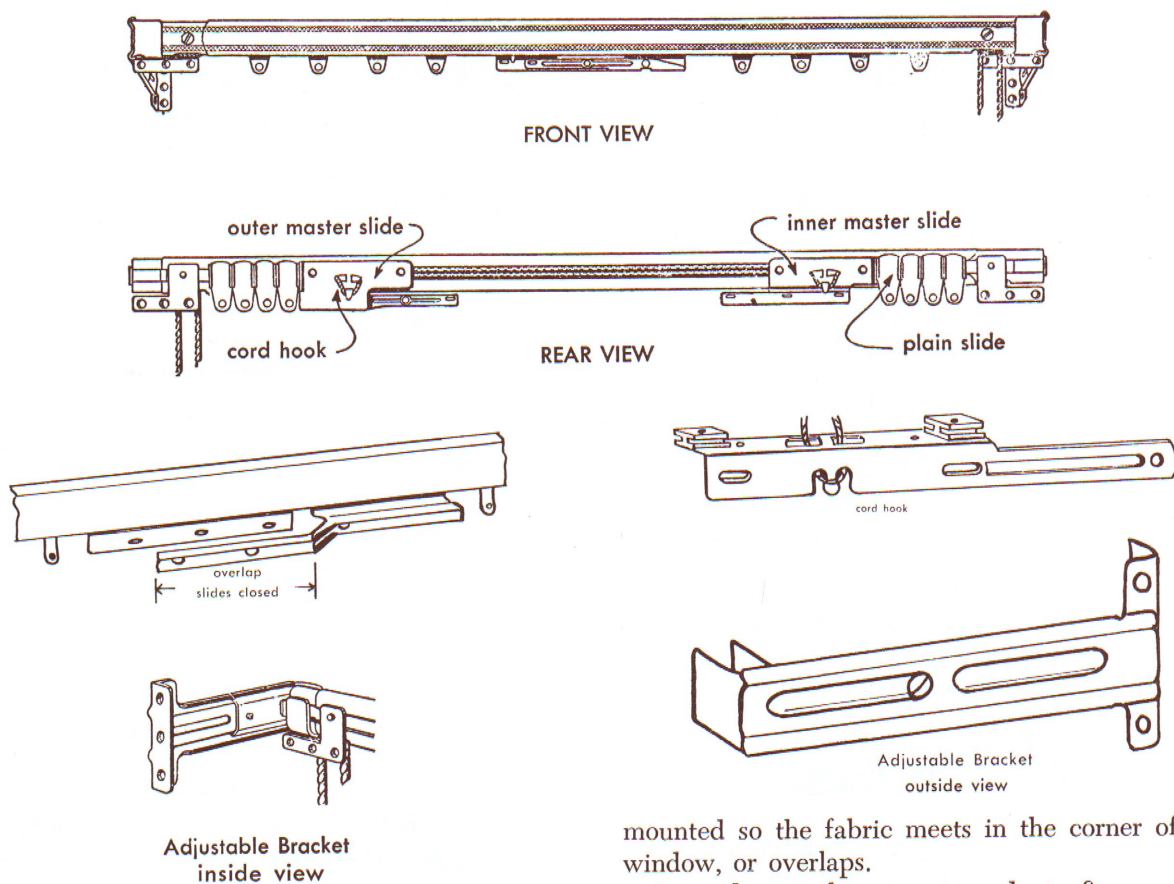
Traverse rods are used for draw draperies which meet in the middle of a window.

for a return—that is, the distance from the corner of the rod to the wall. An additional $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of fabric may be added to completely shut out light.

Rods also can be mounted close to the wall without the adjustable bracket; no fabric allowance then is needed for a return.

After master slides and cords are adjusted, according to directions accompanying the rod, the cord must be firmly anchored over the hooks.

Traverse rods also may draw one way only, either to the right or to the left. This often is desirable at a corner window, for example. Rods may be

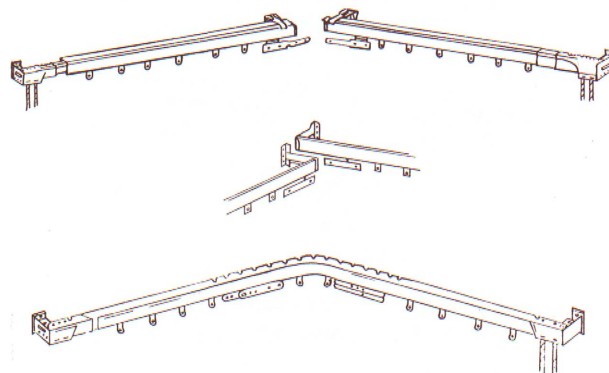


The weight of the rod you need depends on the length of the opening and the weight of the fabric—usually heavy-duty rods are desirable for openings wider than 4 feet. If a fabric is to stack on the wall, the stack space required will be about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fabric width, more for heavier fabrics, less for lightweight fabrics. Rod length must be planned accordingly.

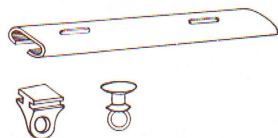
Brackets should be adjusted as close to the window trim or wall as possible; those for cut-to-measure rods can be as close as $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 2 inches is the minimum measure for standard rods. This adjustment determines the amount of fabric needed

mounted so the fabric meets in the corner of the window, or overlaps.

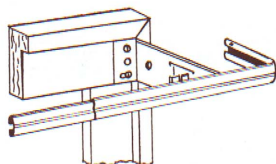
Or, rods may be custom made to fit around a corner.



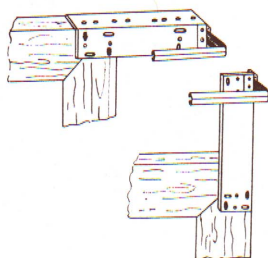
Often the same rod can be wall mounted or, by omitting the brackets, can be screwed to the ceiling through slots in the rod. Glides are shown for ceiling installation.



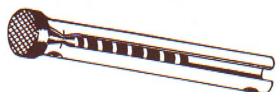
To widen the appearance of a window, rods may be fastened to the wood of the frame with the end extending on the wall.



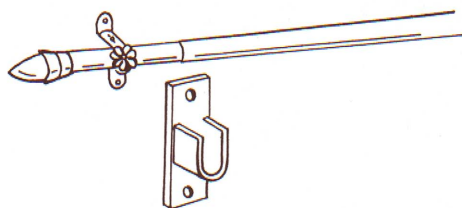
Or, brackets into which a rod can be fastened are available; these can be screwed either horizontally or vertically.



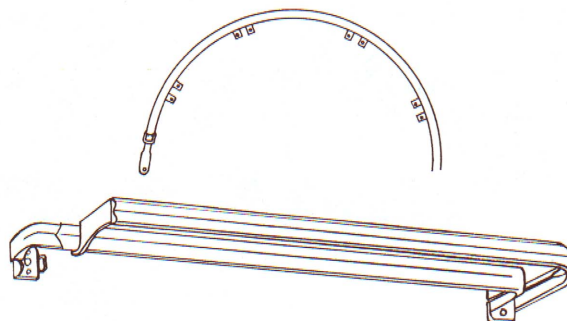
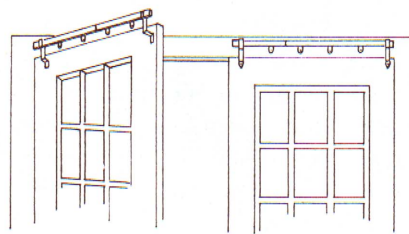
Cafe curtains can be mounted next to the glass with a rod which requires no screws to damage the woodwork. A suction cup is at each end, but also there are stiff springs to hold the rod securely.



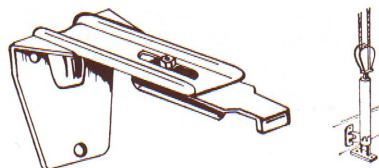
Or, there are various types of brackets which require screws. These may be fastened within the frame for a flat rod which is dropped in the holder. Or, various types of brackets can be fastened outside of the trim to hold round, oval, or flat rods.



Special rods also are available, for example, for doors, for arched windows, and for crisscross curtains.



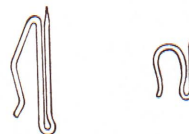
Supports are available for ceiling or for wall installations where needed.



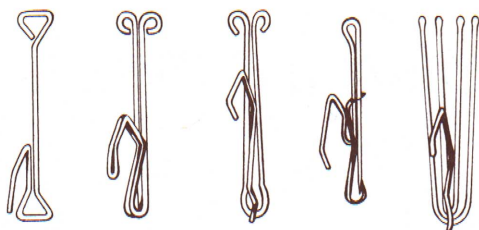
Pulleys for endless cord installations are desirable for heavy draperies and are floor mounted. A similar pulley arrangement is desirable for wide short windows where long separate cords would otherwise hang on the wall.

Hooks

Hooks, heavy duty or regular, are commonly used to fasten a curtain or drapery into glides on a traverse rod. Permanent finish heading tape should be used with these hooks; they can be pinned in the hem, at various heights. Preferably the top of the hook is no more than 1½ inches below the top of the curtain or drapery to help keep it erect.

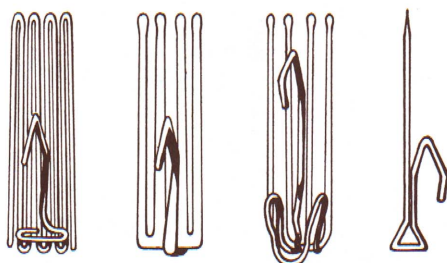


Heading hooks with a shank about 3 inches long usually cost more than do hooks without a shank; some have to be sewed on, others are slipped on, and others are pinned in. Hook positions vary greatly. Since no adjustment is possible, it is most important to select the hook that will make your curtain hang in the correct position (see page 12).



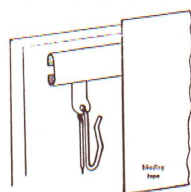
Heading hooks for pleater tapes vary also in hook position and should be chosen just as carefully (see below). There are also similar hooks for ceiling installations.

End hooks usually cost less than do heading hooks and may be used to keep corners erect. There are also corner pins for this purpose.

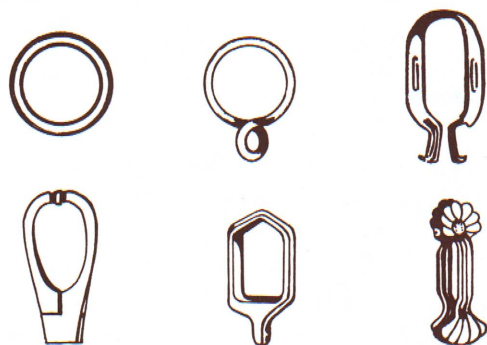


Slip-on hooks only should be used for glass fiber; pin-in hooks damage the fabric.

Test the hook in the glide, or on the rod, and on the heading tape to be sure that it fits and that the finished curtain or drapery will be the right height.



A variety of rings and clips also are available for cafe and cottage curtains. The length of the fastener must be considered in the overall length of the curtain. Rings or rings with a shank fit on round rods; there are also oblong rings for flat rods. These have to be sewed on. Clips are easy to attach, but their sharp edges may snag the fabric. A plastic clip may be more desirable in this respect.

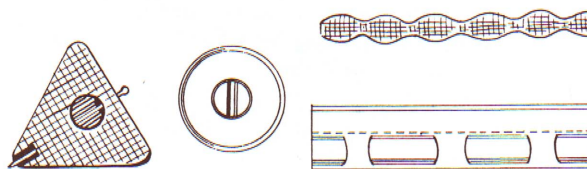


As a general rule, buy one fixture for each pleat, and two for each side edge. That is, buy three fixtures for 36-inch material, five fixtures for 50-inch material, and four for the side edges of the curtain or drapery for each half of each window.

Weights and weighting

Pin-on weights are easy to attach. They are made in two sizes and are painted so they do not require covering. A back view shows a hole into which you push the fabric with the end of your finger, thus allowing the pin to go through the cloth.

Sew-on weights are made in different sizes, of lead or other metal, and must be covered and sewed to the drapery.



Usually two weights are used for each half of the window, near each side hem. If there are joining seams, a weight is added at each seam. If the fabric does not hang in pleasing folds, a weight may be added in line with each pleat.

