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Window Glamour



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Agricultural Extension Service

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE

Window Glamour

By ISABEL MCGIBNEY
Home Management Specialist

The manner in which you treat the windows in your home determines to a great extent the attractiveness of your home. It is one of the most important decorative features in the home. The window treatment can be the means of tying the room together with color, texture, and design.

Windows in your homes are there to give light and ventilation. These two points are the first to consider when decorating windows. You will decide how much emphasis the window is to receive. With various treatments you can provide privacy, hide unattractive views, regulate light and ventilation, correct poorly proportioned windows, or make them the most important decorative feature—the center of interest of the room. Whatever the treatment, remember, that good window treatment will be restful, will harmonize with the room, and lend distinction to the furnishings.

Do not forget the appearance of the windows from the outside of the house must be

considered. They give the public something of the personality within the home. The effect from outside should be one of harmony though the inside may be as individual as the number of windows to be curtained. All windows on the same side of the house on one floor should look as though they were treated alike. This effect is obtained by neutral toned glass or casement curtains or neutral linings to draperies.

Check Your Windows

The best treatment depends upon the size, shape, and arrangement of the windows as well as the room and its furnishings. Your problems will be varied. Perhaps you will want to make the window appear larger or smaller, shorter or taller, wider or narrower. If your home has elaborate furnishings then you will need to use formal treatment. If you have simple furnishings you will use informal arrangements.

Choose Your Style

The size of the room is one of the determining factors in glamorizing windows. For small rooms choose lightweight, fine textured, plain or small patterned fabrics in colors which match or blend with the color of the walls. Use simple window treatments such as glass curtains alone.

For large rooms choose heavy, rough texture, plain materials or materials with large patterns. The colors of the materials may contrast with the walls.

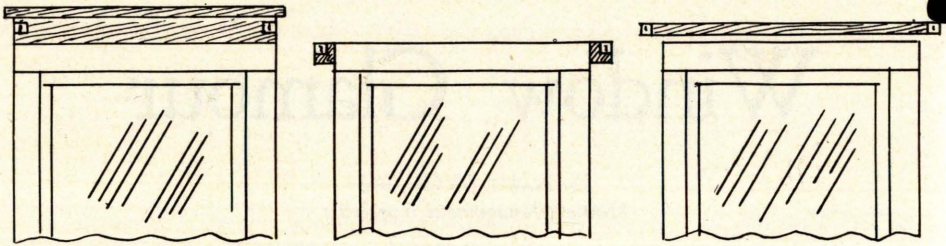
Select the fabric color before the paint or wall color. You will find it much easier to match paint color to fabric color.

A room which gets very little light or harsh

morning light might seem cheerless unless warm colors are used. Count on tints of blue and green to absorb the warm light from the south and west.

It is well to restrict the colors to three—one main color, a second color and a third accent color. The accent color will be in a small amount and can be quite bright. Contrast of tints and shades of one color blended carefully with an accent color will make a pleasing scheme.

If the walls have figured wallpaper, the room will be most attractive with plain draperies. They may be the same color as the background of the wall paper or may repeat one of



You can change the shape of your windows by adding extenders as in the illustration. The left one

adds height; center, adds width; and right, gives both height and width.

the principal colors of the figure in the paper. If the walls are plain the draperies may be plain or figured. The background or one of the colors in the drapery should match the plain wall color. This matching color could be lighter or darker. When plain draperies and plain wall colors are used a contrast between the two is obtained by having the drapery a different texture, or the same color in a lighter or darker shade than the walls.

Successful shopping for colors and fabrics calls for accurate information about your room requirements. Have a sketch of the room with walls and floor space drawn to scale. One fourth inch to a foot would be adequate. Show size, placing of doors, windows and niches.

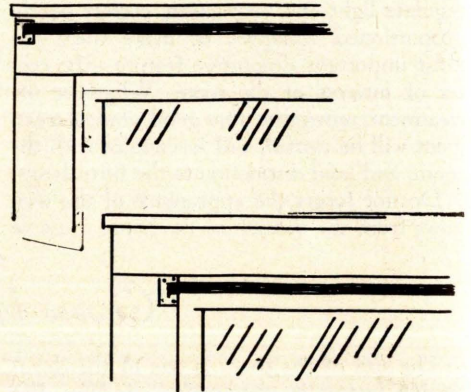
Also have a description of wood trim, floor treatment, wall coverings and furniture. Have samples of these if possible.

Windows in old houses often seem too long and narrow for today's styles. You can change the proportions by fastening board extensions, or metal extender plates to the top or side of frame, or by adding cornices or by using extender rods. Note illustration above. Have the same height for all windows in one room. Fasten the fixtures before measuring for cur-

tains and draperies.

