

# CAFE CURTAINS & CORNICE BOARDS

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# Cafe Curtains, Cornice Boards and Valances

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## Cafe Curtains

The variety of heights at which cafe curtains can be set for personal requirements of ventilation, light, and view offers much flexibility. Cafe curtains usually hang by tabs or clips from a fixed rod and are installed in 2 or more tiers. The material from which they are made can be sheer or heavy, elegant or casual; colors may be bold or subtle.

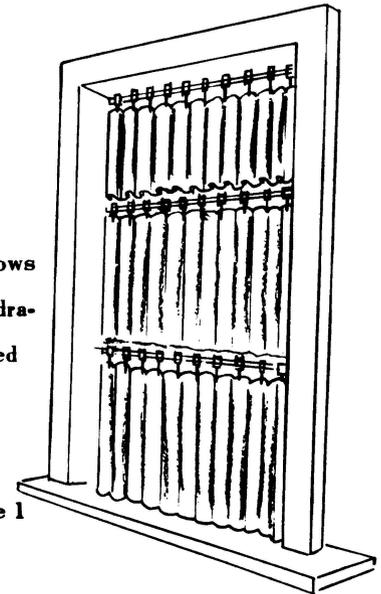
## Planning Your Cafe Curtains

First, attach cafe rods and brackets to window frame, or rod and sockets to inside of window frame. If there are horizontal wood strips between the panes of glass in the window, the rod (or rods) should be mounted even with one of the strips.

Tier cafe curtains are used with shorter windows in newer houses and are effective in large windows also.

Check the measurement for each tier. For upper tier, measure from rod which will hold tier to rod directly below it. Add 3" for overlap, 2-1/2" to 3" for lower hem (6" if double hem is used), and the necessary amount for top hem allowance.

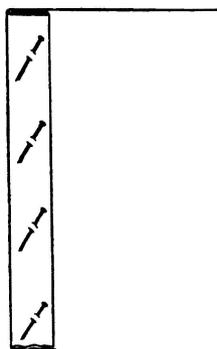
So the curtain will fall in folds, allow at least twice the finished width of the curtains. Add 1-1/2" for each side hem and 1/2" seam allowances if joining seams are necessary. For double hems, turn edge 1", press, then turn hem 1". Side, top, and bottom hems may be put in by hand, machine stitched, or blind stitched. Repeat for other tiers.



Tier Cafe Curtains  
Excellent treatment for windows  
with air conditioners  
Use light or medium weight dra-  
perry fabric  
Printed material should be lined

Figure 1

## Hints for Construction



Side hem, single or double,  
pinned ready for stitching.

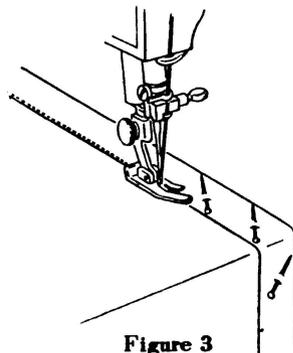


Figure 3  
Stitching hems

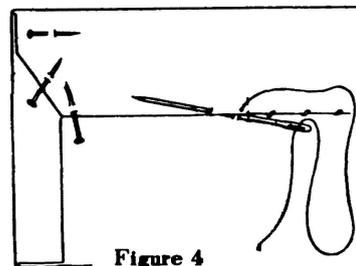


Figure 4  
Finishing top hem by hand.

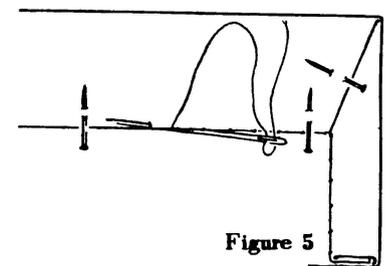


Figure 5  
Finishing double side hems  
and bottom hem by hand.

## Suggested Headings for Cafe Curtains

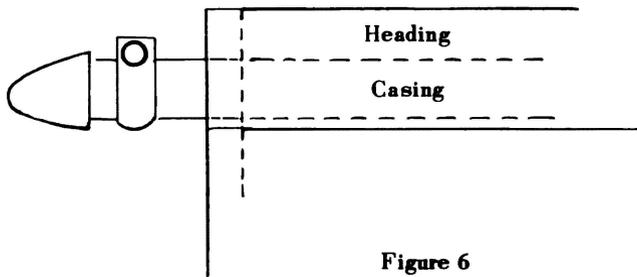


Figure 6

Plain casing with heading. A hem is placed in the top edge of the curtain. After the casing has been stitched, the part above the rod is called a heading.

Looped tops. Straight or shaped bands of fabric, decorative tape, or braid can be used for making loops. Sew loops to top of straight hem or attach with facing to seam at top edge.

