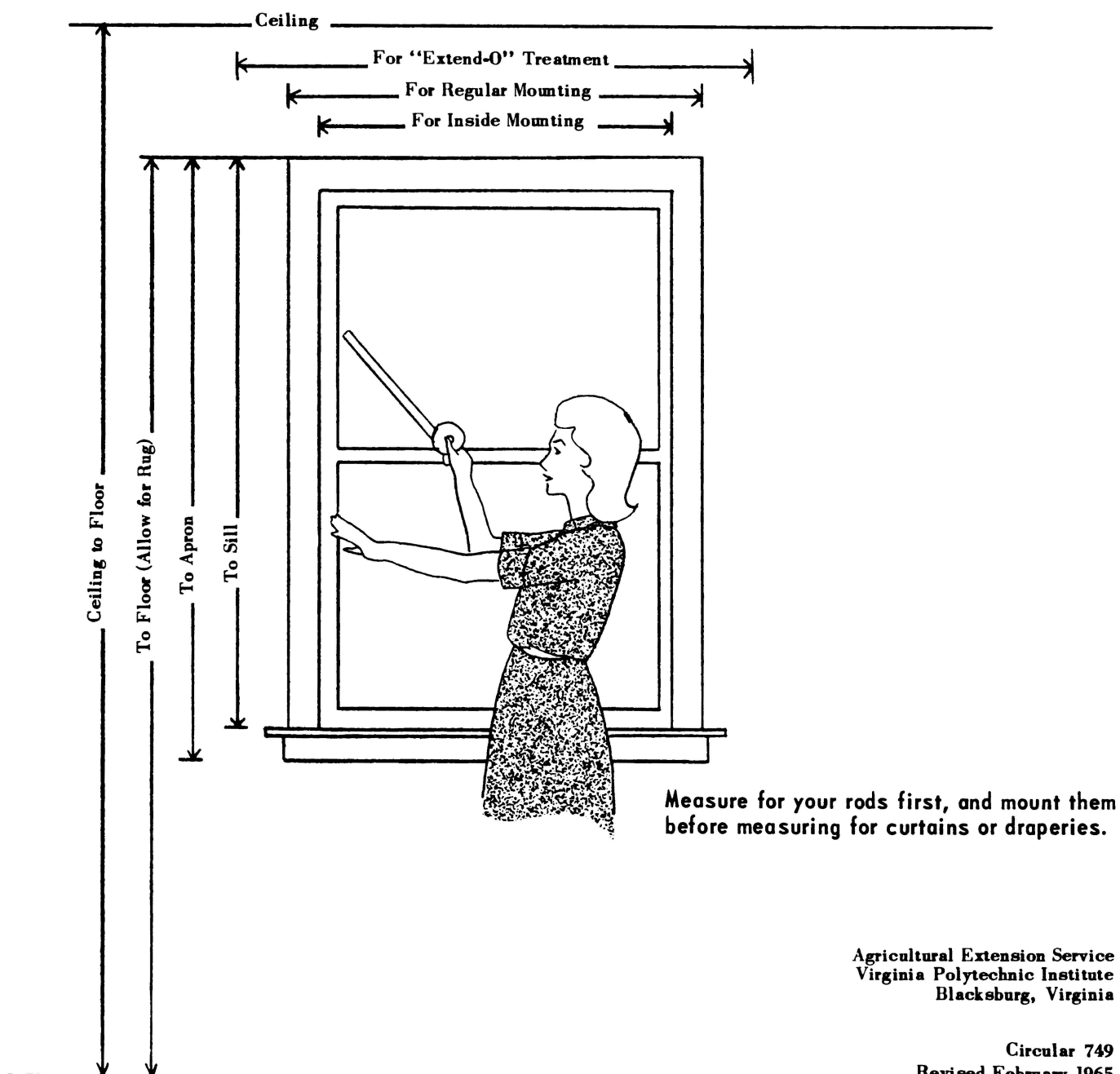


How To Make Draw Draperies



Agricultural Extension Service
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Blacksburg, Virginia

Circular 749
Revised February 1965

LD
5655
A761
C48
no. 749
1965
VPI
Spec

How To Make Draw Draperies

*Prepared by
Katherine L. Habel, Extension Home Furnishings Specialist*

In choosing fabric and style for curtains and draperies, consider first your needs for light, air, and privacy. Do you want to frame the view or hide it? Then, appraise the windows in relation to the room. Should the windows appear higher or wider? Perhaps 2 windows should be treated as one. Check outline effect. How will the style and fabric appear in relation to the exterior architecture? After you have done a thorough research job, select style and fabric suited to your needs which flatter your decor, and you like best.