If windows in the room are different heights this method may be used to make them appear the same.

There are many different types of curtain and drapery fixtures. Be sure to buy substantial rods and fixtures. Place the rod so the window frame is entirely covered or entirely exposed. Place the rods before measuring for the curtains or draperies. See the illustration below.



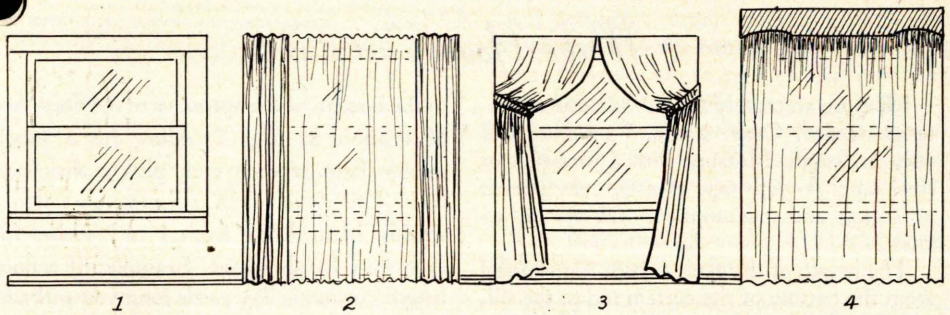
Rods are placed so the curtain will cover the frame or leave it exposed.

Choose Your Fabric

Window treatments, even the simplest, involve considerable expense for fixtures and materials. It is possible to hold down the cost by making the draperies yourself and using inexpensive fabrics. The dress goods counters in department stores sometimes offer more possibilities than drapery departments. Whatever kind of material you buy be sure to get

good quality. A generous drapery of inexpensive material is far better than a skimpy drapery of more expensive material. Select fabrics which are suitable to the general scheme of the room.

Making draperies and curtains does not require a lot of skill but you must be accurate. Don't use short cuts.



A short wide window, such as shown in figure 1, may be given length by hanging curtains and draperies straight, figure 2;

figure 3; and placing cornice above window frame, figure 4.

A comparison of the material, the workmanship, and cost of ready-made, custom-made, and home made curtains and draperies should be made before deciding whether you want to buy, make, or have custom-made. Examine them for workmanship, length, width, pattern, and texture. How much will the material shrink? Are they color fast? How will they clean? Will they hold their shape? Is the pattern matched? Is it appropriate for your color scheme and furnishings?

sume the fibers will act in a certain way because of their individual properties. There are other factors which can change this, such as fabric construction, its treatment, dyeing, and addition of special finishes. It is entirely possible for a manufacturer of a fabric to use the new fibers but so handle them that they completely lose their advantages. Inferior fabrics can be made from a good fiber. You, as consumers, are the laboratories. You can help by demanding fact tags and standards of performance.

Look for *fact tags*. These tags will give you information about crispness, mildew-resistance, fire resistance, durability, water repellency, etc. Information of this type will be found on the selvage of drapery materials.

These synthesized (man-made) fibers have as their advantages: 1. Light in weight; 2. Low moisture absorption, most of them absorb only 3% to 10% of their weight of water even after prolonged soaking; 3. Ease of washing, because of low moisture absorption dust is not carried into the fiber. The dirt is washed off rather than pulled out; 4. Rapid drying, the peculiarities of some weaves counteract this rapid drying tendency; 5. Permanence of shape, resists shrinkage or stretching, and retains pleats and creases; 6. Insect resistance, clothes moths will eat their way through the fiber to escape from some inner layer such as, wool batting; 7 Mildew resistant.

Ruffled curtains, because of the time required to make them, are usually purchased ready-made.

With so many fabrics suitable for window curtaining on the market today you can't help but feel enthusiastic about it. Many of the newer fabrics come in such interesting textures and patterns, wide widths, pleasing colors, and reasonable prices that they can't help but make home sewing a profitable and interesting experience. Along with these advantages there are disadvantages.

The disadvantages are: 1. Static electrical effects, this can be overcome to a certain extent by anti-static finishes and rinses; 2. Dyeing limited in color range; 3. Heat soften, damaged by excessive heat in ironing, live ashes from cigarettes. Danger is not from fire but from melted holes.

A word of caution—the man-made fibers such as nylon, orlon, dacron, dynel, etc. are so new to the home furnishings field that very little technical investigation or consumer use-experience has been carried out. We can as-

Make Your Curtains

Measure accurately for the amount of material needed. Often standard windows will vary in length. Measure with a yardstick or steel tape. A cloth tape measure may stretch or shrink and measurement will not be accurate.