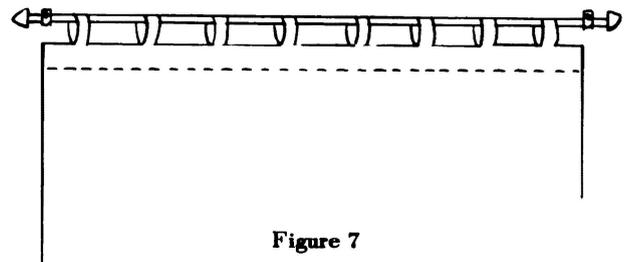


Figure 7

The top edge of the curtain is finished with a hem. The rings are clipped to the hem at even intervals, and the rod slipped through the rings.

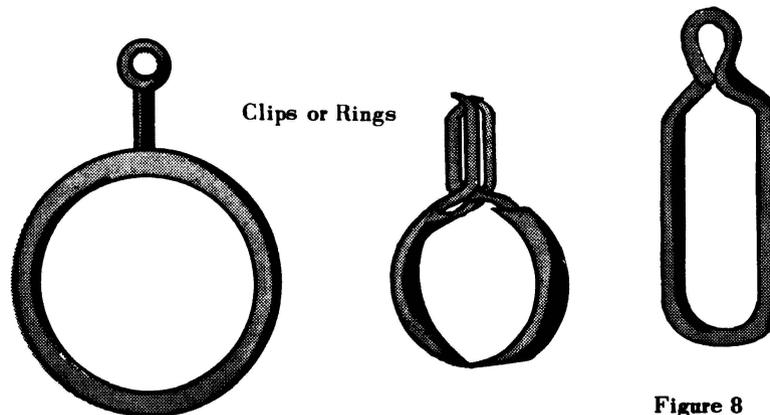


Figure 8

## Ideas for Hanging Cafe Curtains

Buttonhole openings can also be used to slip over the rod. Make a pair of buttonholes in each point of the curtains. Then slip the rod through these openings. This simple treatment eliminates the need for rings, clips or buttons, and curtains have an unusual, perky air.

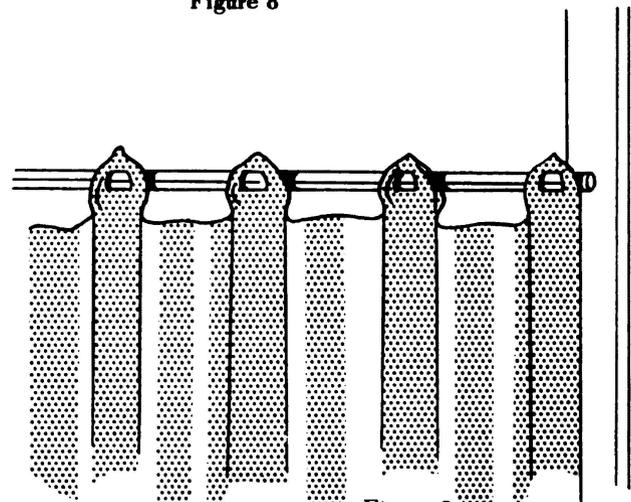


Figure 9

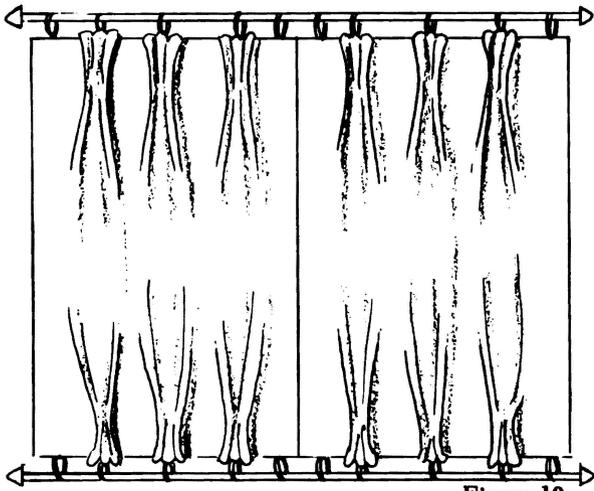


Figure 10

**Pleated Headings.** This is the type used on draperies (Circular 749) can be used for door where curtain must be attached bottom and top.

**Scalloped headings.** The width of top hem and interfacing depends upon depth of scallop used. A scalloped tape can be purchased. This costs more and special pleater rings will be needed.