Secure the correct hardware to support your draperies. Read Bulletin 272 "Window Treatment," and Circular 827 "Choosing Drapery Hardware".

A Check List of Materials, Equipment and Supplies Needed in Making Draperies

Workroom--Work where there is ample table space. A 4' x 8' piece of insulating board placed over the dining table will give you ample room for working. This is an aid to speed and accuracy.

Drapery Fabric--To determine the amount needed, see chart on Page (5) and note literature on drapery fabric.

Lining--Sateen is the fabric most in use, generally in white, cream, or tan. Linings are narrower than the draperies themselves (by the width of the side hems). For example 45" sateen is adequate for lining single width draperies made of 48" material.

Heading--Custom-made draperies are made with permanent crinoline headings, pinch-pleated. Crinoline is available in 3" and 4" widths, in various weights and permanent, ever-firm, and other finishes. It is usually sold by yard; it is wise to buy slightly more than the measurements indicate.

Easy pleat tape, a 4" sanforized heading tape with stitched pockets into which rigid pleating hooks are inserted, is available. In

addition to ease of construction, automatic pleating devices have the further advantage that the draperies can be spread out flat for cleaning.

Scissors--Sharp, clean-cutting shears are essential and make the cutting job easier and better.

Yardstick--All pre-cutting measurements should be taken with a yardstick, or steel measuring tape, not with a fabric tape measure.

Measuring guage--Use for hem width measurements.

Foot ruler--This is an important tool when pleating and sewing.

Thread--When the drapery material is purchased, thread should be bought to match the background color.

Needles--Use regular sewing needles, unless the fabric or crinoline is heavy, when chrome steel needles should be used.

Thimble--Always use a thimble for speed and good workmanship.

Pins--Use brass dressmaker pins with long tapered points.

Tailor's chalk for marking.

Iron and board--The iron and ironing board should be close at hand.

Drapery hooks--There are both hook-in and sew on types, each having various advantages. Hooks should be bought in sizes about 1/2" less than the width of the crinoline lined top of the drapery. Automatic pleating devices require special types of hooks which should be bought with them.

Weights--Some draperies require additional weight at the hem, though a double hem usually serves the purpose. If needed, weighted tapes may be used or any one of several pin-on weights.

Sewing machine

Good lighting source--A floor lamp and light on machine are needed.

Drapery Yardage Requirements

The first step is to take actual measurements of the areas to be covered. (Note picture on cover.)

Measuring

Measure every window. Draw draperies often are floor length, but in informal rooms may be apron or sill length.

Install the curtain rod in its proper position. Use a metal tape or a yardstick in measuring. Tie a heavy string with small weight on the end to the rod. Let it hang almost to floor level.

Length: For full length draperies, measure from curtain rod to floor along the string.

For apron length draperies, measure only to bottom of apron under window sill.

For sill length draperies, measure to top of sill.

For width of draperies measure the width of the rod, including length of projection from window frame.