The length of the glass curtain is measured from the bottom of the curtain rod to the sill,

to the bottom of the apron, or to the floor. See illustration on page 7. Allow for a 3-inch double hem at each end, plus a shrinkage tuck. This double hem is sometimes called a shadow hem. Allow from 1 to 2 inches for each yard for shrinkage. Example: If a floor curtain is $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards long you will add

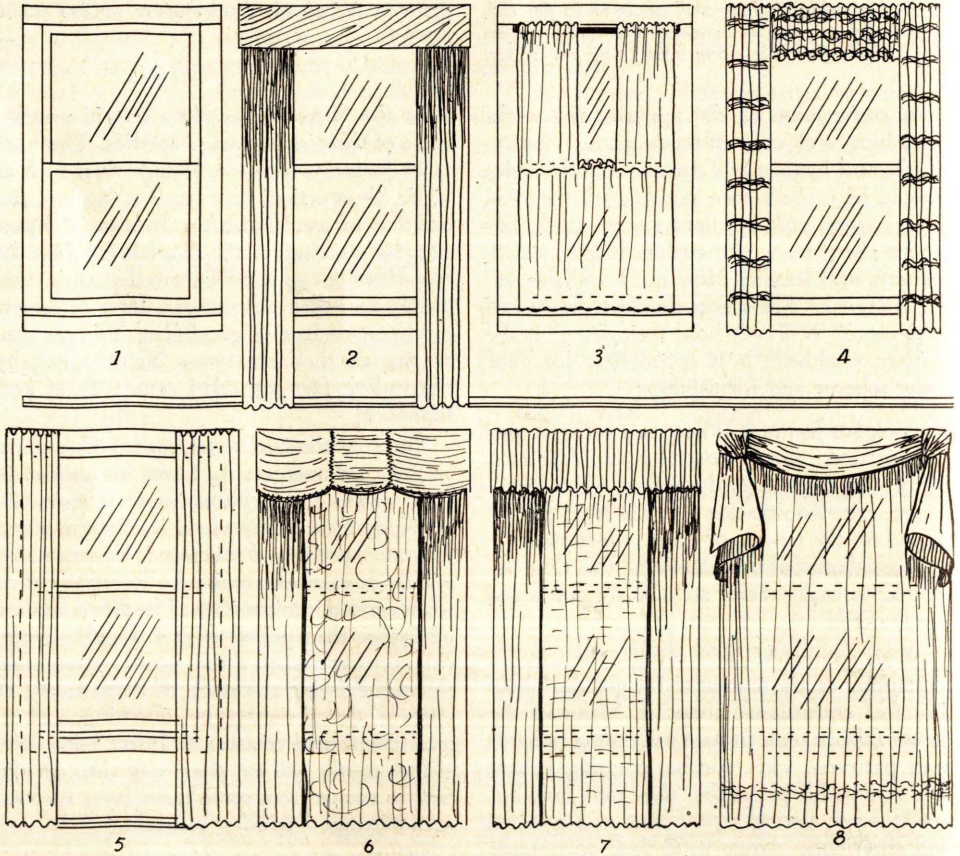
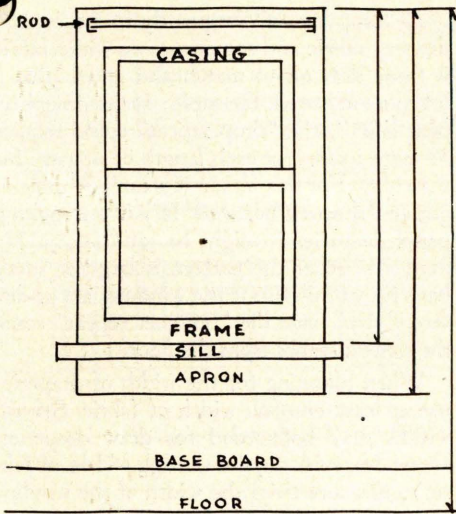


Figure 1, a long narrow window may be made wider in the following ways: 2. Extend draperies on the wall beyond frame with wood cornice; 3. Cottage curtains break the height; 4. Use material with strong horizontal lines; 5. Draperies extend beyond

window, covering frame and part of wall; 6. A deep cornice gives the appearance of width; 7. A valance will help cut the height; 8. A swag will tend to add width.



Terms used for the parts of a window.

6" for each hem and 4" for shrinkage tuck this making a total of nearly 3 yards.

