

MAKE YOUR OWN DRAPERIES

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Draperies, or window treatments, need not be elaborate to be effective. Beauty and charm can be achieved through careful selection of fabric and type of treatment.

The modern trend in window treatments is toward straight, tailored draperies. Unlined draperies are growing in popularity, especially if semi-privacy is desired for your home.

If there is a view from your window, take advantage of it. If there is no view you want to emphasize, give the window an inside charm of its own. Each window treatment must be considered for its place in the room—be it for air, view, or privacy.

Unpatterned material and the color of the walls will act as an inconspicuous transition between the wall and windows. A window treatment that moderately contrasts with the wall will make one look toward the window. A strong attention-getting patterned fabric will cause one to look at the draperies rather than other sections of the room.

Materials and equipment needed to make draperies

Drapery fabric

Lining, if desired

Perma-finished stiffening, 3 or 4 inches wide *or* self-pleating tape

Heavy-duty sewing thread

Yardstick

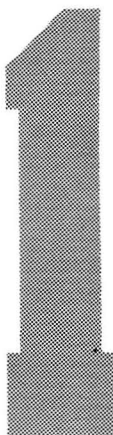
Steel tape *or* non-stretch tape

Sewing tools—scissors, thimble, needle, pins

Weights—single *or* yardage

Drapery hooks

Steps in making draperies



SELECT FIXTURES

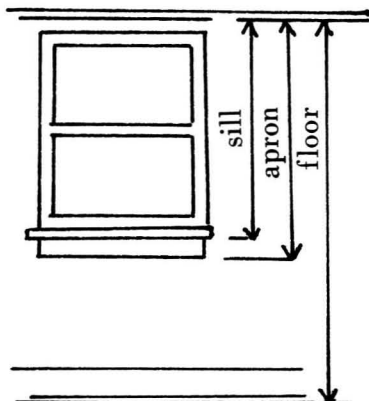
Simple but sturdy fixtures are best. It is usually desirable to cover all the woodwork, so plan to place fixtures at the extreme corners of the window facing. Sometimes it is desirable to extend the rods beyond the sides of the window. When draperies are opened, the folds of the draperies will be away from the window and over the wall space.

2

MEASURE THE AMOUNT OF FABRIC NEEDED

Use steel tape to measure. **LENGTH:** Draperies may come either to the window sill, the bottom of the apron, or to just above the rug. The finished length should be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the rod. For a double hem at the bottom of the drapery add 6 inches. For the heading, add $6\frac{1}{2}$ or $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, depending on the width of the crinoline you are using and the method of hanging you plan.

WIDTH: Draperies should be wide enough to hang in graceful folds. If they are on traverse rods, twice the width of the area to be covered should be allowed for fullness. If the fabric is sheer, *three or more times* the width of the space covered may be used.



3

DECIDE ON THE STYLE OF HEADING

The heading may be made with a self-pleating tape if time and energy conservation is more important to you than money. The self-pleating tape has pockets either woven or stitched in. Four-pronged pleater hooks are used with the self-pleater tape.

Either box or French pleats are the usual kind of pleats made when a permanent-finish stiffening is used in the heading of the drapery. A four-inch-wide heading is best for full-length panels. A 3-inch-wide heading may be used for apron- or sill-length draperies. Buy thread to match the background of the drapery material.

4

CUT DRAPERY FABRIC

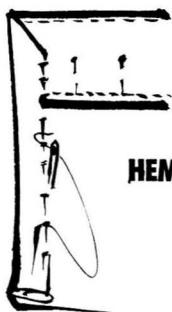
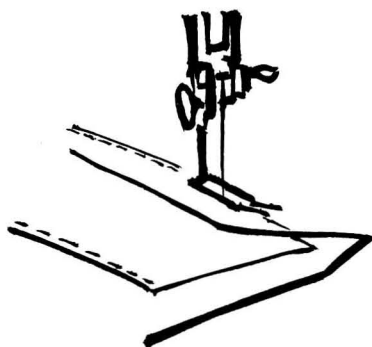
Select a point for the top of the drapery on the fabric where the design is to begin. Pull a thread and cut. Measure drapery length. Add allowance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches for each hem and cut.

SEW DRAPERY (UNLINED)

5

SEW IN STIFFENING

Pin and baste strip of crinoline to underside of heading $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from top and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from edges. Turn $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of fabric at top edge over stiffening and stitch. Stitch along lower edge of crinoline. Turn top hem to underside, press, and pin in place.