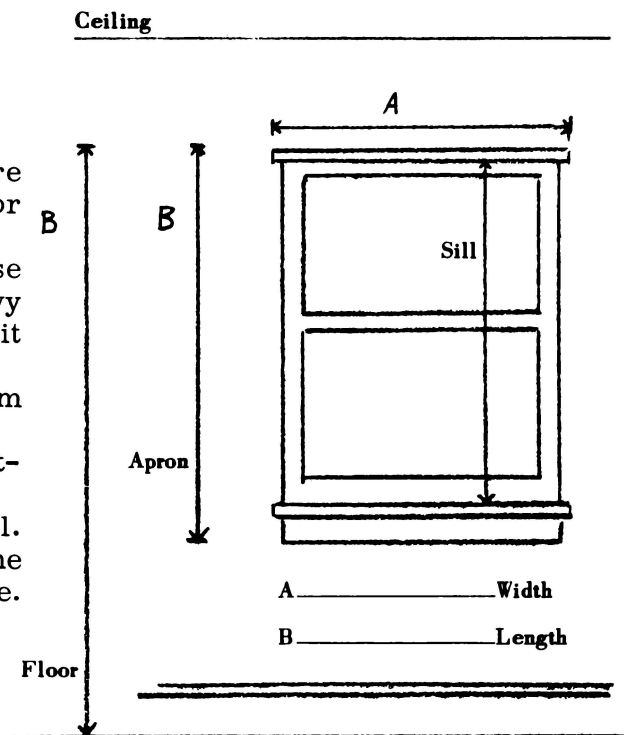


Figure 1

Lining

Lining--If you plan to line draperies, choose lining material the same width as the drapery material so seams will match when you sew panels together. Buy 3'' (4'' if 4'' crinoline is used) less in length for each panel of lining material than for each panel of drapery material.

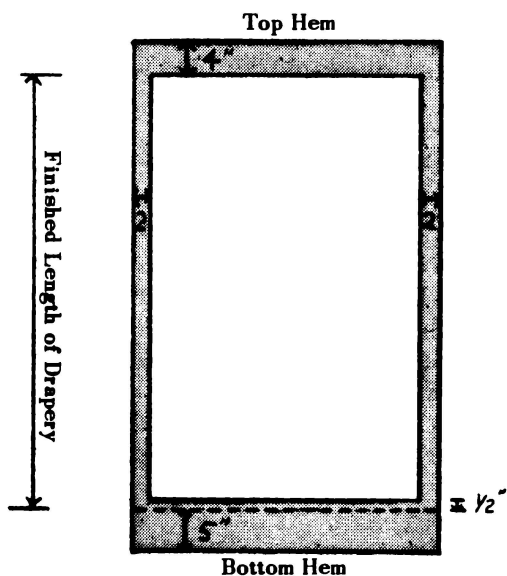


Figure 2

Cutting

Begin with the lining (Be sure to note totaled width of draperies). Cut lining 6'' narrower than finished drapery panel. For multiple width draperies cut 2'' off each side edge so that fabric and lining seams will match.

Cut lining 1'' longer than the finished length of the drapery. This allows 2'' at the bottom (2'' for hem and 1/2'' turn-in) and 1/2'' seam allowance on top and both side edges.

Trim off selvages.

Make a 2'' hem in the lining, press, pin, and machine stitch.

Panels--Pull a thread to get straight crosswise thread.

Check and recheck measurements. Mark with tailor's chalk. Cut drapery lengths. If a design has to be matched, use the first length as guide for matching the design for other panels. Cut all panels before going farther.

How to Compute Drapery Yardage Requirements

Sample Problem How to plan for multiple width draw draperies extending from ceiling to floor, to cover an area 144" wide and 96" long, with 100% fullness. Fabric to be used is 48" wide, has a design with a 19" repeat.

Width of Area To Be Draped	Desired Length to Finished Drapery	Width of Fabric Selected	Length of Pattern Repeat
* _____ (144) Inches	_____ (96) Inches		
A. _____ (+12) Inches	B. ** _____ (+10) Inches	C. _____ (48) Inches	D. _____ (19) Inches
_____ (156") Total	_____ (106") Total		

*Allowance for seams, hems, overlap and return to wall, if any.

(If pleater tape is to be used, no top hem is needed. Allow ½" seam allowance for attaching tape.)

**Allowance for heading and double hem.

(1 inch for heading above the rod)

4" top, single 5", double 9"

First, figure for plain fabric without repeats

1. Total from Box A Above	2. To Give 100% Fullness	3. Total Fabric Width Needed	4. Width of Fabric	5. Number of Widths Needed	6. Length of Finished Drapery + 10"	7. Inches of Fabric in Complete Drapery	(20 yds. & 22")
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
X	=	÷	=	X	=	÷	36" = (21)
multiply by	2	equals	divided by	_____ equals	multiply by	_____ equals	divided by
(156")	→	(312")	→	(48")	→	(7)	→
						(106")	
						(742")	
							If uneven, take next highest number.

Then figure for fabric with repeats(Work steps 1 through 5. Continue:)

(Start with complete design at the top.)