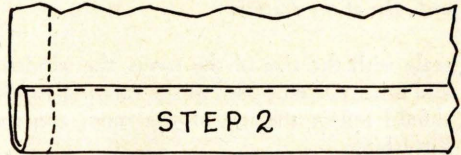
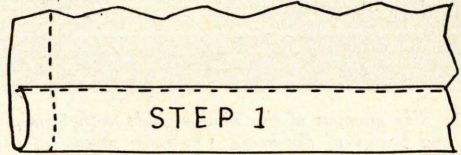
Curtains made from man-made fibers will not need the shrinkage tuck.

Glass curtains should be from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times wider than the window. When finished and shirred on the rod this amount will hang in graceful folds. A pair of curtains is always more effective, convenient and beautiful than a single curtain.

If possible a crosswise thread is drawn as a cutting guide for each length. Keeping the material straight with the grain is very important.

Remove the selvages from the curtain material. For the side hem turn one inch of material back twice onto the wrong side of the curtain and pin, baste and stitch with an appropriate length stitch. As you pin or baste be sure the crosswise thread is folded back upon itself. If you don't your curtains are not going to hang straight, especially after laundering. Repeat for the other side.

If you select curtain material with the side hems put in by the factory it will be satisfactory. However, try to get that which is double hemmed. Next on each end turn 2 to 3 inches of material back onto the wrong side. Stitch with a long basting stitch either by hand or machine. Turn the same amount again and stitch with a stitch suitable for the material. Note illustration. Usually a 3-inch double hem is the most pleasing.

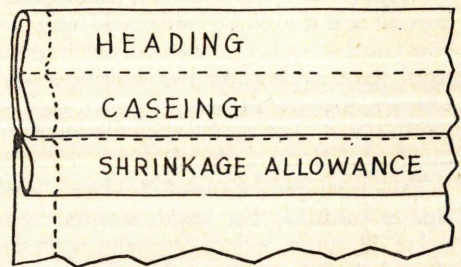


BOTTOM HEM

Two steps for hemming glass curtains.

Double hems of the same depth will enable you to reverse the curtain for more even wear.

Divide the top hem into two equal parts by basting with machine or by hand. This will form a heading and casing for the rod. Also baste in at the base of the top hem the shrinkage tuck. See the illustration.



Top of glass curtain showing heading, casing and shrinkage tuck.

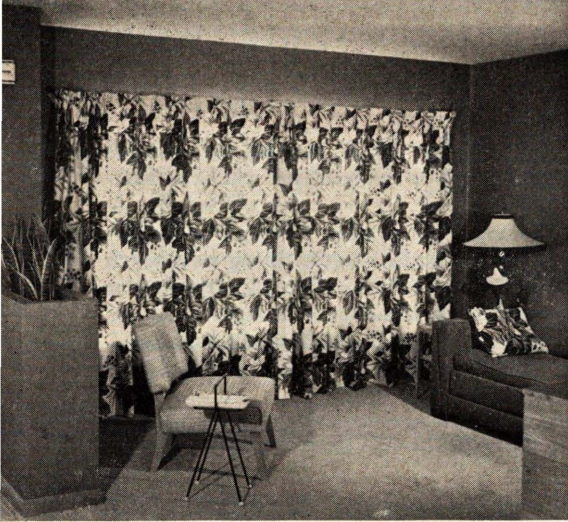
Make Your Draperies

Drapery fabrics of silk, rayon, wool, cotton, synthetics and blends of these are available.

Cotton has many characteristics which

make it popular and appropriate for many homes.

The pattern of the drapery must be in



The glamour of this window adds to the comfort and beauty of the home. The color scheme of the room and style of furnishings is set by the pattern and color of the drapery.

scale with the size of the room, the window and other patterns used in the room. Texture should reflect the use of the room and its furnishings.

Draperies are lined to protect the fabric from light, moisture, dirt, and fading; gives body to the fabric and makes the drapery hang better; and improves the appearance as seen from the outside. Sateen in white, cream, ivory, ecru, or beige color is preferred. Muslin may be used. It is usually advisable to preshrink the lining material. It will shrink more than the drapery.

Draperies need not be lined if hung against the wall or if the color or pattern does not appear faded when light shines through it. Also recall the outside effect you wish to create. Usually draperies of heavy material and of solid color do not need lining. Draperies of casement cloth are not lined.

Take measurements carefully. Use a steel tape or yardstick. For length measure from rod to sill, apron, or floor depending upon the effect desired. It is better if the rod is in place. Your measurement will be more accurate. Allow for matching designs. Measure the distance from the top of one design to the top of the next. This is called the "bouquet repeat."

Usually you have to allow one "bouquet repeat" extra for each length of fabric for matching.