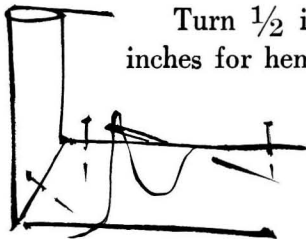


HEM SIDES

Hems may be put in by hand, or they may be machine-stitched or blind-stitched. Turn $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to underside, then turn 1 or 2 inches for hem. Pin, stitch, and press. Finish hem by hand, using slip-stitch.

HEM BOTTOM

Turn $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to underside, then turn 3 or 4 inches for hem. Finish by hand or machine. Press.



SEW DRAPERY (LINED)

Lining in draperies prevents fabric from fading, improves appearance from the outside of the home, and makes the draperies hang in deeper folds.

CUT LINING

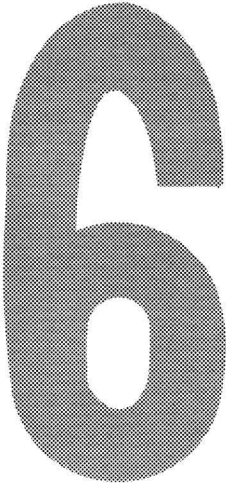
The lining should be cut $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches shorter and 6 inches narrower than the draperies. (This will allow a 3-inch side hem.)

HEM

The bottoms of the lining and the drapery are hemmed, either by hand or machine-stitched.

STITCH SIDES AND TOP

Place crinoline and lining at the top of drapery. Stitch each side and top. Turn drapery like a pillow case.



PLACE PLEATS

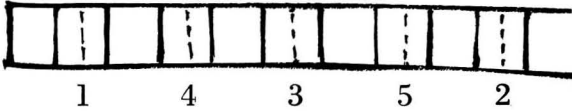
Most side draperies have 5 or 7 pleats in each panel. The finished drapery, after pleated, must measure the same as $\frac{1}{2}$ of the rod plus the $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches for overlap.

For example:

$\frac{1}{2}$ of length of rod.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Overlap	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Rod to wall.....	3 inches
Total width	<u>24 inches</u>

If your drapery measures 44 inches, subtract the width of the finished drapery from 44. Example: $44 - 24 = 20$. So 20 inches will be allowed for pleats. To find the fullness of each pleat, divide the allowance for pleats by the number of pleats. Example: $20 \div 5 = 4$. Each pleat will have 4 inches of fullness.

Mark the first and second pleats 3 inches from the edges. Then mark the remaining pleats by working from the center out.

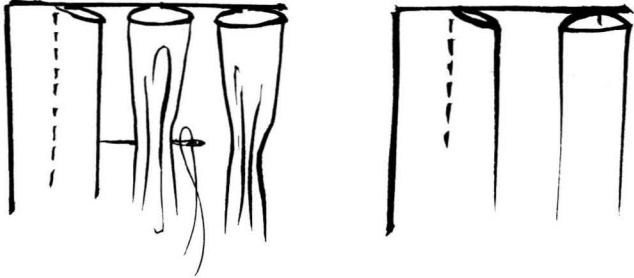


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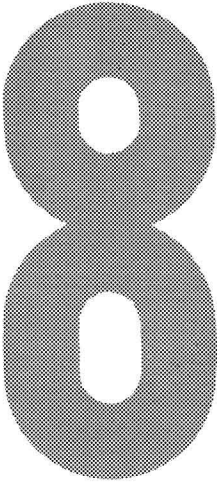
MAKE PLEATS

Stitch a 2-inch pleat down the width of crinoline.

For French or pinch pleats, divide the pleat into 3 small pleats and press together. Stitch across lower edge of heading by hand or machine.



Box pleat is stitched the same as the French pleat. Form the pleat by spreading it an equal distance from each side of stitching. Box pleats are very good to use when no valance or cornice is used.



PUT IN HARDWARE

Good drapery hardware is a wise investment. If traverse rods are used, it may be wise to wax or run a candle over the tracks, to make for smoother operation. There are many types of pin or sew-on hooks available.


Most draperies should have weights of some kind along the lower edge. You may decide to use the corner, the washer, or yardage-type weight. Outside edges of draperies should hang taut against the wall. Sew a plastic ring to the bottom hem; hook over a cup hook that is placed in the baseboard in line with the hem.

After pleated draperies are hung, starting at the top with one hand in front of drapery and one behind, finger each pleat down a foot or two and tie that section in position. Tie in 2 or 3 sections and leave for 2 or 3 days, then remove ties. Draperies will hang in neat folds.

Draperies you make can have a tailored touch. Well-made draperies require sewing skill. They call for patience and precise work, but repay you in grace, beauty, and a wonderful feeling of accomplishment, if construction is properly done.

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- How to Make Draperies.* Singer Sewing Machine Co., Book No. 102, 1960.
- Save Time and Energy in Drapery Construction.* University of Arkansas Leaflet 297, May 1960.



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