8. Total from Box B Above	9. Length of Repeat Pattern	10. Length Needed To Assure Matched Designs	11. No. of Widths (answer to #5)	12. Total Inches of Fabric Needed		
	+	=	X	=	÷	36 ¹¹ =
	plus	equals	multiply by	equals	divided by	(24 yds. & 11'')
(106'')	→	(19'')	→	(125'')	→	(25) Yards
				(7)	→	

The blank lines are for you to figure the amount of yardage required from your measurements.

Join Fabric Lengths

If more than one width of fabric is needed in each panel, pin the sections with right sides together, allowing $1/2''$ seam. Carefully match any designs, and stitch seam on wrong side from top to bottom.

Trim selvage or clip it at every inch. (Pink-ing seams is a satisfactory finish for most fabrics.)

Press the seams open. (Use heat setting for type of material.)

Join Fabric to Lining

Place right sides of lining and right side of fabric together. Pin side seams with top of lining 2'' from top of drapery fabric. Begin stitching 4'' from top of drapery and do not tie stitching threads. Stitch to within 2'' of bottom of lining.

Machine stitch $1/2''$ side seams, sewing from top to bottom. Use 8 to 10 stitch setting.

Use extreme care in sewing to avoid pucker. Select proper thread, use sharp needles, and check thread tension. Remember, thread under tension shrinks in laundering, and steam pressing. Experiment for proper spacing of stitches and stitch at slow, constant speed.

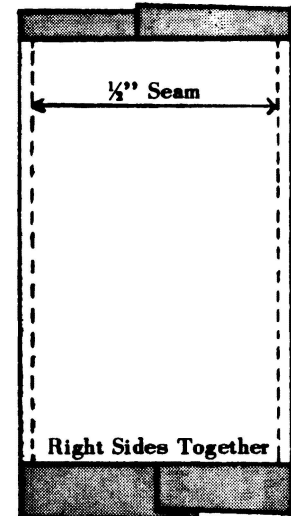


Figure 3

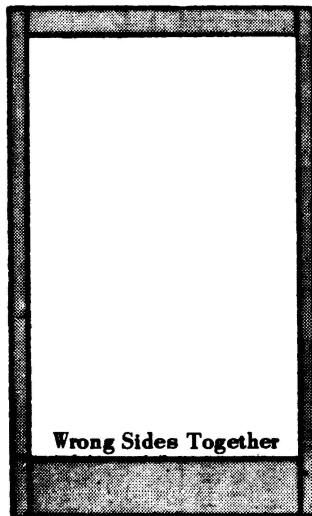


Figure 4

Press the seam open. Turn the material right side out.

Measure, pin in place, and press carefully so that your turn-back is exactly the same from top to bottom. (Hems on the finished drapery should be pressed in the direction in which the hems were turned from fold to edge.)

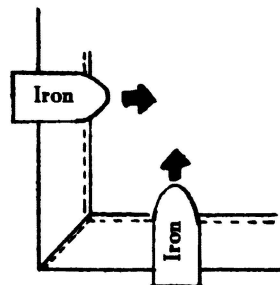


Figure 5

Attach Stiffening to Heading

Cut crinoline $1/4''$ shorter than width of the finished drapery.

Using a ruler, draw a straight pencil line end to end $1-1/2''$ from the lower edge of the crinoline.

Put the crinoline on a flat surface and pin top edge of drapery along the pencil line, drapery side up.

Stitch on machine, using a long stitch. (The amount of the crinoline extended above drapery will depend on width of crinoline.)

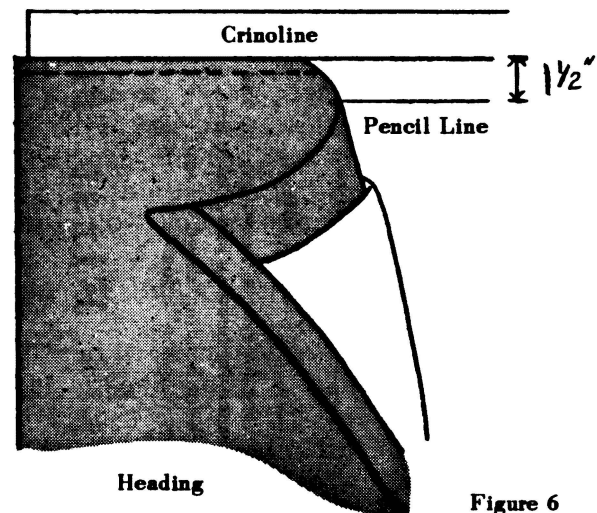


Figure 6

Turn stiffening under to wrong side so the full width of it is between the drapery and lining. Put pins in at right angles.