A "drop repeat" frequently found on 36" drapery fabric and sometimes on wider fabric is more difficult to match and takes quite a lot more material. Example: If the design repeat is 23", the "drop repeat" could require 33 extra inches for each length of drapery for matching. For this reason it is not advisable to get 36" drapery material. If you are making panel draperies it might be satisfactory. No matter whether the pattern is large or small have it match. Also if the windows are of different sizes have the "bouquet repeat" come the same distance from the floor.

When planning for the width of draperies use at least one full width of fabric. Several widths may be needed for draw draperies. Draw draperies require enough widths of fabric to measure twice the width of the window or space to be covered plus 10 inches.

In washable draperies, or draperies that are not preshrunk, plan to double the bottom hem to allow for shrinkage. This is usually not necessary if you preshrink the fabric before starting your work. Preshrinking may be done by covering the drapery fabric with lukewarm water. Allow to stand until soaked. Hang on line without wringing. Press.

Pull a crosswise thread and cut on this line. Drapery materials do not tear well without puckering and stretching. Drapery material should be cut and hemmed with the grain of the fabric so they will hang straight. Check to be sure the design is printed on the straight of the fabric.

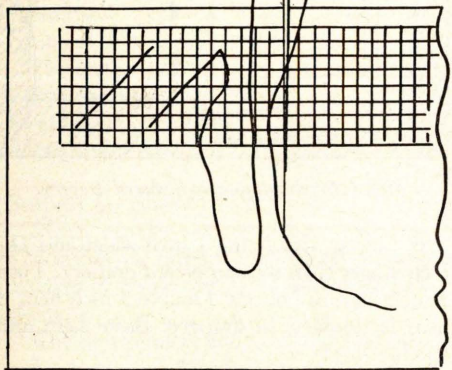
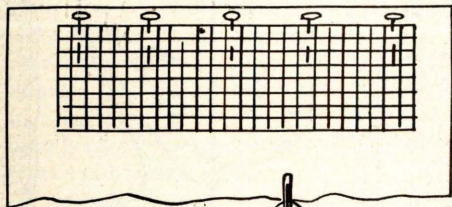
Fabrics are woven straight, but often in the pressing process they are pulled out of shape as they are wound on the bolt. To straighten the lengths of fabric that have been cut, dampen material with a wet cloth, grasp the edges of the fabric at opposite corners and pull toward the part that needs straightening. If the pulling does not straighten the fabric, bring the two ends together and pin them. Pin the lengthwise edges together at intervals. Dampen with a cloth and press toward the part that needs straightening.

Selvages are woven more firmly than the fabric itself. If the selvages are not removed or clipped before hemming a puckered or rippled effect may result at side hems.

Recheck all measurements before cutting your fabric.

Hand stitch draperies if you want them to look better and hang more gracefully. If a machine is used, adjust length of stitch and

Steps in Making Draperies with Lining



Step 1

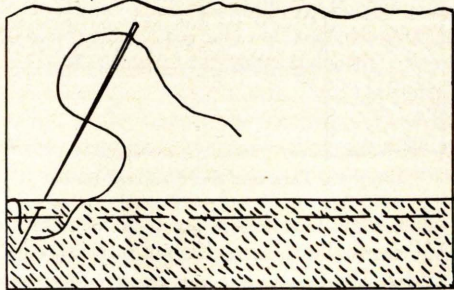
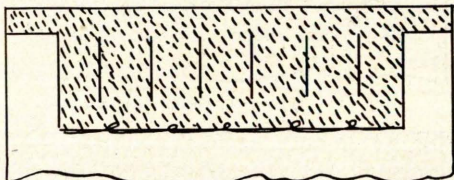
Placing the stiffening at the top of the drapery.

1. Buckram, permanent finish crinoline, or parts of old washable window shades can be used for stiffening for the heading. Use stiffening 3 to 4 inches wide. Pin and diagonal baste stiffening to wrong side, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from top and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches from each side. See illustration. Machine stitch across top of buckram and material to hold buckram securely in place.

2. Turn top hem the width of the stiffening and baste in place. Do not turn under raw edge. Cut along edge of stiffening to within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of top then to outside edge. See illustration.

3. For bottom hem turn down raw edge $\frac{1}{2}$

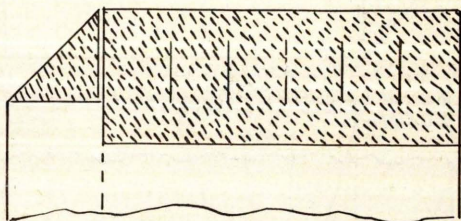
tension to fabric. Stitch side seams in same direction. Machine stitching can be used on the lighter weight material such as dress goods.



Step 2. Top—Turn stiffening to wrong side and clip corners.

Step 3. Bottom—Bottom hem and one method of stitching.