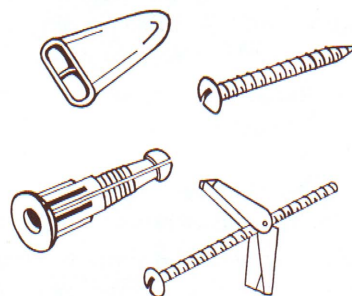
For sheer curtains, weighting by the yard is laid in the bottom hem, tacked at each side hem.

If more weight is needed, metal bars inserted in tape also are available by the yard.

Other

A plastic thimble protects the sharp ends of a rod and helps you slip the rod in the casing of a curtain quickly and safely.

Use the best method to attach hardware. Screws are desirable for wood installations and usually come with your traverse rod. For most mountings on plaster, plaster board, or wallboard, a combination of plaster screw in a plaster plug is recommended. For heavier draperies use a toggle bolt or screw anchor.



HOW TO MAKE CURTAINS FOR A TRAVERSE ROD

EQUIPMENT

Fabric for curtains (sheer or translucent material which admits light and does not shut out air)

Thread—mercerized cotton, heavy-duty, or other kind recommended by the fabric manufacturer, of a color that blends with the fabric

Traverse rod

Fixtures to fasten the curtain to the rod

Weights, by the yard—round or oblong metal balls or bars, covered with cloth

Permanent finish heading tape, approximately 3 inches wide for sill and apron lengths, 4 inches wide for floor length

Sewing machine

Sharp shears with good points

Box of non-rusting, sharp-pointed dressmaker pins, No. 17

Needles, No. 7 or 8 sharps

Thimble

Steel rule

Iron and ironing board

Cloth and tissue paper for pressing

Work surface, preferably about 5 to 6 feet wide and 13 feet long

Install the Rod

If not already in the desired place, install the rod before measuring for the curtains.

For *wall installations*, the rod position, hardware, and heading construction should be such that the upper edge of the hanging will cover the top of the trim. Or if a valance or cornice is used, its top edge should cover the top of the trim; its lower edge should extend to the glass and cover the lower edge of the pleats. Some variation in the height of the drapery underneath may be possible. The rod has to be placed where it can be secured firmly—that is, not where wood is mitered or damaged. Brackets require a flat vertical surface of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches; they are usually screwed to the upper corners of the window trim or close to the ceiling.

Ceiling installations should permit the top of the fabric to be just below the ceiling.

The rod must be perfectly level if the curtain is to operate smoothly and easily; satisfactory installation may require the services of a carpenter.

Follow carefully the manufacturer's directions included with the rod. Adjust end brackets as close to the wall as possible, preferably $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches.

Choose the hardware that when hooked in the glides or over the rod will fit on the heading and will bring the curtain or drapery to the top of the rod or other planned position. Or adjust rod position, if the desired hardware is not available.

The overall length of the curtain cannot be adjusted, unless the top is covered by a cornice or

valance. The width of the top hem is controlled by the width of heading tape.

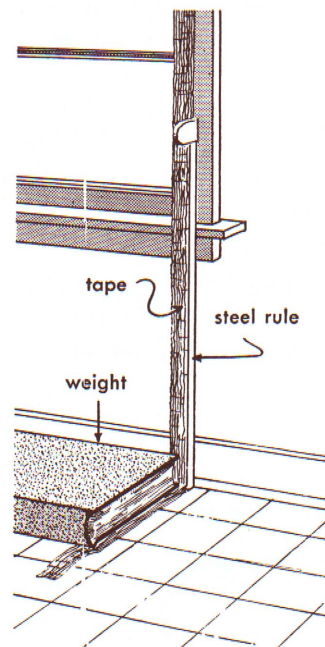
Measure the Window

Length. A simple way to measure the length is to use a tape at least as long as the finished drapery is to be, placed in the position in which the curtain is to hang. Fasten one end of the tape around the rod, or at the ceiling, and weight the other end. Place the steel rule against the tape and measure, from where the top of the curtain will be to the length desired.

Width. Measure across the front of the rod.

For center overlap and covering the ends of the master slide, for the depth of the rod, and for cutting out light at the sides, add usually 6 inches for each half of the window or a total of 12 inches.

Allow at least twice this measure for fullness; for sheer soft fabrics, allow three times the measure.



Estimate the Yardage

The yardage you will need will be the *length*, including hem allowances of 9 to 18 inches; multiply this by the *width*, including fullness and allowance if the curtain is to traverse. Panel curtains, hanging at the sides only, usually are made of 1,

1½, or 2 widths of fabric for each side of the window.

If the material is figured rather than plain, allow additional yardage for placing and matching the pattern (see page 24).

FLOOR LENGTH

Lower hem:

single, ½ inch turn-in, 4½-inch hem

OR

double, 10 inches (for 5-inch hem) if turn-in shows or extra material is needed in case of shrinkage

Upper hem:

single, ½ inch turn-in, 4-inch hem

OR

double, 8 inches for 4-inch heading

SILL LENGTH

Lower hem:

double, about 5 inches (for a 2½-inch hem) or a width which does not show above the sash

Upper hem:

single, ½ inch turn-in, 3-inch hem

OR

double, 6 inches, for a 3-inch heading

For example, if the finished curtain is to measure 95 inches (ceiling to floor), add 9 to 18 inches and buy 104 to 113 inches of plain material for each length.

Or, if the finished length is to be 80 inches (top of trim to floor), buy 89 to 98 inches of plain material for each length.

Width

For a 6-foot 2-inch window opening without wood trim, the rod would be fastened at least 2 inches beyond the opening on each side.

Rod, length across the front 78 inches

Traverse allowance, 6 inches each

half 12 inches

90 inches

× 2

Double fullness 180 inches

Add for side hems and joining widths

Allow 4 widths of 46- to 50-inch material, 2 widths for each half of the window.

Total

For the above example, floor length, traverse curtains, plain fabric, for each window:

Buy 4 lengths, each 104 inches, or 11 yards 20 inches for each window.

Measure and Cut Lengths

The curtains illustrated in the following photographs are floor-length curtains for a traverse rod. Two widths of 48-inch material are used for each side of a 6-foot 2-inch opening without a cornice.

Cut One Length

Be sure you have enough material to include an allowance for the top hem. Then at the end of the yardage that will be near the top of the window, draw a yarn and cut or tear across the width of the fabric (figure 1). If you have a patterned design and the pattern is not printed true, cut with the design; use the straight side and end of the table and a yardstick or carpenter's square to guide your cutting (see figure 31).

Fold the material lengthwise through the center and lay it flat on the table. Place the steel rule on the folded edge and measure the exact length needed for one strip, including the lower hem (figure 2). Be careful not to pull or stretch the material. Check the measurement on at least one additional lengthwise fold. Then draw a yarn and cut or tear across this width, or cut following the design.

Use this first length, rather than the rule, to cut other lengths.

Prepare the Material

Prepare the curtain for half a window at a time.

Press out all creases or folds. If steam is necessary, and the fabric is apt to water spot, place a dry cloth over the fabric before you press.

Decide on the finish for the sides, how widths will be joined if more than one is needed, and whether you will remove, snip, or leave selvages. Cut just before you sew to avoid raveling.

If one width only is needed at each side of the window, cut off the selvages (the edges that are tightly woven and may pucker), cutting on a lengthwise yarn (figure 3). Or if selvage is narrow or indistinct, cut with bias snips only.

Or, occasionally edges are well-woven and the curtain will hang satisfactorily without removing or snipping selvages or hemming the sides. If multiple widths are needed, remove selvages only on the edges which will be hemmed.

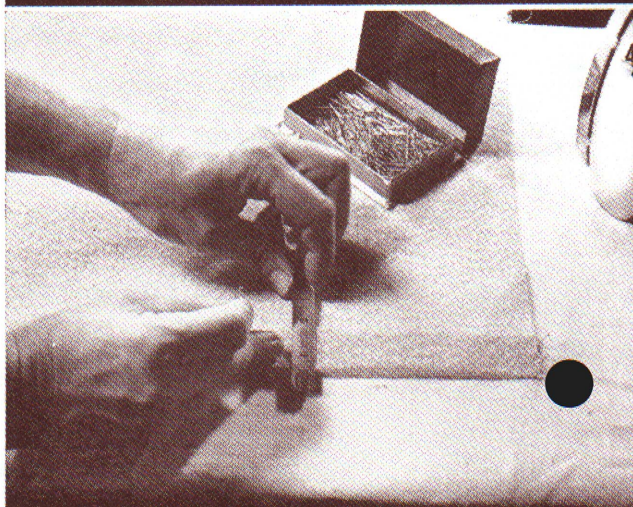
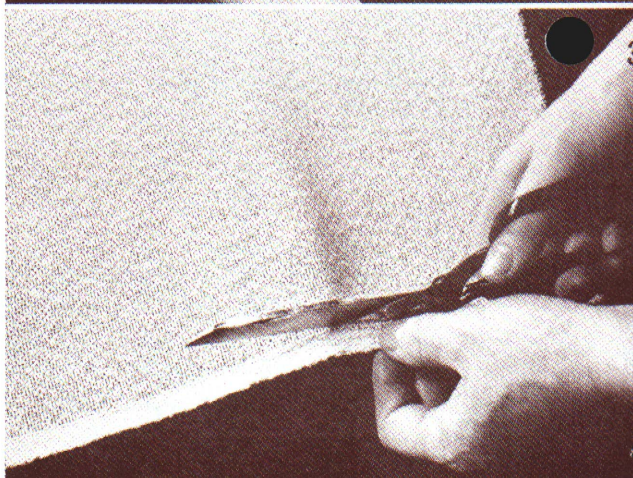
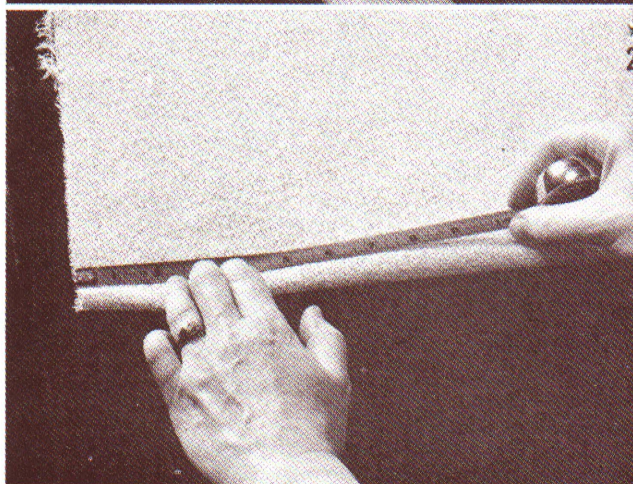
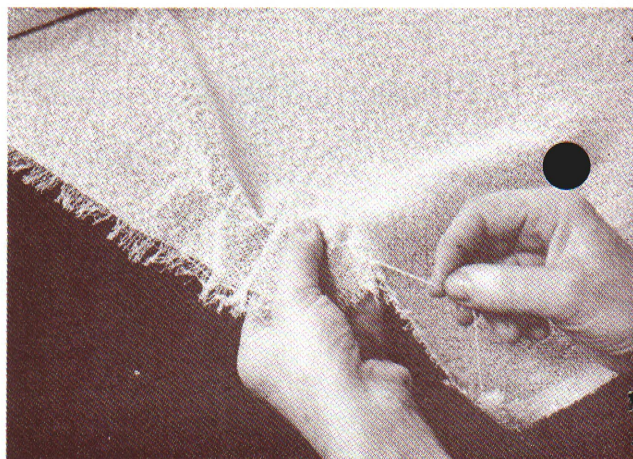
Join the Widths