Turn under top of lining 1/2" and pin to fabric. This gives extension of drapery fabric 1" above the lining.

Fold corners and hand stitch. Do not try to stitch through the stiffening.

Check measurements.

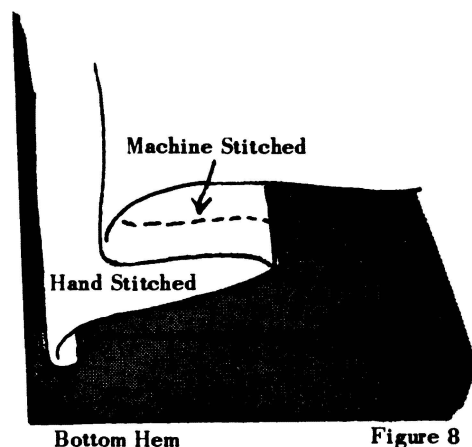


Figure 8

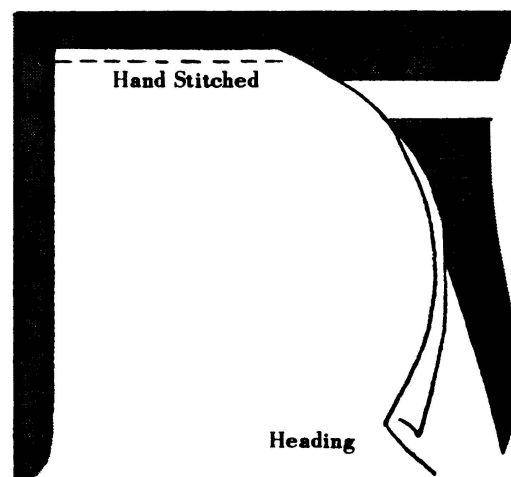


Figure 7

Adjusting Hem Line

Hem the drapery fabric and lining separately. (Baste the hems and allow draperies to hang at the windows for a few days before hand hemming.)

If the material is heavy, you may want to miter the corners. If the corner can be folded neatly without mitering, do so, because the drapery can be lengthened more easily.

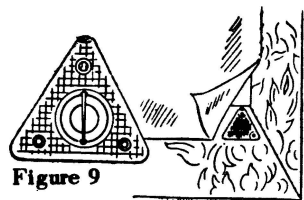


Figure 9

String weights are usually placed back of 2 thickness and held in place by a long running basting stitch through the fold of the hem.

Finishing

Weights will help draperies hang in straight folds.

To get fabric and lining to hang evenly, tack in several places along each side hem and at seams. Swinging tacks along the bottom hems may be desirable.

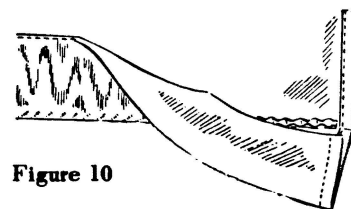


Figure 10

Disc weights covered with curtain fabric and tacked in place.

Spacing Pleats

Figure the amount of material for each pleat and the space between pleats for one panel by using the following steps.

Example: The finished width of the drapery used is 44" (original width of fabric 48" less 2" hems or 4"=44").

This width divided into alternate pleats and spaces:

- 1 _____ Total width of one side of finished, unpleated drapery _____
- 2 _____ 1/2 of rod measurement, including overlap and return _____
- 3 _____ Subtract line 2 from line 1 for the amount of fabric to be pleated. _____
- 4 _____ Total number of pleats. Allow 5 pleats for every width of fabric (44"-48" material) in the side. _____
- 5 _____ Divide line 3 by line 4 for amount to allow for each pleat. _____
- 6 _____ Number of spaces is total number of pleats, or line 4 plus 1, because there is always one more space than there are pleats. _____
- 7 _____ Divide line 2 by line 6 for amount to allow between each pleat. _____

Pleat	Space	Pleat	Space
Amount in line 5	Amount in line 7		
Wrong Side			

5 pleats 4" each or 20"
 6 spaces 4" each or 24"
 TOTAL 44"

Pleats by Measuring as You Go Method

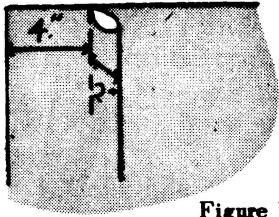


Figure 11

Measure 4'' from finished hem edge, marking the line for stitching. Measure 2'' beyond this line to indicate center of the first pleat.