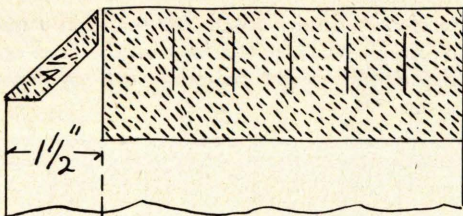
inch, pin, baste. Machine stitch if desired. Turn 3 inch hem across bottom, pin, and baste, or make a 3 inch double hem for shrinkage allowance. With matching thread stitch upper and lower hem to panel as shown. Use long, loose, stitches. Avoid stitches showing on right side. Catch stitch can also be used.



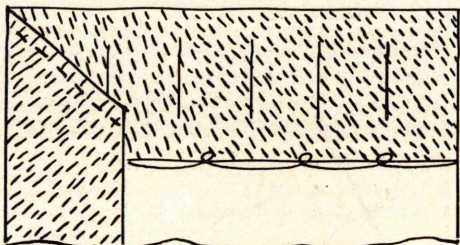
Step 4a. After top corner is clipped, as in the previous step, turn material down to miter corner.

4. Miter upper corners as shown in Step 4. When the side seam is turned the corner will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches over crinoline.

5. Miter lower corners as shown in Step 5. Turn corner as shown $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in from

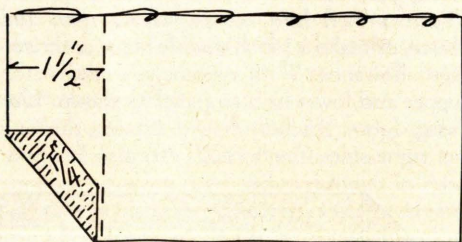


Step 4b. Clipping the corner removes bulk.

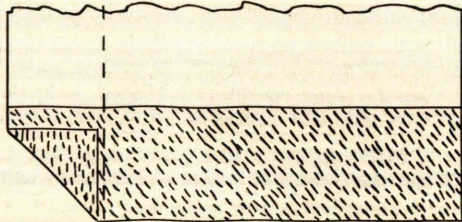


Step 4c. Turn and finish mitered corner.

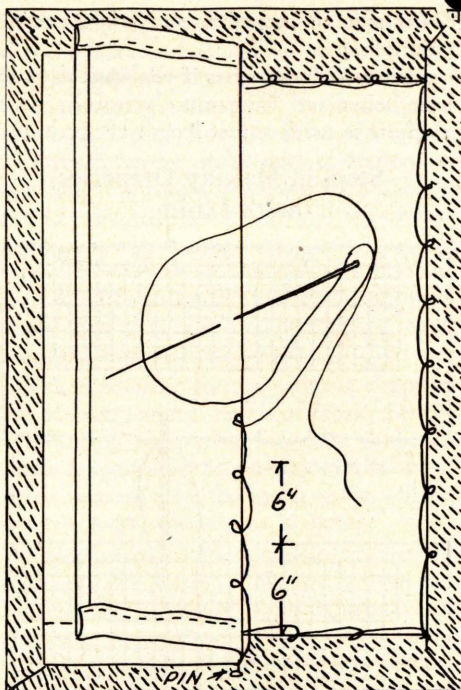
outer edge. Cut corner on diagonal allowing $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Turn, baste. Do not turn raw edges under. Omit cutting if fabric is not thoroughly preshrunk or if a double hem is used. Miter corner by turning material under. Sew in the same way as for top and bottom hem. Slip stitch mitered corners.



Step 5a. First step for mitering lower corner. If material has not been preshrunk, finish corner without clipping.



Step 5b. If material has been preshrunk, you may clip corner and finish.



Step 7. Placing lining on hemmed drapery.

6. Lining. Cut lining 1 inch wider and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch longer than the completed drapery. Turn 3 inch hem in bottom. Double 3 inch hem if hem is doubled in drapery. Baste hem and stitch.

7. Place wrong side of lining to wrong side of drapery. Place one to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from bottom of hem. On one side fold under lining so $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of drapery shows. Use a slip stitch. Fold the lining lengthwise on itself through the center. Along this center crease make a lengthwise line of extra loose buttonhole stitches 4 to 6 inches apart to anchor lining to drapery. Slip stitch lining on other edge and top. One half inch of drapery will show at top and each side. Work from the bottom to the top. See illustration.

Unlined draperies are made by following the same steps except that all raw edges are turned under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. On sheer fabrics or casement cloth double hems for sides, top and bottom would be more pleasing.

Headings

The use of pleats is the most effective way of finishing draperies and controlling fullness which is to hang in even graceful folds.