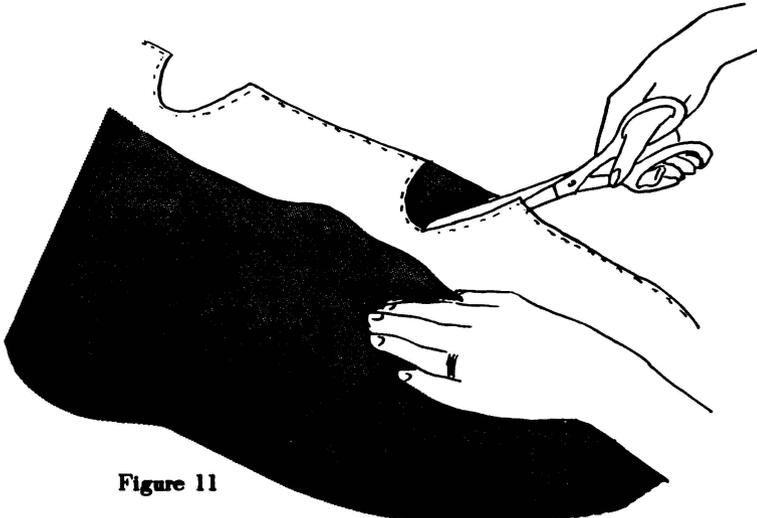


Figure 11

Stitch scalloped heading to top edge and follow pattern to cut scallops.

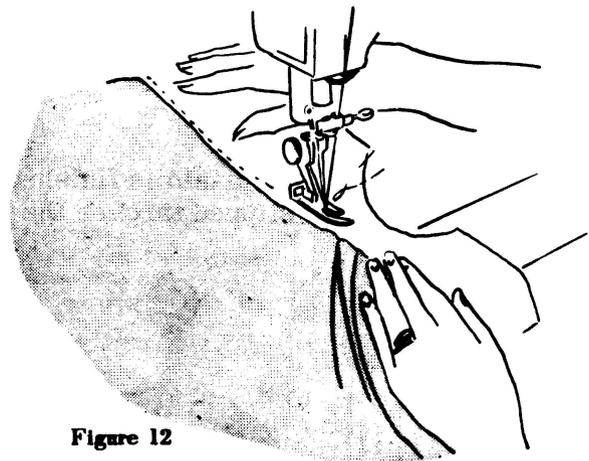


Figure 12

Turn tape over and down on wrong side of fabric. Sew sides and bottom.

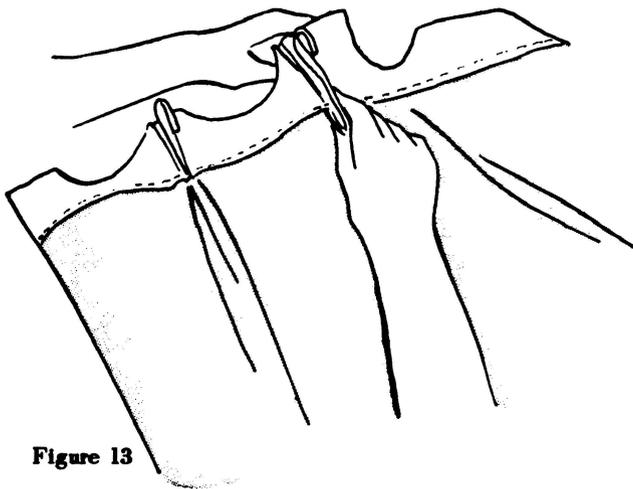


Figure 13

Insert pleater rings in woven-in pockets to form smooth, even pinch pleats.

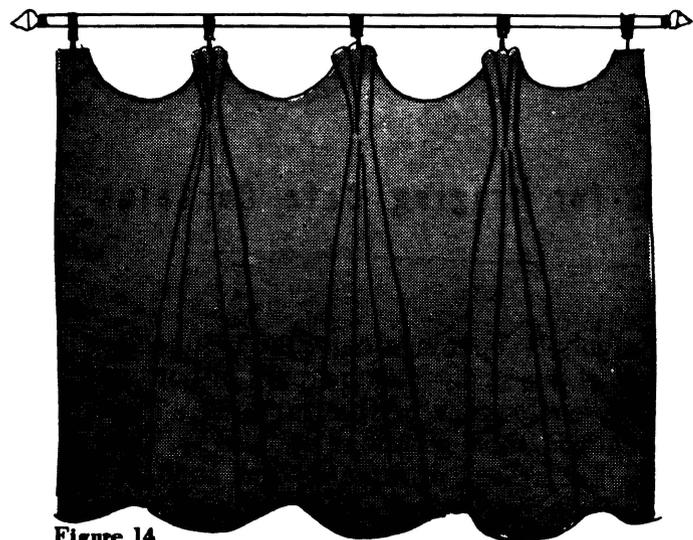


Figure 14

Brass rod goes through pleater rings and curtain is ready to hang.