Stitch on right side from top edge of drapery to below lower edge of crinoline-lined heading. Make sure beginning and end stitches are securely fastened.

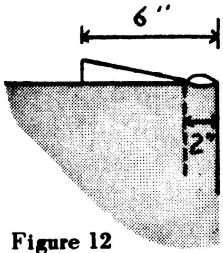


Figure 12

Make the pleat on the other hemmed side of the drapery by measuring in 6'' from the side hem. Then fold on this mark and stitch 2'' pleat as before.

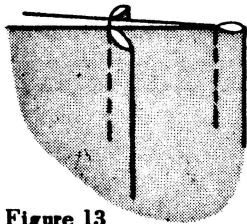


Figure 13

Fold drapery heading in half to mark the center, matching the hems and outside finished pleats. From this center fold, stitch another 2'' pleat.

To make the in-between pleat, match stitching on the first-made pleat to the stitching of the center pleat. Fold in the middle of the width (12'') and again stitch a pleat 2'' from the fold.

Repeat for the last pleat, the one between the center and the opposite end.



Figure 14

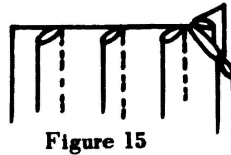


Figure 15

Stitch each pleat down from top of the drapery to bottom of the crinoline.

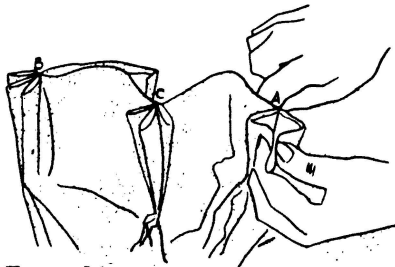


Figure 16

With thumb and forefinger, pinch on the edge of the fold, and push back firmly to the stitched line. This sets the "pinched" pleat in the middle of three pleats of equal depth.

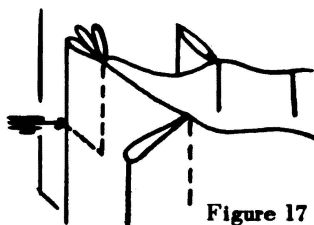


Figure 17

Pin fabric below the crinoline, all 6 layers together, to hold the 3 pleats in place. Then stitch forward and backward to make sure each pinch pleat is well anchored.



Figure 18

Tie that section in position with tape but not too tightly. Continue shaping the pleats downward and tie every foot or so. Leave draperies tied in this way for 2 or 3 days and they'll hang in beautiful professional looking folds.

Curtains and draperies last longer and look better when cleaned or laundered regularly at least once a year; synthetic fibers pick up dry soil (dust) because of static.

Hanging

Draperies that hang in perfect folds have that "extra touch" that adds perfection to your window treatment. Here's what you do: after your draperies are hung, start at the top of the drapery and finger each pleat down about a foot or so.



Figure 19

Short Method of Making Pleated Draperies

Install Rod and Measure

Here's an easy way to make your draperies the right width and fullness. First, install your traverse rod. Then, measure the length of the rod returns and overlap (see bottom illustration). For sufficient fullness, you will need a little more than twice that length pleat tape, as shown in Figure 20.

At the same time, select your pleat and end hooks. Figure 20 pleater hook for each 3" of rod length. You will need 2 end hooks--one for the return and one at the master slide--for each drapery panel (1/2 pair of draperies).