Pleats should be made in uneven numbers—three, five, or seven—depending on how many pleats will be required to take up the extra fullness. Pleats vary in width according to the amount of fullness allowed for the drapery. The space between the pleats is not necessarily the same as the pleat itself. Pleats usually take from 4 to 5 inches, with a space of from 4 to 6 inches between.

Determine how much space on the rod the curtain will cover. Add the distance from the wall to rod. (This allows for the first pleat to be made at the turn of the rod.)

Example:

Space to be covered on rod (by one panel)	17 inches
Distance from wall to rod	3 inches
Finished drapery should measure ..	20 inches
After hemming—drapery measures	45 inches
	—20 inches
Surplus for pleats	25 inches

Pleats usually take 5 inches. The surplus (25 inches) is divided by 5 inches to give the number of pleats. In the example it will be 5 pleats.

The first pleat is placed at the curve of the rod—measuring 3 inches from outside edge.

The second pleat is placed on opposite side—2 inches from edge (center). The third pleat is placed in the exact center between pleat 1 and 2. The fourth and fifth pleat is the exact center between one and three and three and two.

Fold and machine stitch pleat the width of the stiffening in the heading. See illustration below.

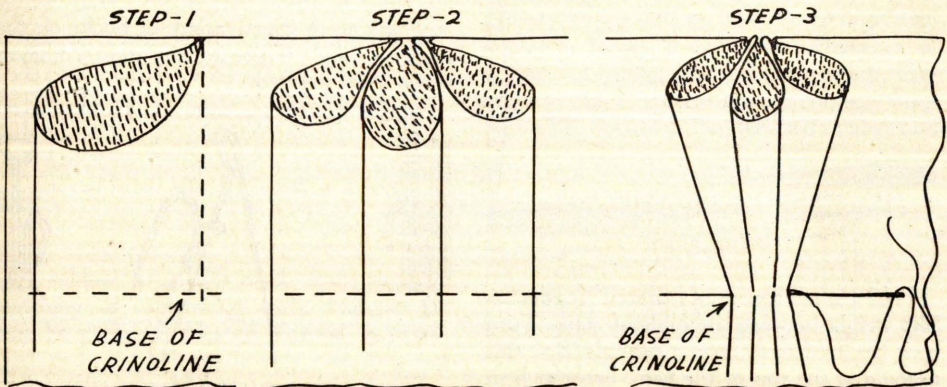
French or pinch pleats are used most often for draperies, casement, and draw curtains.

Locate the center of the single pleat. Divide this into 3 small equal pleats. Tack each small pleat to the top of the drapery. Catch all pleats together at bottom just off the edge of the crinoline with firm, small, hand stitches. Use heavy duty thread of matching color.

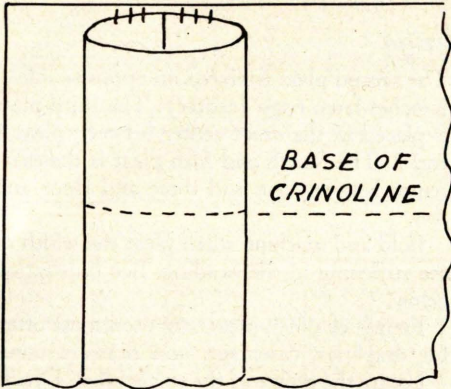
Box pleats are made by spreading the pleat an equal distance on each side of the stitching and pressed flat. Tack to hold in place. Note illustration page 12.

Cartridge pleats are made by filling the pleat with a roll of cotton or paper to give it a full round shape. See illustration page 12.

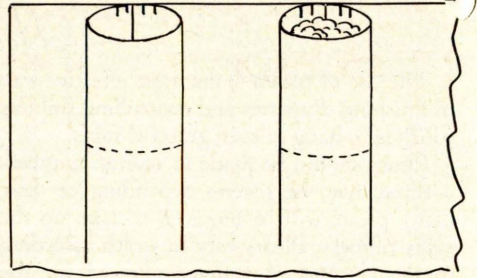
Draperies having weights along the lower edge hang well. The different types are: 1. Covered weights placed at the corners inside the hem and stitched in place; 2. The pin on weight which can be removed for cleaning and laundering; 3. Yardage weights that may



Steps for making pinch pleats to give graceful folds to draperies.



Box Pleat

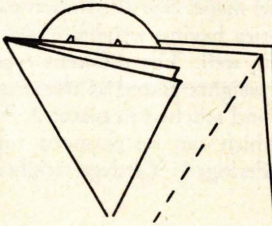


Cartridge pleats

be used for light weight draperies. Note illustration below.