You can make your own scalloped headings, using the following directions.

1. First hang the rod. For curtain length, measure from rod to sill.
2. Double the measurements of the rod width for the curtain width. Don't use more than double width, or scallops won't hang properly.
3. For side hems, fold under 1/2" to the wrong side. Press first fold, then make 1" side hems.
4. After side hems are completed, divide the curtain into equal sections, 5" to 6" wide. Mark divisions with pins or tailor's chalk.

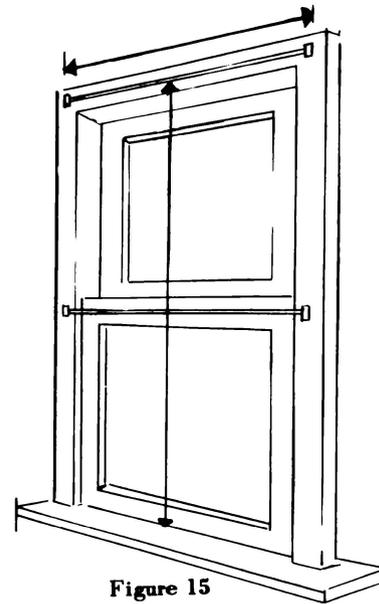


Figure 15

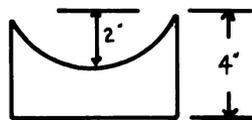


Figure 16

5. Cut a piece of cardboard 4" wide; make the length the same as the 5" to 6" distance between chalked marks. Make scallop pattern as shown in diagram; measure down 2" at center of cardboard; carefully draw and cut out scallop pattern (Figure 16).

6. To prepare facing, lay a 4-1/2" strip of material along top of curtain, wrong sides up and grainlines matching. Contrasting color may be used for facing if desired. Facing should extend 1/2" on both sides of curtain (Figure 17).

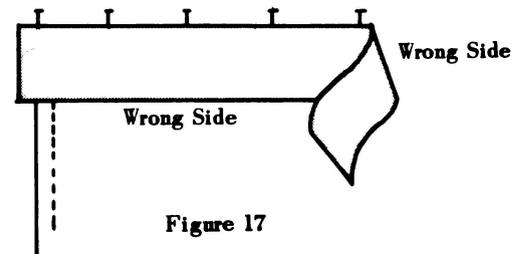


Figure 17

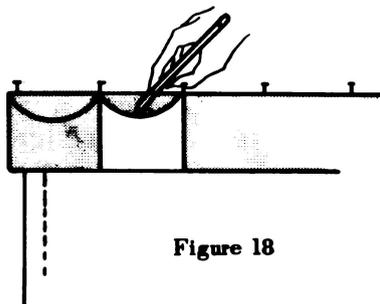


Figure 18

7. Draw scallops with tailor's chalk. Start points of scallops about 1/4" below top (Figure 18).

8. Turn in hem allowance at side; crease. Stitch along scallop mark (Figure 19).

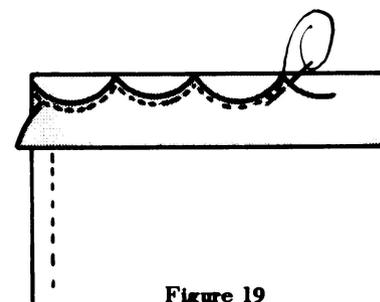


Figure 19

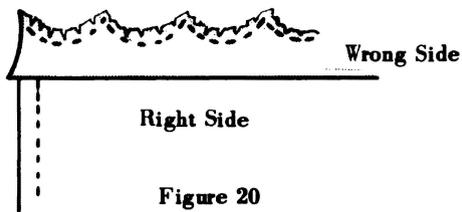


Figure 20

9. Trim seam 1/4" above scallops and slash to stitching as shown in diagram. Turn to right side; press (Figure 20).

10. Turn facing under; hem. Sew rings or tape loops at point of each scallop (clips may be obtained to fit some rods). (Figure 21).

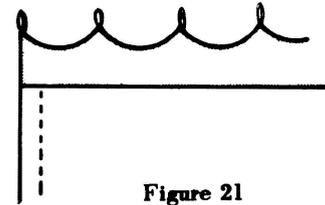


Figure 21

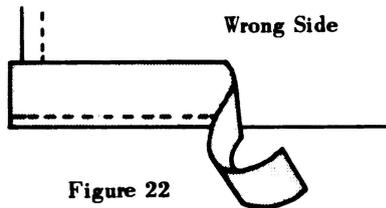


Figure 22

11. Lay 5" strip of facing material across bottom, both wrong sides up. Leave 1/2" side hem allowance at both sides. Stitch seam across bottom of curtain (Figure 22). Remember that this will make the facing on the right side.