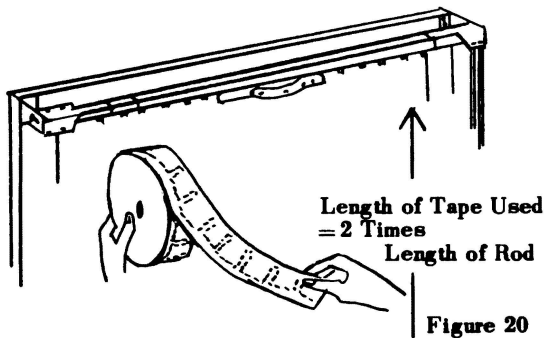


Figure 20

Make a Pattern Piece

Prepare a "pattern piece" of tape and hooks to show you how wide to make each drapery panel, as shown in Figure 21. Allow 3-1/2" for overlap at the center. Starting there, insert hooks to form the pleats in the tape for one panel width. (Skip pockets between pleats where spaces are desired.) Make pleats equal in size and make spaces between pleats equal in size. Starting with the master slide, hang the pleater tape on the rod allowing for a return to the wall, plus 1/2" to fold back at hem. Cut the tape at the return end and remove the hooks after marking their location. Repeat this for each panel. Mark each piece of tape either "left" or "right" for each window.

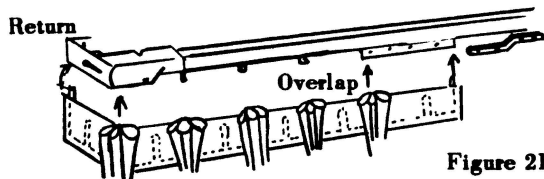


Figure 21

Measure for Finished Length

Draperies should reach to the window sill, apron, or floor--not in between. Decide how long you want your draperies and measure for fabric length. Measure from top of rod to point you choose, using steel tape or a wood rule. To this measurement, add 6" for hem, plus 1/2" for the top seam when tape is folded over. Include in the measurement the distance, if any, between the top of the hook and the top of the drapery.

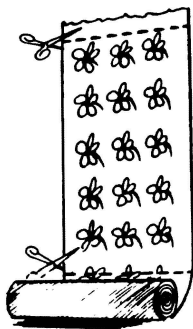


Figure 23

Match Patterns

To cut second panel, (the other half of the drapery), place fabrics right side up, smoothly on a flat surface. Carefully matching the designs, place on it, right side down, the cut panel. Then smooth out to make sure all designs match exactly. Then cut the same as the first panel.

Panels sewed together should match; the sides of a pair of draperies should match; and all draperies in a room should match, window by window. There is always some waste in matching patterns, so be sure to allow enough extra material for matching.

Figure 22

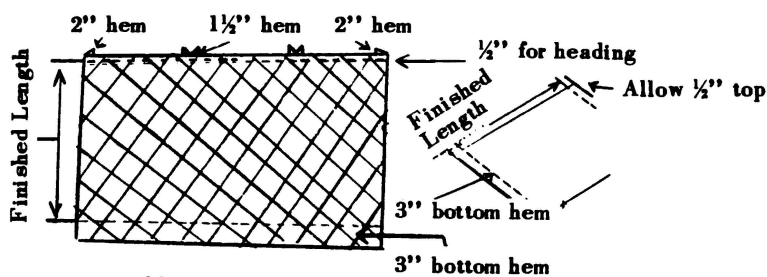
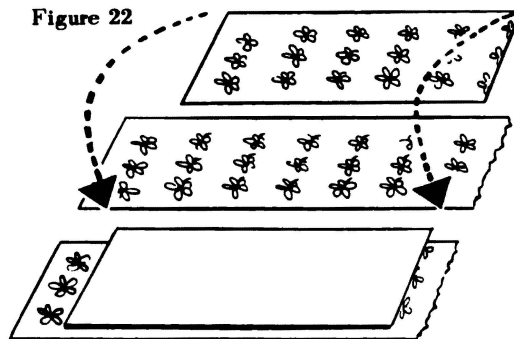


Figure 24

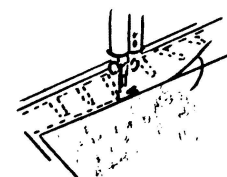
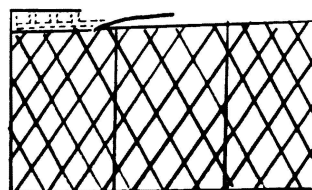
Join Widths

Using the "pattern piece" of tape, you can determine just how many widths of goods your drapery panels will require. Cut off selvages from both edges of the fabric. To join panels together for the necessary width, use a simple, interlocking 1-1/2" seam. (Cut the panels after matching the figure or pattern.) Make a 2" hem at each side of drapery piece. Make a double 3" bottom hem (turn 3", then press and turn again).