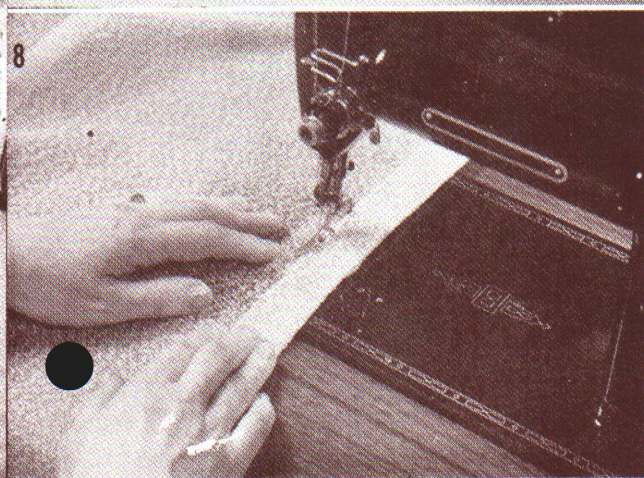
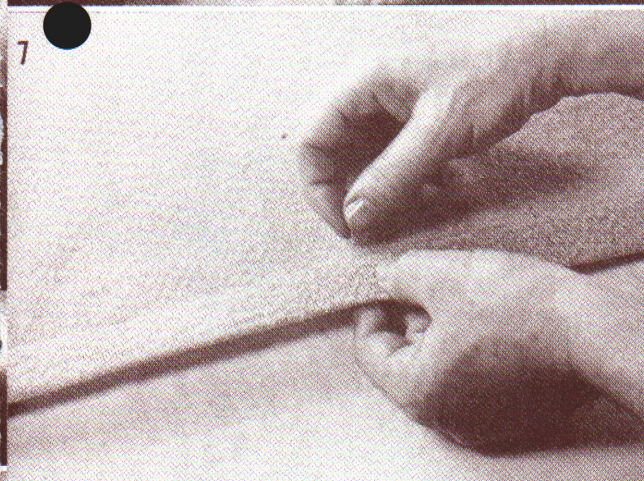
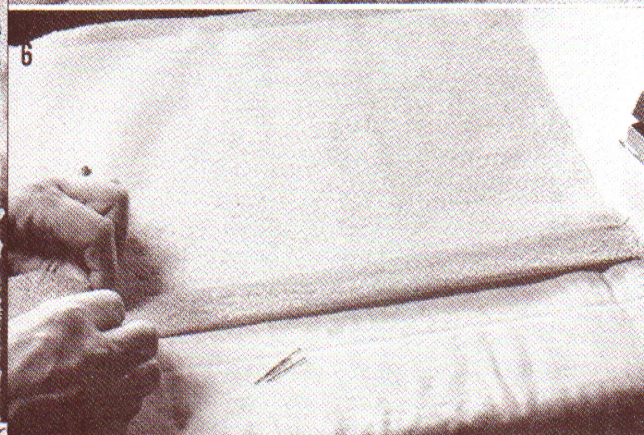
If more than one width is to be used at each side of the window, panels may be overlapped at the top hem and joined with heading hooks (see directions on package). Or, edges may be tacked together after curtains are made (see figures 21 and 22). Or, seams may be sewed, either by machine or hand basting; do not press edges open.

Hem the Sides

Usually side edges are hemmed, though occasionally selvage edges are satisfactory without hemming. Decide upon the width for side hems, depending on the width and weight of fabric and on the size of the window—usually $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches finished. Make a double hem, unless a narrow $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn-in will not show.

To press the hems, place as much as you can of the side edge of the curtain, wrong side up, on the ironing board. Starting at





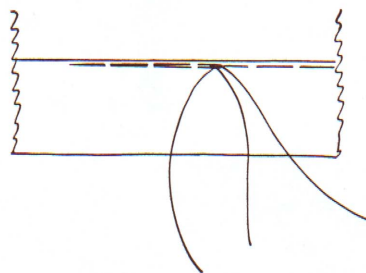
one end of the board, turn the edge of fabric to the wrong side. Take care that the cut ends are together. Measure with steel rule the exact width the fold should be when pressed flat and then pin the fold to the board (figure 4). Fold and pin the material at the other end of the board, watching the cross grain, keeping the edge of the fold on a straight yarn and straight on the board and the material taut but not stretched. Pin through the cloth into the board at frequent intervals; work from each end to the center, inserting the pins upright near the raw edge where they will not interfere with the iron. Press the amount pinned; repeat for length of curtain (figure 5).

To complete the hem, make a second fold the same width as the first (figure 6). Pin and press. Be sure the raw edge exactly meets the line of the second fold so that it shows as little as possible when it hangs at the window. As the material is released from the board, insert the pins to hold the hem, placing them at right angles to the edge (figure 7).

Make a hem on the other side of the one width, or on the outside edge if more than one width, in the same way.

Sew the hem by machine with a tension loose enough to prevent puckering (12 to 8 stitches to the inch, depending on the weight of the material). Stitch close to the folded edge for a regular stitch (figure 8) or use a zigzag stitch every 4 to 6 stitches (see figure 36). Stitch to within 6 to 8 inches of the top, depending on width that hem is to be, and all the way to the lower edge. Stitch over paper, such as lightweight wrapping paper, if necessary to prevent puckering.

Or if you sew by hand, use a running stitch. Hold the material wrong side up. Take running stitches through the hem close to the edge, catching as few yarns as possible on the right side of the curtain with stitches about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long showing on the wrong side. Several stitches can be taken before pulling through the full length of the thread.



Hem the Lower Edge

A double hem is preferable for most fabrics because a narrow turn-in is apt to show; the double hem also allows for emergency lengthening. For floor-length curtains, make a $4\frac{1}{2}$ - to 5-inch finished hem; for sill-length, a 2- to $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch finished hem, the upper edge of which does not show above the glass. For lengths between floor and sill, adjust hem widths accordingly.

Press and sew by machine or hand as you did the side hems. Hand-sew if you need to adjust the length after the curtains hang at the window. With the needle at right angles to the hem, make hemming stitches about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart (see figure 37). Stitches then will be lengthwise of the fabric and will be inconspicuous when the curtain hangs in folds.

Hem the Upper Edge

Curtain headings should be erect, not drooping.

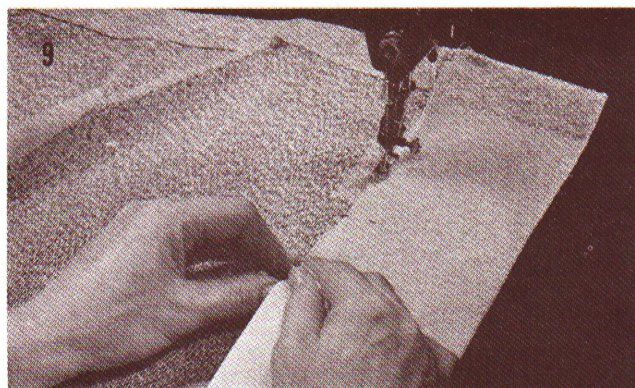
For floor-length curtains, use 4-inch heading tape; for shorter lengths, use 3-inch width. If the tape or turn-in shows, use a double thickness of fabric.

One newer tape is a blend of natural and man-made fibers; it is strong and stiff enough to support even heavy drapery fabrics and keeps its stiffness after repeated washings or drycleaning. This tape is easy to handle and sew, contains no sharp edges to cut or mar fabrics (important for glass fabrics for example).

Place the curtain on the table, right side up. Measure up from the lower edge of the hem the length the finished curtain is to be, and mark it with a pin. Measure and check the length in several places.

Press a fold to the wrong side on these pin lines. To help prevent corners from sagging, cut the heading tape about 9 inches longer than the finished curtain width; this allows double thickness through the first hook but not the first pleat. Tape may be basted with long vertical stitches to help hold it in place.

Place the curtain on a table wrong side up. If you have allowed for a double hem—that is, 6 or 8 inches above the fold—place the heading tape with folded ends up to the top of the raw edge of the fabric and insert ends in the side hems.



Fold tape and cloth to the wrong side and stitch (figure 9). The top edge also may be stitched. Turn again for a double hem so that the top edge is on the fold line, the right side of the curtain has two layers of fabric over the tape, and the stitching is underneath, near the top.

If you have not allowed for double fabric over the tape, turn the curtain to the wrong side, place tape with folded ends up, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below raw edge, and

insert the ends in side hems. Fold over the turn-in and stitch both edges of the tape. Then fold on the pin lines for the top hem. Omit stitching if cloth puckers.

Pin to hold the hem, preferably from the right side. This hem is not sewed, except at the ends after pleats are made.

Make the Pleats

Pleats are made from stitched folds of cloth, with spaces between.

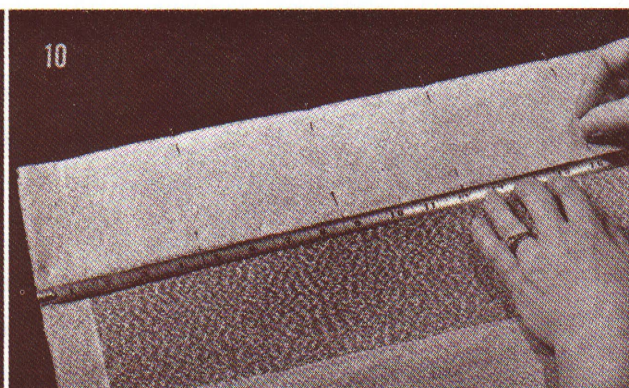
For French pleats, the stitched folds are divided into three smaller folds. Folds are pressed to make box pleats (see figure 51).

For traverse curtains, fabric should be fitted accurately to the rod.

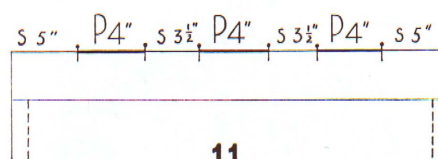
Read page 20 before following the example below.

Measure and Pin the Pleats and Spaces

Measure from the inside edge the amount for the center space (in the example, 5 inches). Mark with a pin placed vertically at the upper edge. Without moving the ruler, measure the allowance for one pleat (4 inches). Place a pin. Measure the allowance for the space between pleats ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches). Place a pin. Repeat, with pins just above the stitching on the hem (figure 10). Continue to pin for



pleats and spaces across the width of the drapery. There should be 5 inches from the last pleat to the outside edge.



HOW TO MEASURE PLEATS

1. Determine the width each half of the pleated curtain must be to reach from the wall to the center and overlap:

Measure across the front of the rod, and divide by two to get the center. If the rod measures 78 or over 77 inches, allow

For this example—39 inches

To cover the end of the master slide, for the overlap, the depth of the rod, and shutting out light at the wall

Add at least— 6 inches

For pleated width: ADD THESE TOGETHER—45 inches

2. Measure the width of the finished curtain, for one side of the window. Two widths of the curtain, tacked together and with side hems, measure

For this example—90 inches

3. Subtract the width the pleated curtain is to be (45 inches) from the width of the hemmed curtains (90 inches) to find the amount that can be used for pleats.

For pleats: 90 inches minus 45 inches—45 inches

4. Divide the amount available for pleats by the number of pleats desired. Each pleat will take from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches, depending on the weight of the fabric. Estimate 3 pleats for 36-inch material and 5 pleats for 50-inch material.

For this example: There can be 11 pleats, each 4 inches deep, with 1 inch extra which will be absorbed when stitching through several thicknesses of the fabric.

HOW TO MEASURE SPACES

The space between pleats should be no wider than the pleats themselves, otherwise loops will be large when drawn back, and sag rather than hang in pleasing folds.

1. Measure the distance to the first pleat, either from the wall or from the end of the rod. If lengths may later be exchanged to prolong wear, make this measure the same as in 2 below. If pleats show, even spacing may be more important than changing lengths.

For this example— 5 inches

2. Add to this the length of the master slide, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ inch so the cloth will cover it.

For this example— 5 inches

Total—10 inches

3. Subtract this total from the total width the pleated drapery is to be.

For this example: 45 inches minus 10

inches, for spaces between pleats—35 inches

4. The number of spaces will be one less than the number of pleats.

For this example: 35 inches divided by 10 pleats, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches between each pleat.

CHECK YOUR MEASUREMENTS

For this example:

Distance from wall to first pleat	5 inches
Amount taken up in pleats	45 inches
Amount left for spaces between pleats	35 inches
Center space (length of the master slide and to cover the end)	<u>5 inches</u>
Total width of hemmed unpleated curtain—	90 inches

If the center allowance is about the same as the distance between pleats, spaces will appear about even at the window.