12. Fold to right side, press, and stitch hem (Figure 23).

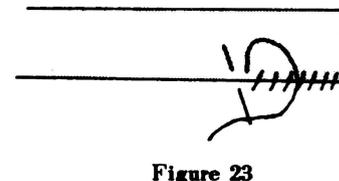


Figure 23

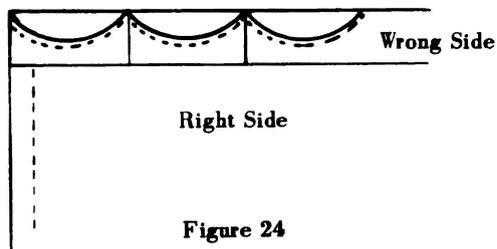


Figure 24

### Cafe Curtains With Self-Facing

1. If you do not want contrasting borders, cut curtain 5" longer than distance from rod to sill (2" allowance for scalloped top, 3" allowance for hem). After hemming sides, fold over 2" at the top of fabric (right sides together); draw shallow 1" scallops and finish as before (Figure 20).
2. Hang curtain on rod, mark sill length, and turn up the hem.  
Suit your window treatment to your home's special needs.

You'll be amazed at what a colorful piece of cloth can do for your home when it's cut and stitched to fit a special spot.

Cafe curtains can be used as room dividers. If you want to use a printed fabric, you might "line" the curtain from top to bottom with the printed material. Both sides of the curtain will look exactly alike, and it will be attractive from either side.

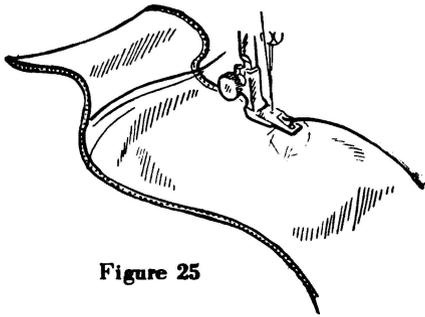


Figure 25

Some cafe curtains have ruffles.

Make ruffles on the crosswise grain of the fabric, 4-1/2'' or 6'' wide. To estimate yardage for ruffles, measure length of curtains. Allow 2 or 2-1/2 times the total measurement for fullness. Remove selvages and join strips. Press.

Hemming is the method for finishing edges of ruffles. It can be done on a machine.

Apply ruffles with heading. First, finish the edge of curtain with narrow hem, or turn edge to the right side 1/8'' and stitch. Stitch ruffle to curtain through first row of stitching. Crowd the gathers up slightly at the corner. Extra fullness allows the ruffle to stand out straight.

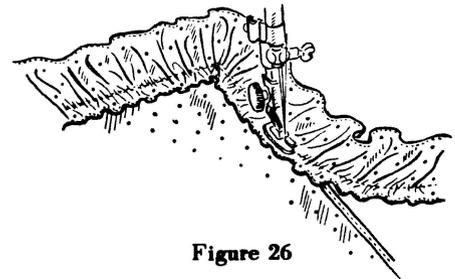
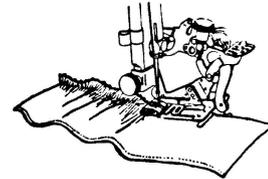


Figure 26

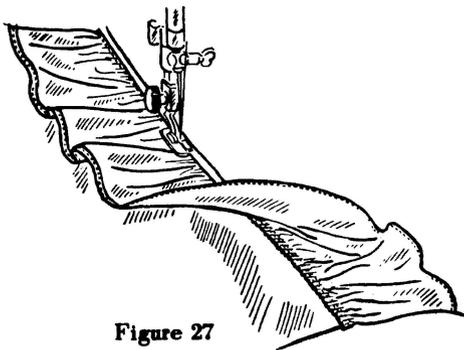


Figure 27

To join ruffles without heading. Stitch ruffle to curtain, placing wrong sides together, as you would for French seam. Trim seam to 1/2'' and press. Turn material over seam, bring right sides together, and stitch on wrong side through first row of stitching. This gives the effect of a French seam.

## Cornices

Cornices and valances are top finishes for windows. They are used to cover fixtures, to change the apparent size of windows, to connect a group of two or more windows, or to add color or pattern to a room. You can use them alone, with glass curtains or draperies, or both.

A cornice is usually made of wood, metal, or pressed wood. Plywood makes an excellent cornice, but is expensive. The end pieces (returns) need to be of heavier wood. You can paint the cornice to match the wall or woodwork, or cover it with fabric. Cornices help correct poorly shaped windows. Widen your window by extending the cornice beyond the window frame. Add height by raising cornices several inches above the window frame.