Sew Tape to Right Side of Panel

With your drapery right side up, place the pleat tape across the top edge of the drapery, covering 1/2" of the raw edge, with the pocket openings pointing up, as shown in Figure 25. At each side let the tape extend beyond the material 1/2". Pin tape to fabric, then stitch. Use a long stitch.

Figure 25



Fold Over and Sew

Now turn the drapery over, and fold back the tape so that it lies against the wrong side of the drapery fabric, as shown in Figure 26. Fold under the 1/2" of the tape which extends at the ends and sew. For finest appearance, stitch along the bottom of the heading only where you are using the pocket for pleats. Leave the bottom clear of stitching between pleats and at ends.

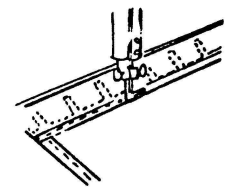
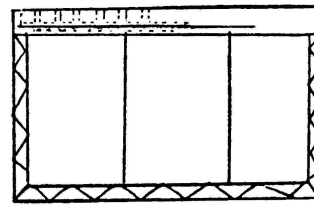


Figure 26

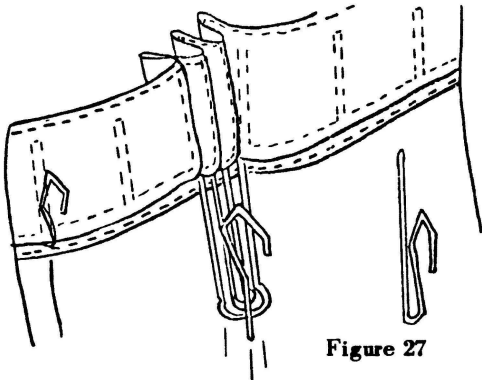


Figure 27

Insert Hooks and End Hooks

Re-insert your hooks in the pockets marked on your "pattern piece" of tape to form luxurious triple French pleats, the preferred standard pleat for beautiful heading effects. The end hooks, shown at left in Figure 23, go in outside edges of panel, and are hooked to the return and master slide arm.

Plan for Drapery Workshop

I. Preplanning meeting--held before workshop meeting

Suggested Program

1. State time, place, and goal of drapery workshop.
 2. Have exhibit of fabric and supplies needed for workshop. (Instructions on identifying tools)
 3. Explain cost values involved. (Types and kinds of fabric)
 4. Demonstrate how to measure and prepare fabric for cutting.
 5. Show slides of steps of construction. (Maximum-10 slides.)
 6. Supply literature and request members to read it before coming to workshop.
 7. View draperies that have been constructed.
 8. Judge finished draperies for appropriateness, workmanship, design.
- II. Workshop meeting (1 or more days) one month after preplanning. (Only for those making draperies)
- One-half of window treatment is completed at workshop. The homemaker is to complete draperies at home, also teach others what she has learned.
- Leaders may wish to meet and make illustrative material. It is most important to note that samples do not take the place of actually making a pair of draperies.

III. Order of work at workshop meeting

1. Set up working center.
 - Good lighting
 - Enough table space
 - Right table height
 - Tools at hand
2. Recheck measurement chart for fabrics. Tape chart to corner of working center.
3. Assemble lining--Cut lining-(wrong side up)
 - length--1-1/2" shorter than the finished drapery length
 - width--Subtract width of side hems and allow 1/2" for seam allowances if needed.
 - Press in 1/2" turn-in and 2" for hem. Machine stitch hem or pin and hand stitch later on.
4. Cut drapery fabric (right side up)
 - Indicate measurement with tailor's chalk.
 - Cut all panels, using first one as a guide.
 - Label as to windows and right or left side with a tag.
5. Join fabric length. Press, using proper heat setting.
6. Join fabric to lining. Press, using proper heat setting.
7. Attach stiffening to heading.
8. Recheck measurements.

9. Tack lining to bottom and side of panels.
10. Establish hem line.
11. Mark and make pleats.
12. Fold pleats together, tie with tape.
13. Hang several days before putting in

hem and weights. Use pick stitch, feather stitch, or loose hemming stitch.

Evaluate: Finished appearance of windows

Workmanship



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.

IP--2:65--5M--8--2--HM