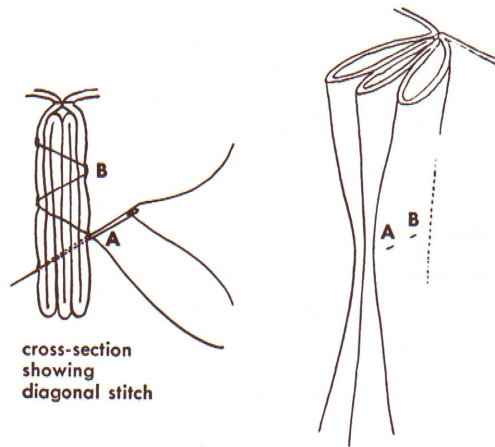
Sew the Pleats

Make a fold of material to the right side of the draperies by bringing together the pins marking the space for a pleat. Since the heading tape is too stiff to pin through easily, crease on pin markings leaving 2 pins to guide your stitching (figure 12). Be sure the hem edges meet on the underside; pin crosswise.

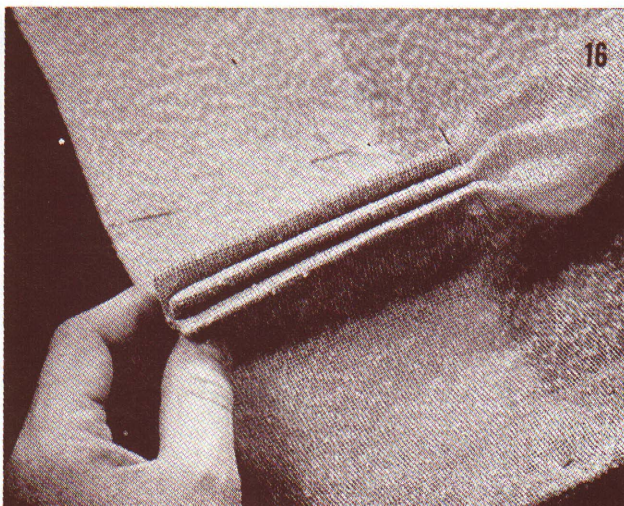
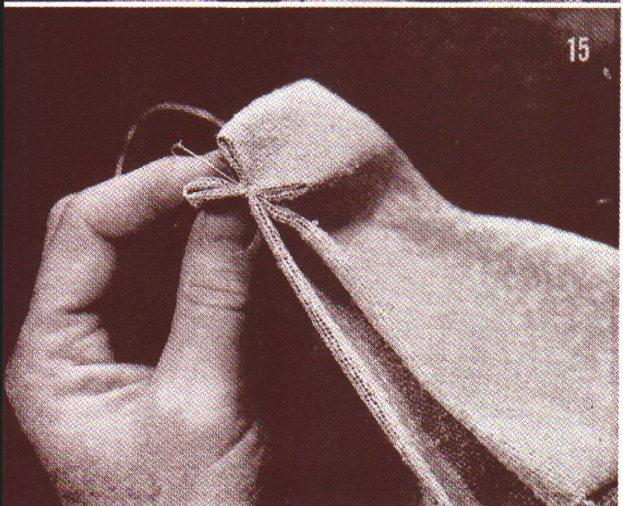
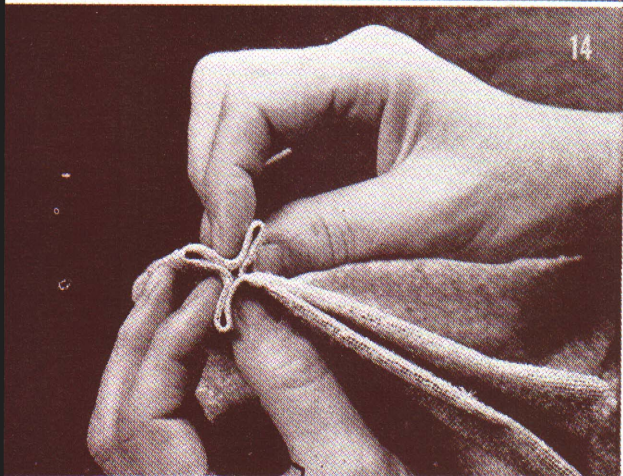
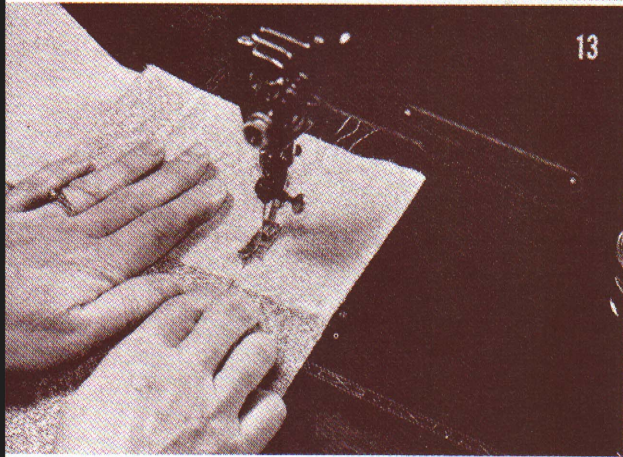
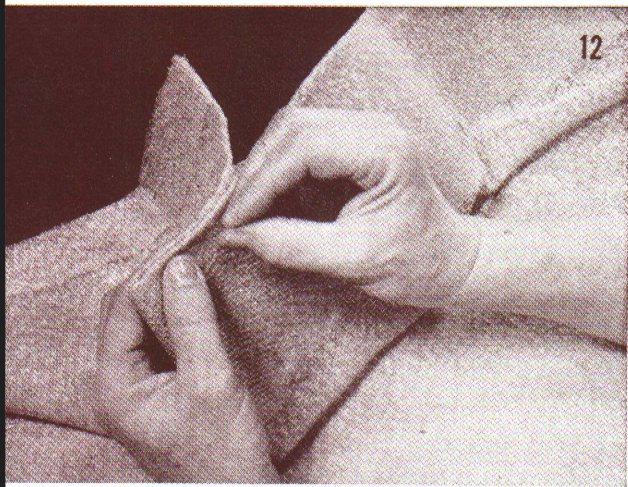
Use a sturdy machine needle, number 14 or 16, and adjust the sewing machine to 6 to 10 stitches to an inch. Stitch the fold vertically on the straight of the grain. Back-stitch at the top and at the lower edge a little below the heading tape (figure 13). Remove pins as you stitch.

Stitch the rest of the folds in the same manner.

From each large fold, crease 3 small folds or pleats (figure 14). At the top edge, hand-sew the inside folds to the machine stitching (figure 15). At the lower edge, crease the pleats together (figure 16). Hand-sew through the layers:



With the material right side out, grasp the fold of the pleats just below the stitching of the hem. Fasten the thread on the wrong side of the material. Push the needle through the cloth to the right side, near the base of the pleats. Close to the point where the thread came out, push the needle diagonally. Pull the thread snugly but not taut through the folds of the pleat from the one side to the opposite side. Bring the needle back and place it close to the point where the thread came out. Push the needle through diagonally. Sew through again, this time pushing the needle fairly straight since the sewing now is near the edge of the folds. Sew close to but not over the edges of the folds.



Repeat, working back to the base of the pleats. Fasten the thread on the wrong side of the material.

The finished pleats are shown in figure 17.

Hand-sew the hem at the edges and ends for about an inch to hold the cloth that was turned under (figure 18). Do not sew across the hem between pleats unless it is necessary to hold the hem.

Fasten the Fixtures

Attach slip-on or pin-in drapery hooks at the correct height for the position of the drapery. Use one hook back of each pleat. Figure 19 shows slip-on drapery hooks back of the two pleats and one hook to fasten the side of the curtain to the master slide.

Fasten the Weights

You can buy weighting by the yard which is satisfactory for sheer curtains. Cut the weighting as long as the width of the finished curtain. Turn under the raw edge, pushing out one of the shot if necessary. Hand-tack each end just inside each corner of the bottom hem (figure 20). As the curtain hangs at the window, the weighting stays in place without further tacking. If the weighting is not rustproof, remove it when you wash the curtains.

Fasten the Widths Together

Lengths may be joined with fixtures designed for the purpose, or by seams. Or lengths may be tacked together with a chain stitch (figure 21).

When you are ready to take down the curtains for laundering or drycleaning, snip this chain fastening so that you will have less weight to handle and clean (figure 22). Retack after the lengths are back at the window; the thread of the chain stitch stays in the fabric to show you where the tacks should be.

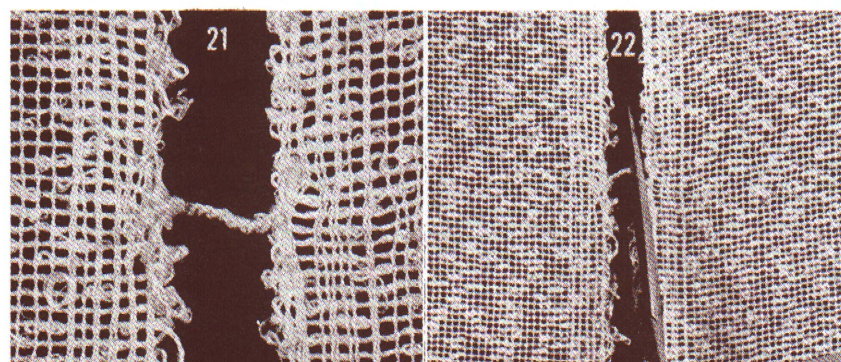
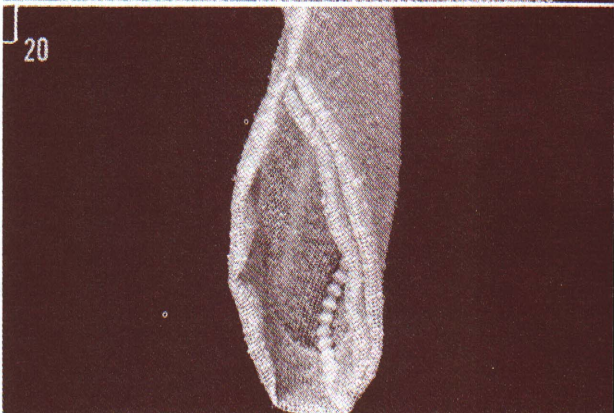
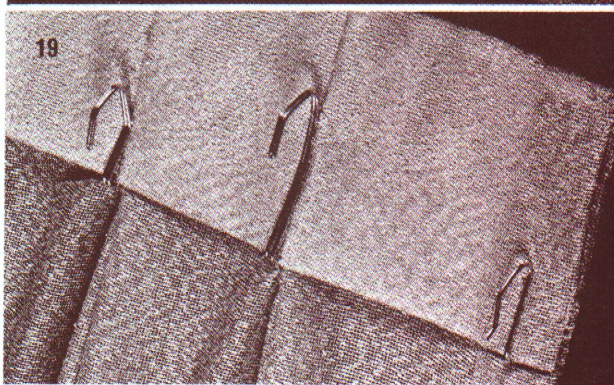
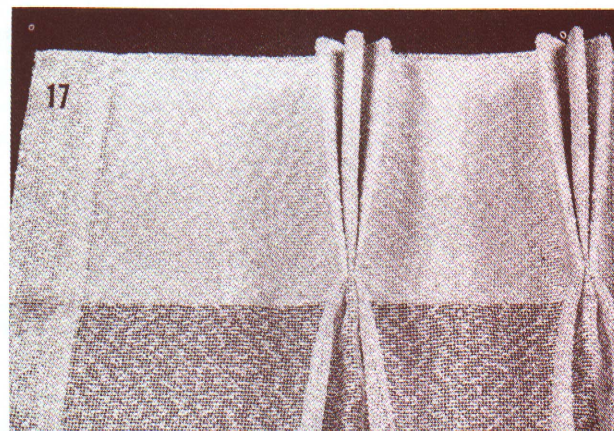
Hang the Curtains

Fasten the hooks in the slides, following directions with the rod.

Other Construction Methods

Pleater Tape

Pleater tape may be used instead of permanent finish heading tape for the top hem. Advantages are that hooks can be removed for cleaning and pressing; pockets can be marked, with indelible ink for example, so that hooks can be reinserted quickly. However, for traverse curtains, unexpected time is necessary to accurately fit the tape to the window; sometimes it is impossible to



do so. Pleater tape and the necessary fixtures cost more than do the permanent finish heading tape and accompanying hooks.