Before cutting a cornice, make a paper pattern of the type you want. Try it on the window to be sure the width and length are correct. The height of cornices varies, but those 6'' to 10'' are most common except for rooms with high ceilings. A closed top protects the curtains.

### Covering Cornices With Fabric

1. Cut flannelette 3" wider than and as long as cornice, including both ends.
2. Cover outside of board with flannelette, tacking along top and on inside lower edge. Clip curves.
3. Cut outside cover, using paper pattern and placing it carefully to center any design in material. If 2 widths of material must be used, do not put seam down the center. Split 1 piece and make 2 seams. Leave a full width in the center of board. Tack on over flannelette; clip curves and turn under.



Figure 29

5. Cut lining of sateen or muslin by pattern. Clip curved edges and turn under 1/2". Slip stitch in place along lower edge. Tack along top.

## Valances

A valance is a narrow length of material matching or contrasting with the draperies, usually tacked to a valance board. The simplest type of valance board is a wooden shelf about 4" deep and 1/2" thick, either screwed or nailed to the top of the window casing.

The depth of a valance is about 1/6 to 1/10 the length of the curtain. Consider size of the window and height of the ceiling. Figure the exact depth by making a paper pattern.

Valances may be gathered, pleated, draped, or fitted.

A gathered valance is made with a heading and casing, as for glass curtains, and is mounted on a separate rod; a valance board is not used. The fullness depends on the weight of material used - ranging from 1-1/2 to 3 times the length of the rod.

A pleated valance is made like a pleated finish on draperies, and tacked on the shelf-type valance board.

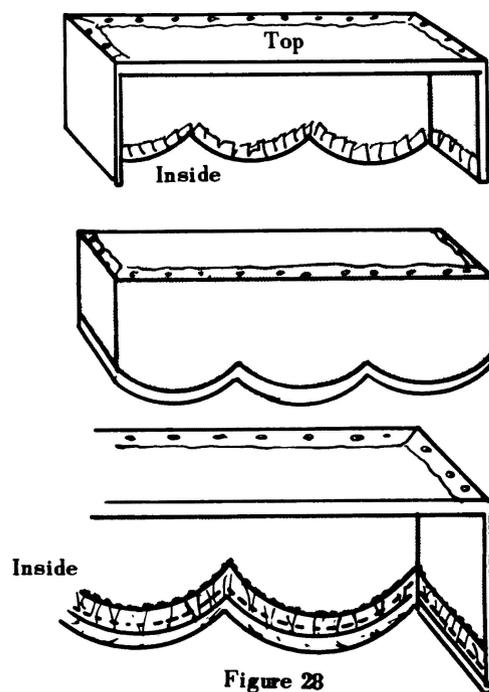
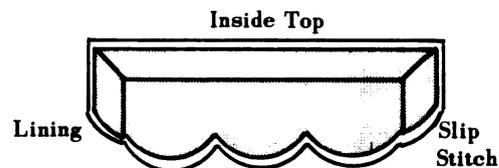


Figure 28

4. Cover cable cord with bias strips. Be sure enough material is allowed so that it will come 1" up on the inside of the board and leave the covered cord as an edge. Slip stitch in place. A matching color is usually more effective. A small, curved needle will make this step easier.



Angle Iron

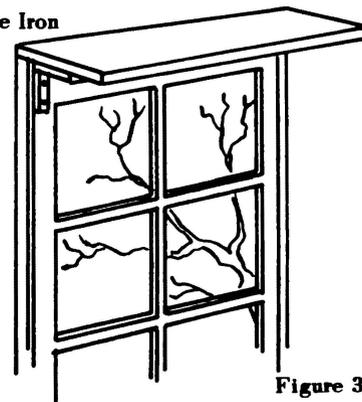
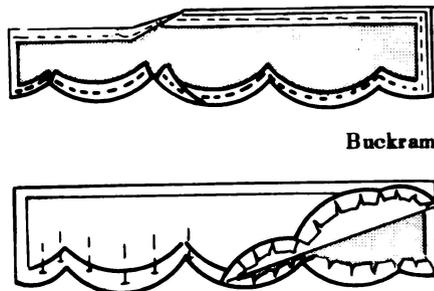


Figure 30

Plain, fitted, or shaped valances are designed to fit the window and the fabric.

1. Determine the shape of your valance and the placing of motifs, if there is a design in your fabric. Begin at the center of the valance.
2. Measure so one side is exactly like the other.
3. Cut a pattern and try it against the window before cutting your fabric.
4. From the pattern, cut a buckram foundation the exact size of the valance.
5. Cover with a cotton flannel inner-lining, also the size of the pattern.
6. Cover with drapery fabric, allowing 1" for seams.
7. Covered cable cord may be stitched on lower edge, and raw edge turned under with seam on cover.