Choose the width tape preferable for the curtain length. Then be sure the fixtures you plan to use will fit the tape width (directions on the bag of hooks tell you this). Next, insert a hook in the tape, then into a glide on the rod, preferably at the window, to be sure the curtain will be the desired height (cover the trim). Most tapes have pockets only near the lower edge and no adjustment is possible; at least one brand has pockets at three heights.

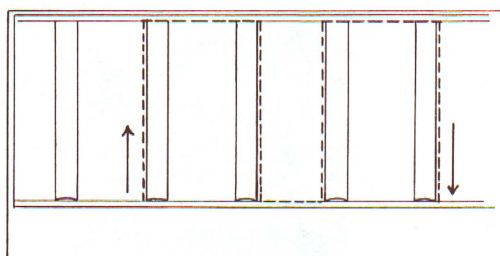
Also check the width the finished drapery will be. Tapes vary in the spacing of pockets and therefore in the amount of fabric taken up in pleats. Printed information available in a folder where you buy the tape, will indicate finished curtain widths for several fabric widths and for several kinds of pleats. For traverse draperies, often you have to make adjustments to fit your window, such as two folds in end pleat rather than the usual three folds for a French pleat.

The pleater tape must be exposed on the wrong side of the curtain so you can insert hooks which make pleats. If the tape would show on the right side, make a double hem in fabric (figure 23). Follow directions for placing the tape, but also check on the rod at your window.

Stitch both edges of the tape on the marked lines (figure 24). If there is a single layer of cloth only, stitch as directed in the folder. Or to avoid stitches showing at the lower edge, stitch as indicated.

Insert the heading hooks, again following directions and working from the center to side edges of curtain (figure 25).

The finished pleats are shown in figure 26. Lower edges may be sewed, as for French pleats; but if so, the fabric cannot be laid flat for pressing.



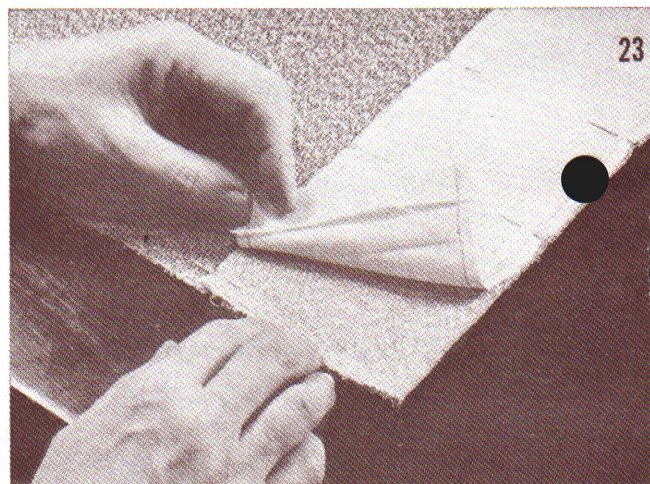
Fixtures for Top of the Hem

Pin and clip-on hooks or rings can be fastened to the top of the hem, or hooks can be pinned on the back of the hem near the top. Top hems then can be narrow, to save fabric, to prevent them from showing on the outside if the window frame is narrow, or to lengthen curtains or draperies. A cornice or valance covers hooks fastened on top unless clips or rings and a pole are used decoratively.

Ceiling Installations

Directions with the rod usually indicate how the same rod can be fastened to the ceiling or on the wall. Special ceiling tracks also are available.

The top of the curtains should be just below the ceiling so there will be a minimum streak of light and the curtains will traverse freely. Attach the rod, check the width of heading tape and length of fixtures and test a hook in a glide, as before, to be sure the combination will bring the curtain to the right height.



23

24

25

26

HOW TO MAKE LINED DRAPERIES

EQUIPMENT

Fabric for the outside	Sewing machine
Fabric for the lining—preshrunk, of about the same width as the drapery fabric	Sharp shears, with good points
Heavy-duty thread for both, of a color that blends with the fabric	Box of non-rusting, sharp-pointed dressmaker pins, No. 17
Rod	Needles, No. 7 or 8 sharps
Fixtures to fasten drapery to the rod	Thimble
Weights	Steel rule
Permanent finish heading tape, approximately 3 inches wide for sill and apron lengths, 4 inches wide for floor length	Iron and ironing board
	Cloth and tissue paper for pressing
	Work surface, preferably about 5 feet to 6 feet wide and 13 feet long

Install the Rod See page 13.

Measure the Window See page 13.

Estimate the Yardage

Estimate lengths and widths as for curtains, page 14. For hems, allow $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 inches, usually 9 inches.

Top hem:

4 inches for short draperies and 3-inch heading tape

5 inches for long draperies and 4-inch heading tape

Lower hem:

Sill length— $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or a width which is not conspicuous above the glass

Apron length—3 to 4 inches

Floor length—5 inches, or 10 inches if double hem is desired for emergency lengthening

For example, for one length for a bedroom casement window, if the finished drapery is to measure $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches, you would buy 48 inches or $1\frac{1}{3}$ yards of plain material to allow for straightening and hems.

For Figured Material

Extra yardage will be needed for matching figured material. First, plan where the design is to appear. Be sure it is right side up. If you cannot have a complete design at both the top and bottom of the drapery, it may be better to break the design at the top as in figure 30b. You may have to buy added yardage to have a motif begin where you wish.

Pattern repeats vary in length from about 2 to 31 inches. Choose a featured part of the design and measure from one motif to a corresponding spot in the next repeat of this motif. Divide the length of the draperies, including hems, by the length of the repeat to estimate the number of repeats you will have to buy.

Divide the length for example—72 inches ($63 + 9$)
by the distance between the repeat for example— $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches

For each drapery length, buy—9 repeats or $76\frac{1}{2}$ inches

This estimate also will be made for you at the store. Succeeding lengths are cut from the first, so the design will be matched.

Estimate the Yardage of Lining

Choose a lining material of about the same width as the drapery; sateen is available in 50-inch, 45-inch, or 36-inch widths.

To the length of the finished drapery, add about 3 inches to allow for straightening the lining, adjusting it to the drapery, and covering weights if needed.

For example, if the finished drapery is to be 38½ inches, buy 42 inches of lining for each drapery length.

Measure and Cut Lengths

First, study the design of the fabric, the window, the position of the rod, and the cornice, if any. In the illustration, figure 52, the fabric and fixtures had been purchased, the rod was in place and covered by a shallow cornice.

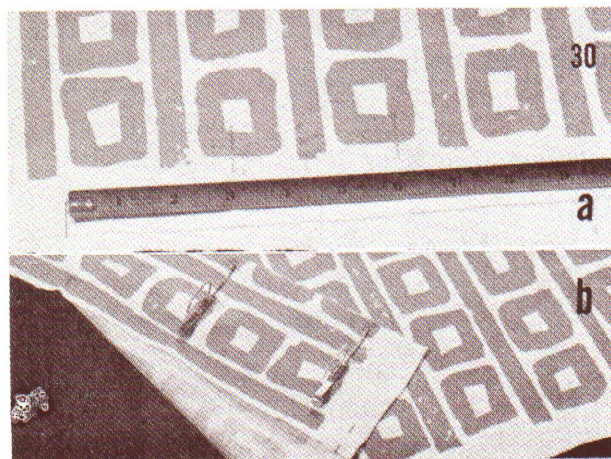
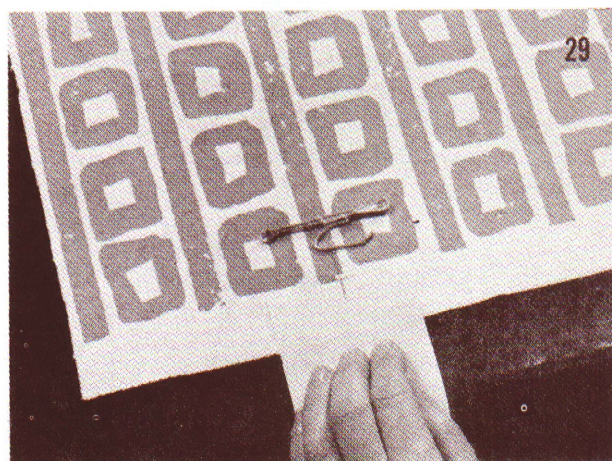
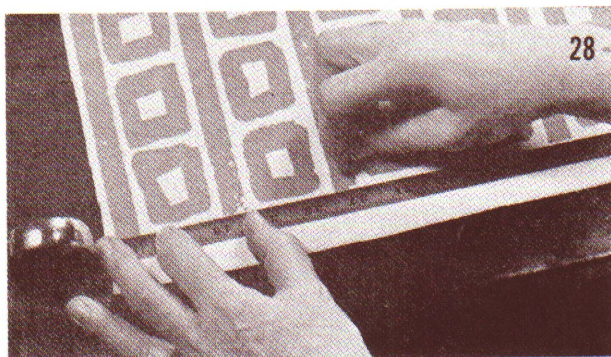
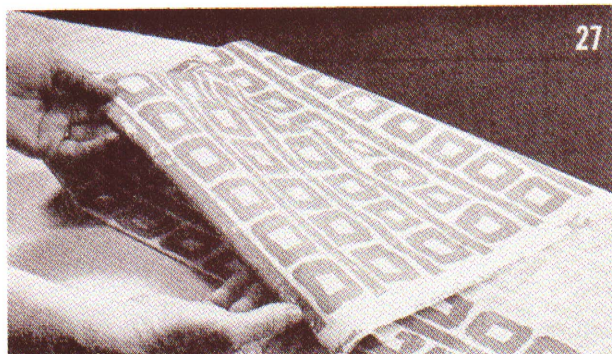
The fabric is an original design, a 54-inch screen print in an all-over pattern with a 2½-inch repeat.

On a short window, where the lower edge of the drapery is conspicuous, the motif should be complete rather than cut. Add a hem allowance (figure 27). From where the lower edge of the drapery will be, measure and pin the distance to the top of the rod, 37 inches (figure 28). Then place the fixture (figure 29) in the exact position the drapery will hang, that is where the hook will fit over the

rod. Check the width of the heading tape. The top of this drapery will be 1½ inches above the rod, making the finished length 38½ inches.

Add for the top hem, the width of the tape (which for a short drapery is 3 inches) and at least a 1 inch turn-in (figures 30a and 30b). Then check at the window to be sure the cornice will cover the top of the hem.

The finished drapery (see figure 52) is an inch longer than necessary and the crossbar of the motif shows below the cornice. If the drapery were raised, however, it would show above the cornice. With the numerous controls, such adjustments often are necessary to achieve the best results.

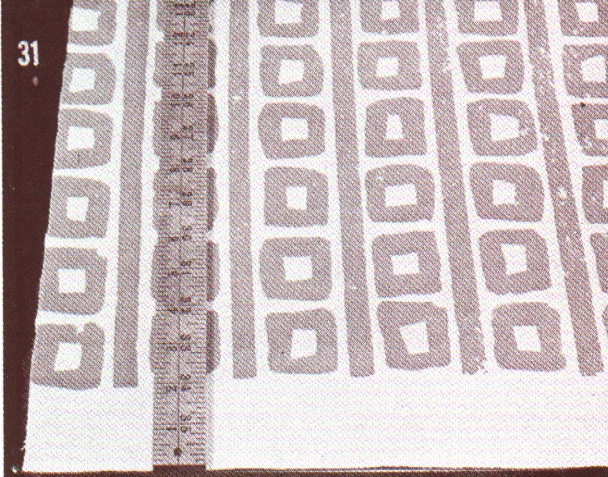


Now, find out how the design is printed. A yarn drawn part way across the width of this fabric shows the figures are not uniform; a ruler squared with the edge of the table shows the crossbar is nearly straight (figure 31). Variations occur in most printed fabrics. Screen prints vary less than roller prints where long lengths of cloth are apt to twist as they go through the rollers. Though these fabrics are not cut on the true grain, after laundering or drycleaning they will hang as they did when you made them, because of resins used in manufacturing. Plan to cut this fabric with the design rather than on the true grain.

Check to be sure you have enough material to cut all the lengths if you place the design as you want it.

Cut Drapery Lengths

Cut the first length as you planned above: Arrange a crossbar parallel with the end of the cutting table, and a selvedge edge with the long edge of the table. Or use a carpenter's square instead of a table to guide your cutting. Be sure to allow enough material for the top hem and placing the design. Cut across the end which will be near the top. Use the stiff rule and measure the exact length needed for one strip, including the bottom hem. Be careful not to pull or stretch the material. Cut across the width as you did for the upper end of this length. Use this first length, rather than the rule, to match the design and cut all other lengths. Or if you decide to complete one length, pin mark or cut a second length before you lose the measurements.



Cut Lining Lengths

Draw a yarn across the width, or square the edges with the table and mark with pins or tailor's chalk.

Lay the material on the table. Measure on a fold, check in several places, and cut a length 3 inches longer than the length of the finished drapery. If you vary the hem widths, or want the lining longer so the drapery fabric will not show from the outside of the house, do not cut lining lengths until draperies are hemmed.

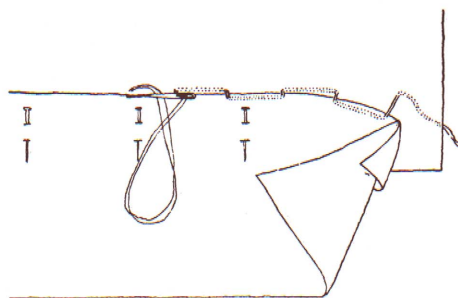
Prepare the Material

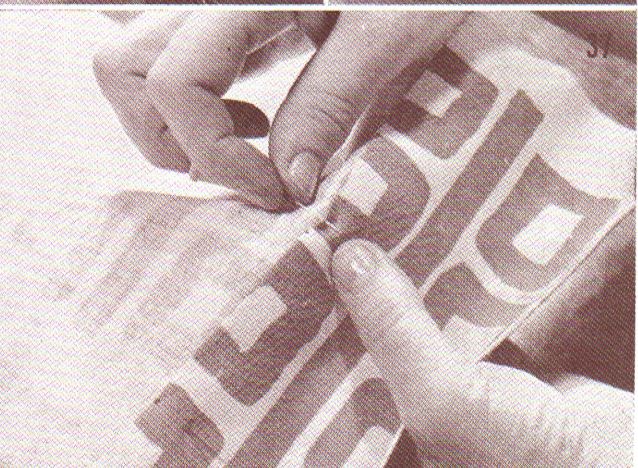
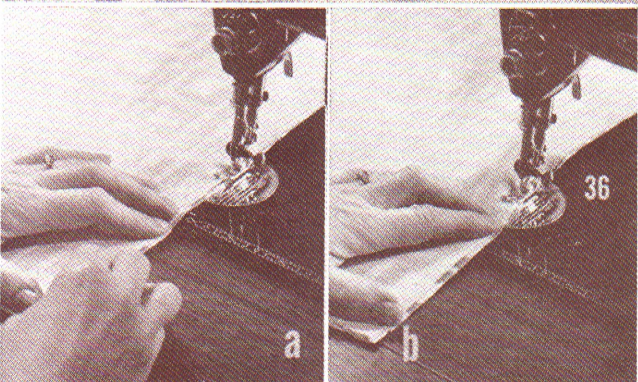
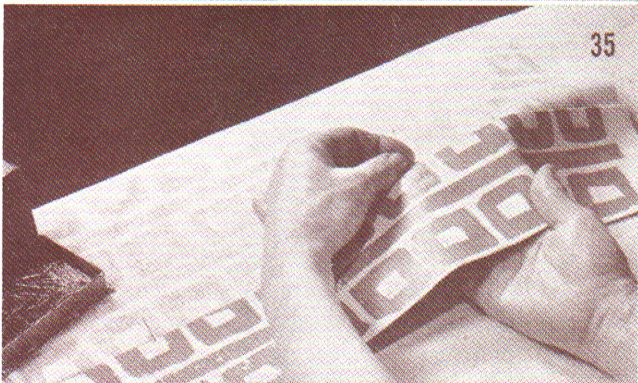
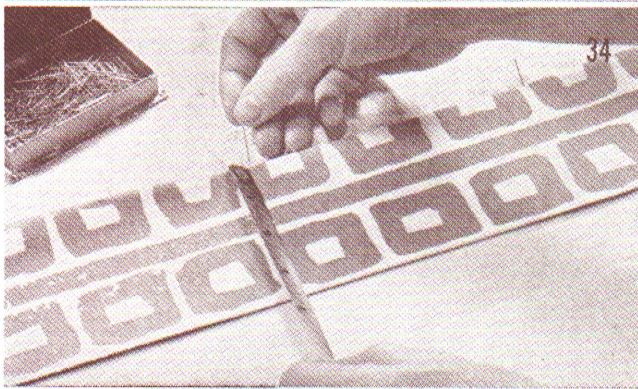
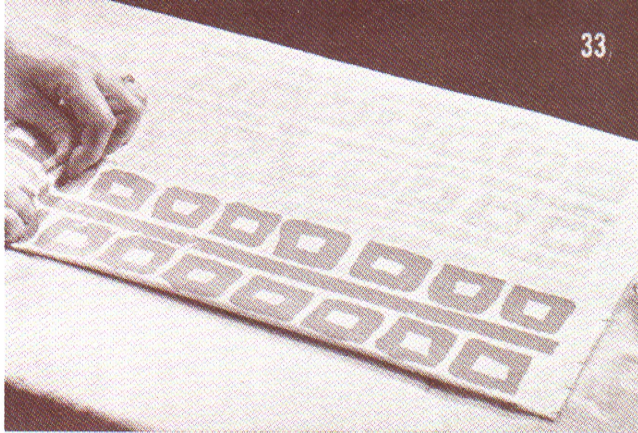
Complete the drapery for half a window at a time. Press out all creases and folds in both the outside and lining materials. If steam is necessary and the fabric is apt to waterspot, place a dry cloth over the fabric before you press.

If only one width is needed at each side of the window, snip or cut off the selvages (the edges that are tightly woven and might pucker), or any printing that will show. Diagonal snips may ravel less than right-angle cuts; they should be 6 to 10 inches apart. One side of this fabric has printing which necessitates marking the border $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the design (figure 32a). The other side will be trimmed the same way (figure 32b).

Join Fabric Widths

If more than one width is to be used at each side of the window, check lining widths before you seam widths of fabric together. The lining will be wide enough if it is as much as 2 inches narrower than the outside (see figure 45). If the lining is to come to the edge as in figure 54, the lining should be at least as wide as the drapery.





Place the fabric on work surface, right side up. If the fabric has a pattern, match one length with another. Fold under the edge of one pattern, match one length with another. Fold under the edge of one piece at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Be sure to turn under any printing on the selvage. Lay this length on the other. Pin the two together, with pins at right angles to the seam. Slip-stitch the two lengths together.

Turn the fabric to the wrong side and machine-stitch the seam. Trim or snip edges, or trim the seams to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Press the seams open and flat.

Pin plain fabrics in a seam on the wrong side, with pins at right angles to the seam. Stitch and press.

Join Lining Widths

Seam widths of lining together, if more than one is needed. Make the lining seams correspond in position to the fabric seams.

For two widths: With the right sides facing and together, pin a seam, with pins at right angles to the seam. Machine-stitch on the wrong side, making a seam $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. Snip the selvages. Press the seams open and flat.

For more than two widths: Match the widths of the inner strips to the corresponding drapery widths so the lining seams will be next to the drapery seams. Stitch lining seams. Trim the seams to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Press open and flat.

Hem Lower Edge of Drapery

Bring the ironing board close to your work space. Lay the drapery wrong side up, with as much of the lower edge on the board as its length allows and the remainder of the fabric on the work table.

Turn a fold to the wrong side which when pressed will be the lower edge of the drapery. Use a steel rule to measure, or follow the design, and pin the material to the board. Be sure the ends are even with the sides, the edge of the fold is straight on the board, and the material is taut but not stretched (figure 33). Work from each end to the center. Pin through the cloth into the board at frequent intervals. Insert the pins upright near the raw edge where they will not interfere with the iron when you press. Press the amount pinned. Repeat for the width of the drapery.

Measure the hem width and turn the raw edge under about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or where the sewing will show least (figure 34). Press the hem.

Or, turn the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch allowance first, and then the hem width, and press. As you free the cloth from the board, push the pin in the cloth to hold the hem while you sew (figure 35).

Sew by machine with a zigzag stitch, or by hand. If by machine, loosen the tension and use 6 to 10 stitches to the inch. Fold the hem under so that you stitch just on the edge (figure 36a). Twist the material every fourth or fifth stitch to catch one stitch in the other part of the drapery (figure 36b).

By hand, sew with the needle at right angles to the hem so stitches will be lengthwise of the fabric and inconspicuous when

the drapery hangs in folds. Make stitches about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart (figure 37).

Hem Lower Edge of Lining

Lay the lining wrong side up on the board, as you did the drapery fabric.

Turn to the wrong side a fold which, when pressed, will be 3 inches wide. Pin and press as before (figure 38).

Fold this allowance in half to make a finished double hem $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide (figure 39). With the machine set for about 12 stitches to the inch, machine-stitch the hem close to the edge.

Join Outside Edges of Fabric and Lining

Lay the fabric on the work surface, right side up. Arrange the edge that will be on the wall side and the lower hemmed edge in line with two edges of the work surface.

Lay the lining on the fabric wrong side up so that the right sides of the drapery fabric and lining face each other.

The stitching of the lining hem is directly over the sewing of the drapery hem, and the bottom edge of the lining is 3 inches above the bottom edge of the drapery. Or if the drapery hem is less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the lining hem will be nearer the lower edge of the drapery.

If single widths are used, the outside edges of the two are together (figure 40). If more than one width is used, pin together the joining seams nearest the wall edge, so that one seam will correspond to the other, and the outside edge of the lining will be 1 inch narrower than the fabric. If necessary, trim the lining 2 inches narrower than the drapery.

Pin outside edges together, with pins at right angles to seam.

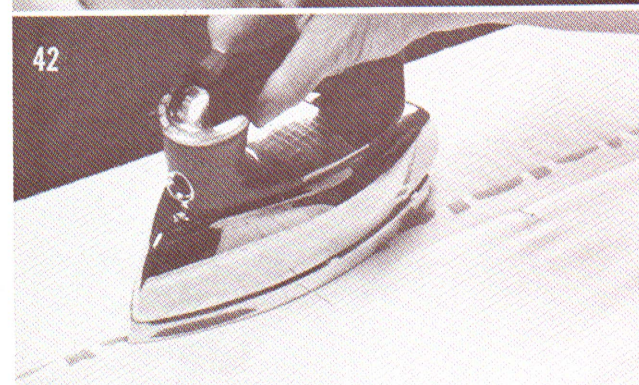
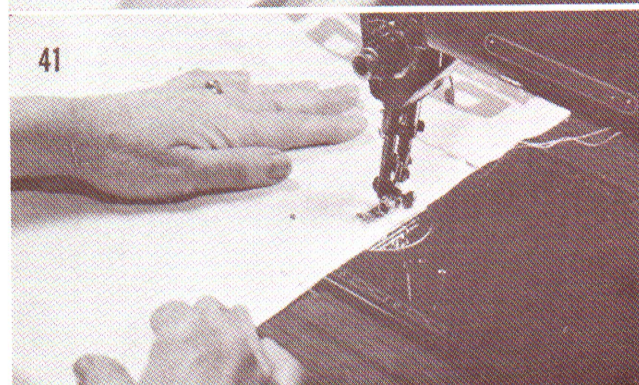
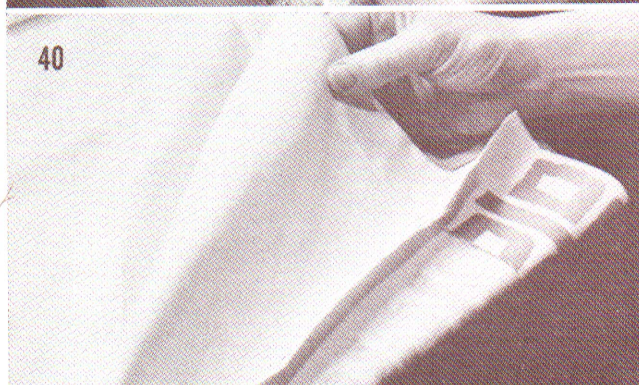
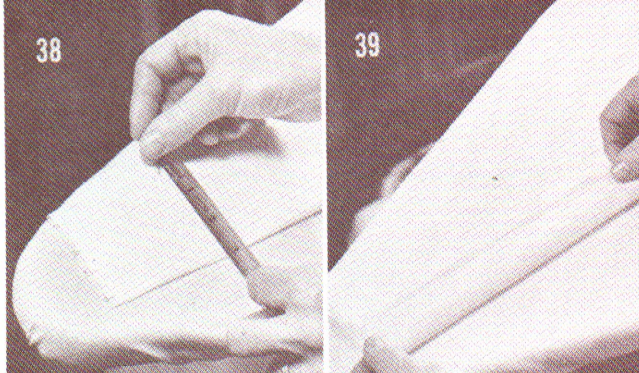
To machine-stitch, place the heavier drapery fabric underneath and the bulk of drapery to the left of the presser foot to help prevent wrinkling. Stitch a seam $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, extending from about 4 inches from the top through the lining hem and back-stitched there (figure 41). Press both edges of the seam toward the lining.