Buckram

Figure 31

8. Turn raw edges over the buckram and cotton flannel foundation. Baste.
9. Cut a lining the exact size of the valance. Turn raw edges in so the lining is 1/2" from the outside of the valance.

10. Pin in position and slip stitch in place. If the valance has curved sections, the cover and lining must be clipped at the curves.
11. When the valance is finished, sew a piece of twill tape across the top. Fasten this tape to the valance board with thumb tacks, or attach the valance to the board with wood snappers.

A formal room may have a draped valance or swag, which is simple and easy to make. The length of material needed is the width of the window plus the length of the jabots (about 36"). The width of the valance should be about 36", or one full width of material. Cut ends on the bias. To make, remove the selvages and hem the sides with a slip stitch. Put a 2" hem on the bias ends. Adjust the valance in pleats over the holders and draw tightly across the top.

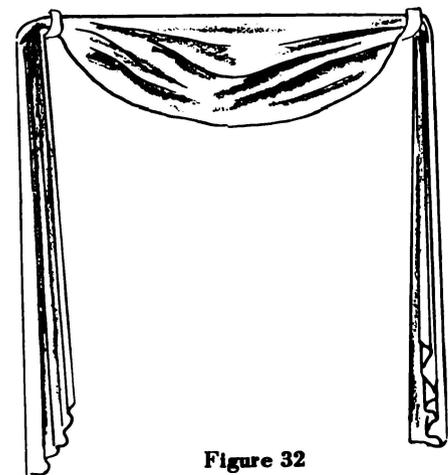
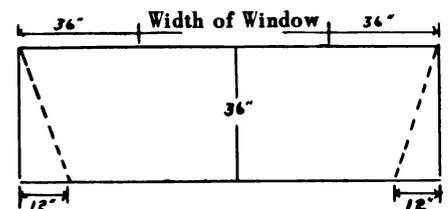


Figure 32

For special effects, you may wish to use decorative valance lighting. In some cases, where a great amount of fabric is not available, a cornice or valance can be used for window dress.

The secret ingredient behind the various swag treatments shown here is the diagonal line method. It eliminates guesswork and assures a perfect swag every time.

The finished swag and jabots are tacked to 1" board, about 4" deep, attached to window frame with angle irons. Attach swag to board with snap tape for easy removal.

1. The width of the board is the width of your swag at top, from A. to A. You will need 12 or more additional inches for bottom width. Put fabric right side up on floor and mark center top. Mark width of swag at top (A to A) and bottom (C to C). Decide depth of finished swag and see Chart below to learn measurement from C to D. For example, using fabric 36" deep and as wide as needed, for 15" finished depth at center, allow 4" from C to D on each side. Draw line from A to D. For five folds, divide that diagonal line into sixths. For 6 folds, divide it into sevenths, etc.

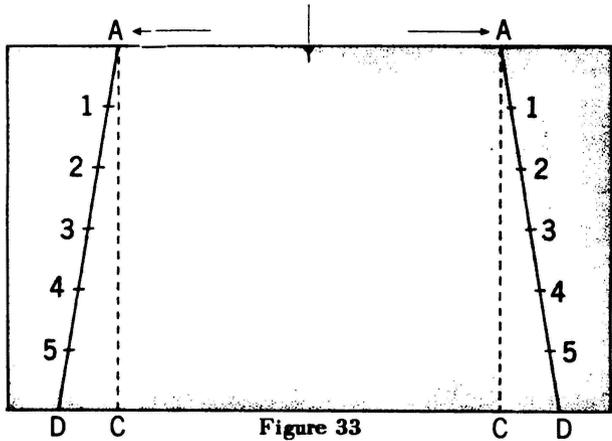


Figure 33

2. Pin swag at A and A to side of bed so that it hangs down. Then pin 1 to A on each side, smoothing in fold from center to sides. Then pin 2 to A on each side, etc., following diagonal line until all folds are pinned in place at A's. Cut off excess fabric on both sides from A straight down toward floor. Trim excess along curved bottom of swag, leaving about 3" of fabric after last fold. Make 1/4" hem at top. Bind sides to hold folds in place. Add trim.