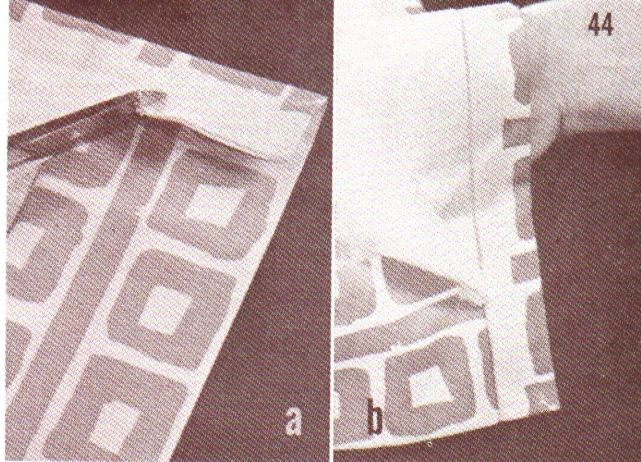
Arrange the lining so that 1 inch of the right side of the drapery fabric shows along the edge. Pin and press (figure 42).

Tack Near the Stitched Seam

About 1 inch in from the stitched seam, fold the lining back so that you can work on the inside of the drapery. Start about 8 inches below the top of the drapery and tack the lining to the drapery fabric at 6 to 10 inch intervals down to the machine-stitched hem.

Measure and mark with pins through both fabrics where the stitches are to be. With a long double thread, take a small stitch in the lining. Next pick up a yarn in the drapery. Then go back and take another small stitch in the lining, around the first stitch to help anchor it. Remove the pins and leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of thread between the lining and the outside (figure 43).





44

Hand-Sew Lower Corner of Drapery

At the side seam, under the lining hem, snip the drapery fabric on the bias (figure 44a).

Turn under the raw edge of the drapery fold. With a slip stitch, hand-sew a hem which when finished will be 1 inch wide (figure 44b).

Tack Lining to Drapery

Keep the drapery squared with the work surface. Fold the lining back halfway between the sides or between the stitched edge and the next joining seam. To be sure that this lengthwise fold is on the straight grain, arrange the folded-back part of the lining even with the under part at both top and bottom edges. To check the grain, measure in several places from the fold to the outer edge of the drapery.

Tack as before, leaving about 1 inch of thread between the fabric and the lining. For wide material, you need to tack twice.

If a joining seam or seams have been made, arrange lining and tack as before at seams and between.

Hand-Sew Inside Edge of Lining to Drapery

From the right side of the lining, pin at the last tacking to hold the lining in place. At the inside edge of the drapery, turn a fold of the drapery fabric, 1½ inches wide, to the wrong side and press. Or turn a width to make the design where you wish.

Smooth and turn the lining under so that one inch of the drapery fabric will show, as on the other side. Pin and press (figure 45). Measure ½ inch for a seam allowance. Check in several places; the lining should be 1 inch narrower than the finished drapery. Draw a yarn and cut off the extra width (figure 46).

With a slip stitch, hand-sew the lining to the drapery. Catch most of the stitches through one thickness of the drapery fabric only. About every 6 inches, catch through to the outside. The stitches through the double thickness serve as tacking stitches and keep the edge from rolling (figure 47).

Snip and hem the lower corner as before.

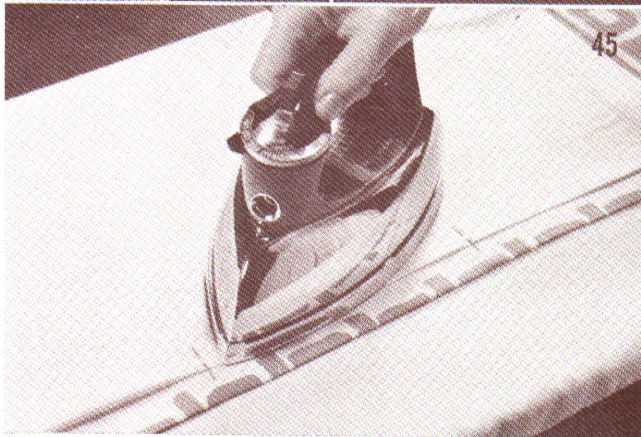
Fold the Top Edge

Place the drapery right side up on the table. Measure up from the finished lower edge the length the finished drapery is to be and pin. Measure in several places, or follow the design as on page 25.

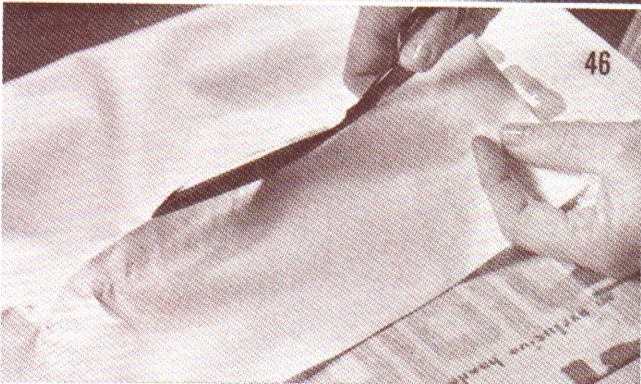
At these pins, which mark the upper edge of the drapery, turn a fold of drapery fabric and lining together to the wrong side and press (figure 48).

Trim off the lining just below this fold line (figure 49).

Cut the heading tapes about 9 inches longer than the width of the finished drapery. Turn in about 4½ inches at each end to



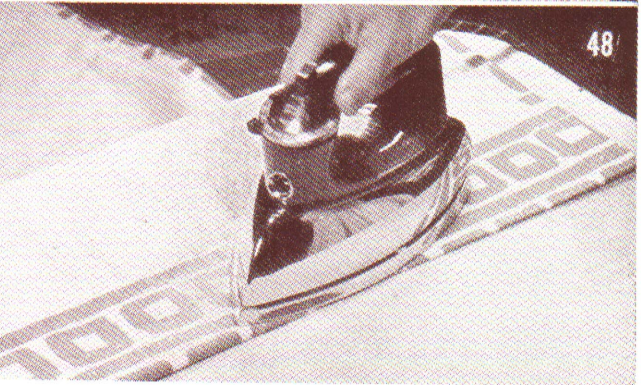
45



46



47



48

help prevent corners from sagging. Fit the tape under side hems of the drapery and close to the cut edge of the lining. Turn excess fabric (1 inch was allowed) up under what will be the lower edge of the tape (figure 50). Pin, press, and stitch. Refold at the top edge of the drapery, and pin to hold the hem while making pleats. Omit stitching if cloth puckers.

Make the Pleats

Pleats are used to regulate fullness under the cornice board, although these draperies are not to be drawn. Their depth was determined by the motif. In figure 51, the arrangement at the right breaks the design; the one at the left features the motif and emphasizes horizontal lines.

Pleats were not measured, as directed on page 19. Instead the loops were pinned with the design, stitched, and then pressed flat. Finished width of the drapery is 47 inches; 8 pleats make the width 22 inches to fit under the cornice and to the beginning of the glass (figure 52).

Fasten the Fixtures

Pin in hooks at the height planned (see figure 29). Heavy duty hooks without the heading shank are less expensive and would be satisfactory for this drapery. Use one hook back of each pleat, one at each end, and a hook between pleats if draperies are apt to sag.

Fasten the Weights

Use pin-in weights, one near each outer edge under the lining hem (figure 53). The smaller size is ample for this drapery; a larger size for longer heavier draperies.

Or, use weighting by the yard, the heavier bars rather than shot (see page 12) for this drapery.

Or, use 1-inch round lead weights covered with lining fabric—one near each outer edge, and/or one opposite each pleat, as needed.

Hang the Drapery

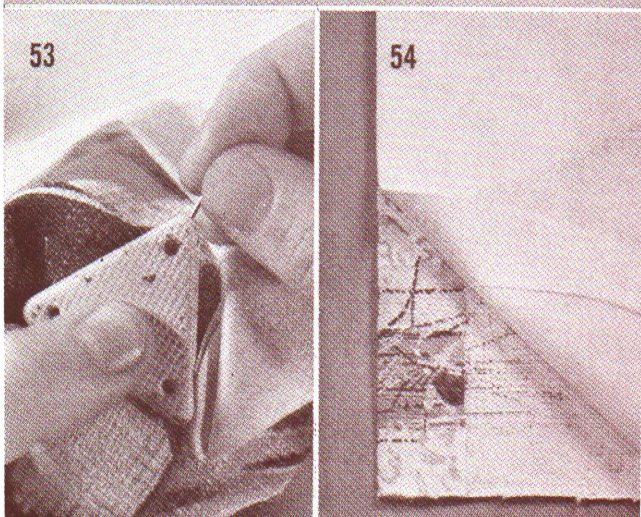
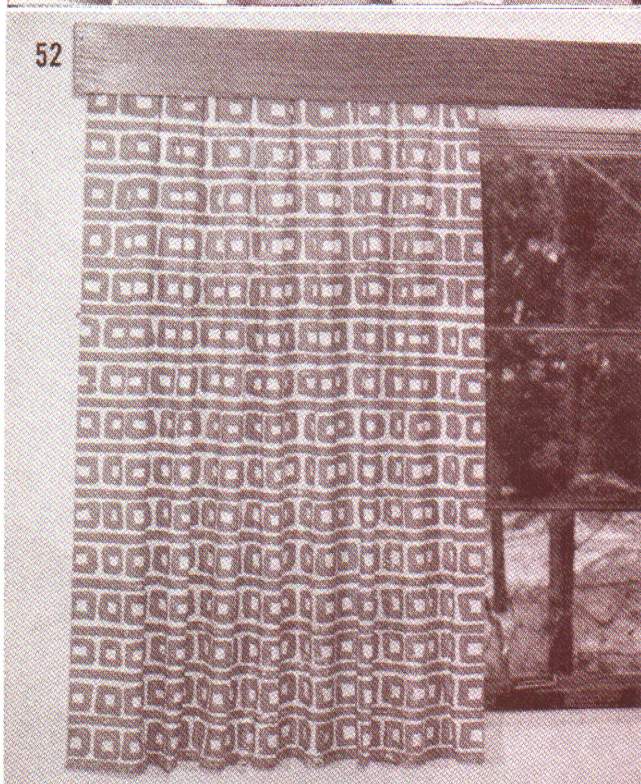
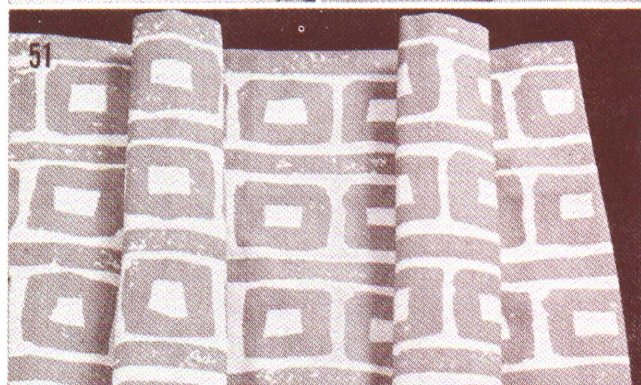
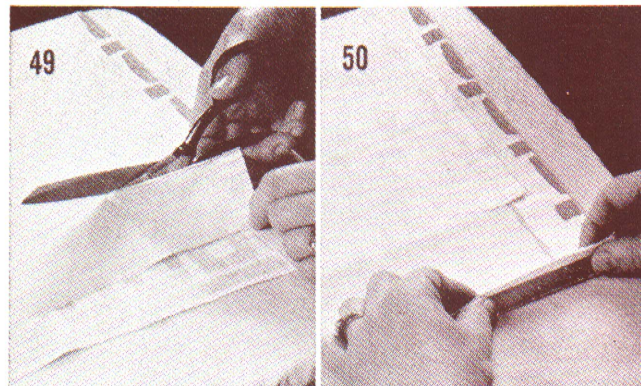
Hook the drapery on the rod (figure 52).

If desirable to shape pleats, tie 2 or 3 tapes or narrow strips of cloth around each drapery length. Carefully arrange each pleat. After pleats are shaped, remove tapes. Or, press pleats.

Other Construction Methods

Lining to Edge of Drapery

If the design or color of the drapery fabric shows unpleasantly from the outside of the house, the lining may be brought to the edge of the side hems (figure 54), rather than sewed 1 inch in from the edge. By this method, machine stitches show on the right side of the drapery.



Join fabric widths, if more than one, and sew bottom hems, machine stitching both the outside and the lining.

At the inside edge, turn and press a $1\frac{1}{2}$ - or $1\frac{3}{4}$ -inch fold to the wrong side of the drapery fabric. Turn and press a fold of equal width (or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wider for flatter seams) to the wrong side of the lining. Place wrong sides together and pin, being sure the edge of one does not show beyond the other. Stitch, preferably with the drapery fabric on top. Begin at the lower edge, stitching to but not over the hem, 1 inch from the edge, to 3 or 4 inches below where the top of the drapery will be. Backstitch each end, or tie threads.

Tack lengthwise, once for 36-inch and twice for 50-inch material.

Smooth the fabrics toward the wall edge, turn and press folds in both fabrics for a finished seam the same width as the inside edge. Trim the lining if necessary.

Stitch, again from the hems toward the top.

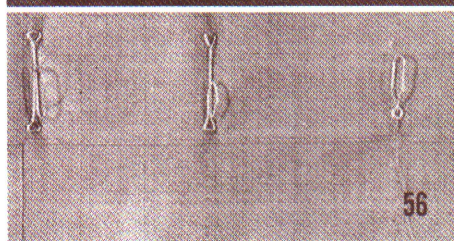
HOW TO MAKE UNLINED DRAPERIES

Draperies may be unlined if the material hangs well, the color, texture, and pattern are pleasing, and the fabric does not need protection from sun fading. Install the rod, and measure, cut, and prepare the fabric as previously directed. Widths may be joined, if more than one is needed, as for lined draperies, see page 26. If seams are conspicuous, lengths may be overlapped or tacked together after panels are completed, page 22.



Hem the Sides

Measure and press a fold $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 inches wide, depending on the width and weight of the material. Measure and press a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch turn-in for a hem $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. Stitch, close to the folded edge.



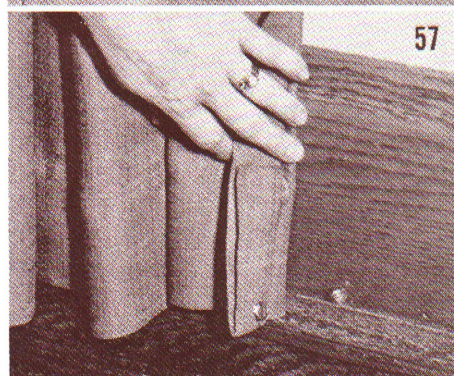
Hem the Lower Edge

Measure and press a 5-inch fold, turn in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for a $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem (figure 55). A wider hem or a double hem may be used if desired for weight or shrinkage allowance; a narrower or double hem used for sill length draperies.

Hem the Upper Edge

If heading tape is used, turn a hem as for lined draperies, with 1 inch turned under the tape and a finished hem 3 or 4 inches deep. Stitch the hem.

If heading fixtures and no heading tape are used, press and stitch a top hem. Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch turn-in and a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem.



Fasten the Fixtures and Weights

At the top: draperies may have soft, informal folds with heading fixtures, spaced 4 to 5 inches apart across the top hem, instead of French pleats. The fixtures may be hooks that pin in, heading rings, or hooks that are sewed on (figure 56). If a ring or pin only is used without the shank, the draperies should have heading tape in the top hem so that they will not droop.

At the outside edge, fasten the drapery so that it will not draw away from the wall. If there is no hole in the rod, sew a ring to the upper corner of the drapery and fasten it in a cup hook screwed between the wooden casing and the wall. Near the bottom of the drapery, use another cup hook and ring (figure 57).

Sew one weight to the top of the lower hem, directly in line with each fixture on the top hem.

HOW TO MAKE CAFE CURTAINS

Cafe curtains may be of two sections or of three or more tiers for each side of a window. Or a cafe curtain may cover only a portion of a window, such as the lower half.

Cafe curtains may be hung next to the glass or on the window casing. All sections may be of the same length; the tiers may be graduated in length; a valance at the top may be combined with longer sections. Side curtains or draperies may be combined with cafe curtains across the lower part of the window. All sections may hang straight, or all or some may be tied back. In every case, upper and lower edges should correspond to a structural part of the window as should divisions in the curtains. Hems of upper tiers should overlap headings of lower tiers.

Sheer and semisheer fabrics are widely used for cafe curtains. Double hems improve the appearance of such fabrics at the window. For curtains of heavier opaque materials, a single hem with a ½-inch turn-in is satisfactory.

Install the rods before you measure for curtains.

Construction methods vary widely; suggested types follow.

Straight Headings

Include the length of clips, loops, or rings in the measurement of the overall curtain length.

Hem the Sides

Snip or remove selvages, turn under about ½ inch to the wrong side, and turn again for a hem about 1½ inches wide. Or make double side hems for sheer and translucent fabrics. Occasionally, selvage edges are satisfactory without hemming.

Stitch the hems by machine with either a zigzag stitch (page 27) or straight and close to the folded edge (figure 8). Or, sew by hand with a hemming stitch (figure 37) or a running stitch (page 18).

Hem the Lower Edge

Make a finished hem about 2½ inches wide for apron length and 1 to 2 inches for sill length. The hem should not show through the glass. Turn the edge or make a double hem and stitch, as for side hems. Backstitch each end.

Finish the Upper Edge

Clips. Hem the top edge, making a single or double hem to correspond with the hem at the

lower edge, and about 1 inch wide. Fasten clips at each side edge and at about 4-inch intervals between.

Looped braid. Choose a braid with loops about 4 inches apart. Turn the fabric to the right side for about ½ inch—that is, slightly less than the width of the braid.

Center the loops or arrange the braid so that the loops are at each edge of the curtain, or equidistant from each edge.

Pin or baste the braid to cover the top fold of cloth. Stitch both edges of the braid across the width of the curtain.

Backstitch each end.

Tapes. Tapes may be made from the curtain fabric, from other fabric, or from twill tape or braid. For a rod 1 inch in diameter, finished tapes should be about ½ inch wide; each loop should extend above the top hem about 1½ to 2 inches so that it will slip over the rod easily.

The hem at the upper edge may be turned to either the right or wrong side, and be about 1 inch wide so that it is inconspicuous from the room and outside the house.

Or, make a double fold into which the ends of the tapes are inserted.

If the tapes are not to show from the inside of the house, pin or baste individual loops on the back of the curtain with the raw edges in the hem. Stitch both edges of the hem, fastening loops with the stitching.

Or, one end of the loop may be fastened on the back, as above, and the other end brought to the front of the curtain and to one side so that stitching will be through fewer layers of cloth.

Continuous loops may be stitched on the front, on the back, alternately from front to back, or inserted in a fold in the top hem. Loops will be at an angle, rather than vertical, and turns made parallel to the hem and top edges. Stitch both edges of the hem, fastening the loops in the stitching.

Scalloped Headings

Include the length of loops, clips, or rings in the overall curtain length. To the measured length of the fabric, add 8 inches for double facing and loops for the rod, 7 inches if clips or rings are to be used instead of loops, or 4 inches for a single facing with loops, clips, or rings.

Hem the Sides

Finish the sides as for curtains with straight headings.

Hem the Lower Edge

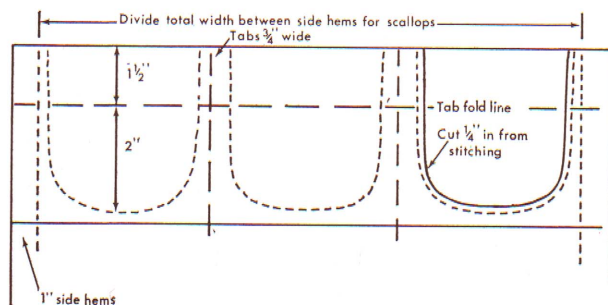
Finish the lower hem as for curtains with straight headings.

Finish the Upper Edge

If 8 inches were allowed, fold the top raw edge 4 inches to the wrong side and press. Fold again, bringing the right sides together and making a 4-inch double fold on the right side of the curtain with the edge and one fold at the top. Press and pin or baste to hold in place.

If 7 inches were allowed, follow the same procedure but turn folds $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

If 4 inches were allowed, fold the top raw edge $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the wrong side, press and stitch near the folded edge. Turn a fold to the right side (with right sides of fabric together) $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; press and pin or baste to hold in place.



Make the Scallops

Measure the distance across the curtain *between* the side hems. Divide the distance in 6 to 8 equal segments for 36-inch fabric. Tabs should be at or near each side edge. Or, if the fabric is wider than 36 inches, measure about $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches from center to center of tabs.

If tabs are to loop over the rod, draw a line across the width of the curtain, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top, to mark the tab fold line.

Mark $\frac{3}{4}$ inch width for each tab, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch each side of each division line. Mark tabs straight from the edge to the tab fold line.

The finished depth of each scallop will be about 2 inches. Draw scallops between tab marks, starting at tab fold line; use a paper pattern or round object of appropriate size.

Machine stitch along the guide lines.

Trim the scallops $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in from the stitching lines; clip toward the stitching at frequent intervals.

Turn the heading right side out. This now makes a facing on the wrong side. Push out the corners of the tabs and press so that the stitching is at the edge. Stitch on the right side close to the edge if desired. The lower edge of the facing remains loose—it is not sewed to the curtain.

Fold $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of each tab to the wrong side to form a loop for the rod; hand-sew firmly at the tab fold line.

OR

Fasten clips or rings to the top of the tabs, instead of folding them to make loops for the rod.

OR

If the fabric is almost opaque and a 4-inch facing was allowed, turn the raw edge $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the wrong side and press and stitch along the fold. Bring right sides of the fabric together, making a fold on the right side $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. Plan, mark, stitch, and trim scallops as above. Turn right side out, stitch if you wish, and fasten clips or rings to the top of the tabs.

Other Methods

All sections or upper tiers of a valance may be made with a heading and casing for the rod. Preferably, such curtains are planned to cover the window since they do not stay in place if pushed back. One inch is allowed for the heading; $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the rod casing.

Self-pleating buckram and pleater tapes for cafe curtains may be sewn to the top edge, following the manufacturer's directions.

Interfacings may be used instead of double hems. Or, curtains may be made double for appearance outside as well as inside the house. The two fabrics should hang together in pleasing compact folds.

A variety of trimmings may be applied—braids, flat tapes, moss fringe, ball fringe, rickrack, and the like. They should appear to be a structural part of the curtain, not meaninglessly added decoration.

Or fabric, contrasting in color or pattern with that of the curtain, may be applied on the right side as decorative hems or headings.

Weights

Weighting by the yard (covered metal shot) may be placed in the lower hem, the ends hand-sewed at the side.