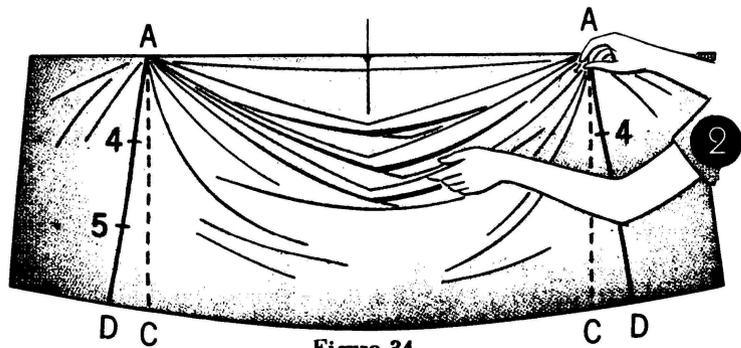


Figure 34

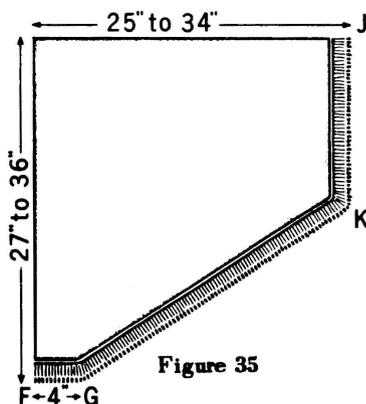


Figure 35

3. Average jabots are 25" wide and 27" long. Allow 4" (F to G) for side returns. Distance from J to K usually matches depth of swag. Draw line from K to G. Either line or make 1/4" hems. To line, stitch wrong sides of lining and fabric together or 3 long sides. Invert and overstitch open ends. Add trim.

4. Fold 3 pleats into jabot. Fold first pleat 4'' from long edge, to allow for side return. Fold over 2 remaining pleats, one on top of the other or slightly spaced. Bind top edge with matching fabric to hold pleats in place. For other jabot draw reverse diagonal.

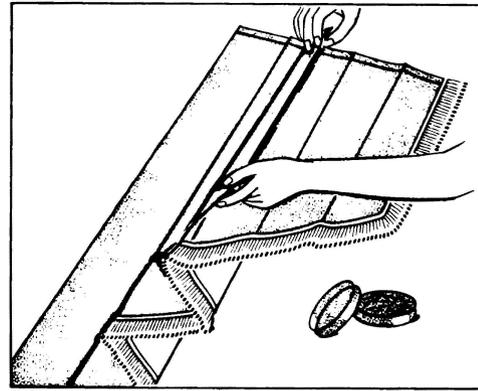


Figure 36

4

CHART FOR DIAGONAL MEASUREMENT USING 36-INCH DEEP FABRIC	
Desired Depth of Swag	Width of Diagonal
15''	4''
16''	5''
17''	6''

Basic swag above can be combined with draperies, cafes, shutters or shades for a formal or informal treatment. Jabots can be fringed or lined with a contrasting print or color. The swag can become a drapery as well by extending one or both jabots to the floor.

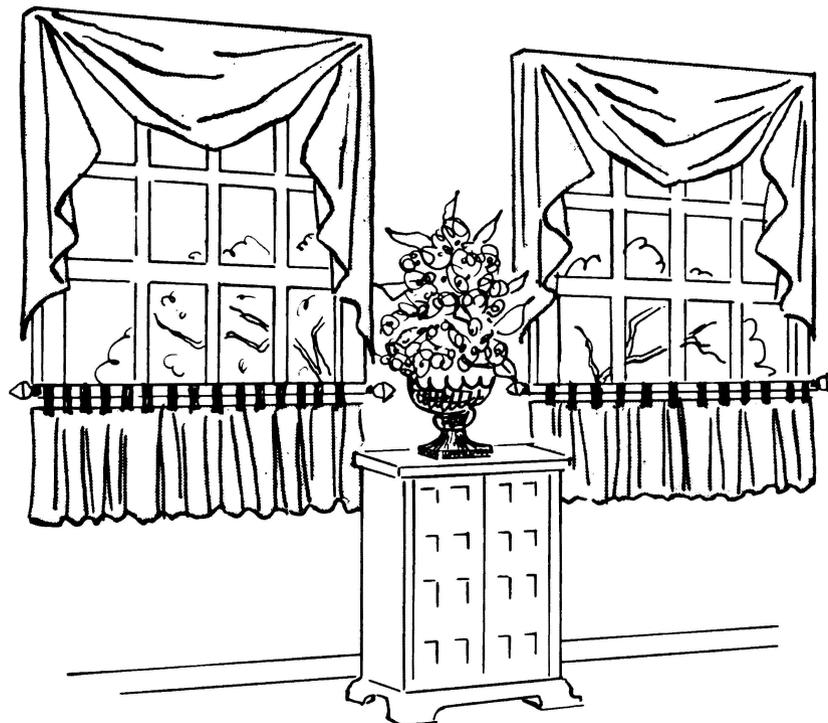


Figure 37



ISSUED IN FURTHERANCE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, ACTS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914, IN COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. W. H. DAUGHTREY, DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA.

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