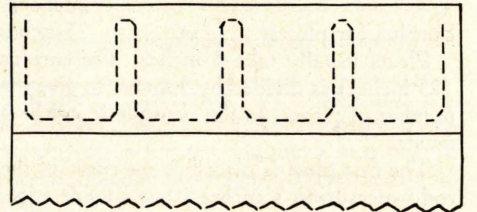
Follow the above steps for making the most professional looking draperies. Because of variations in size of window, pattern and effects desired you may need to vary these directions somewhat. *One set of rules can never fit every situation.*

Many aids for making the heading on draperies are on the market today. The disadvantages to most of these is that they have to be machine stitched to the drapery and this line of stitching shows on the right side which is not desirable. Another difficulty is that the pleats are poorly formed and do not come in the right places. However, the cloth stitched type may be used satisfactorily when the heading is covered with a cornice or valance or for panels. Note illustration.



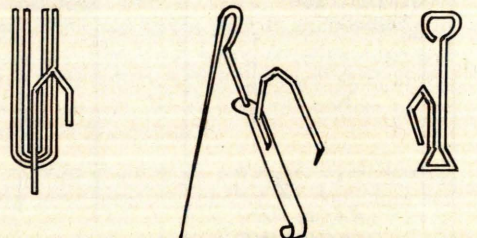
Covered weight

Fold a small square of material lengthwise. Slip weight between the folds of cloth. Turn back the corners to form a triangle. Sew this triangle at the top of the hem, between hem and drapery.

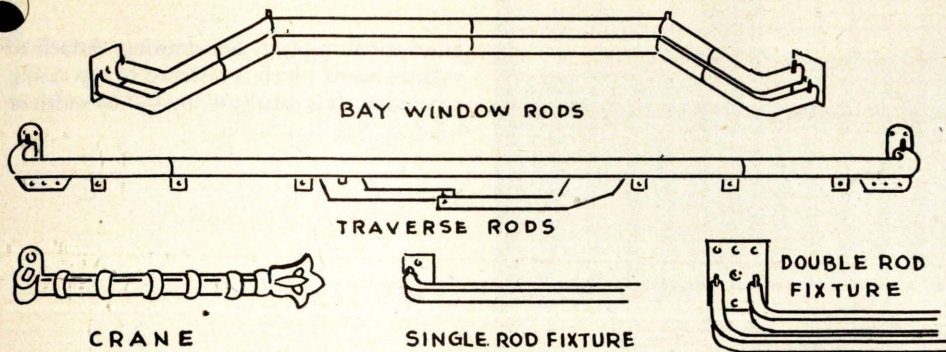


Cloth stitched type of stiffening for heading on draperies.

There are a great variety of hooks on the market today. Three of the most common types are illustrated.



The most common type hooks used to hold drapery on rod.

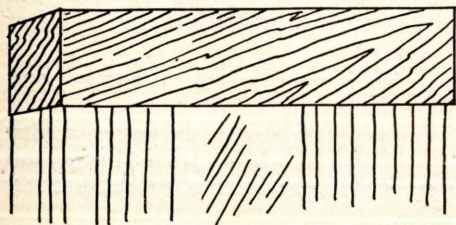


Examples of rods used for curtains and draperies.

Cornice and Valance

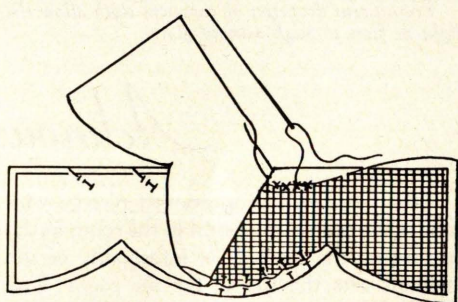
Cornice and valances are used to cover hardware and frame work of the window, to connect a group of two or more windows, to add height, or width or both to a window, or to add color or pattern to the window. They may be used by themselves, with glass curtains, draperies, or both.

A cornice is usually made of wood. It may be painted to match the wall or woodwork or be covered with material. Make a paper pattern the type you want and try on the window to be sure the proportion is good before cutting it from wood. A closed top in the cornice board protects the draperies from soil. See illustration below.



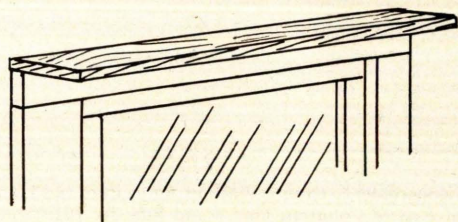
Cornice of wood. May be painted or covered with cloth.

A valance is usually made from material matching or contrasting with draperies. It may be gathered, pleated, draped or fitted. Gathered valance is made with a heading and casing and mounted on a separate rod.

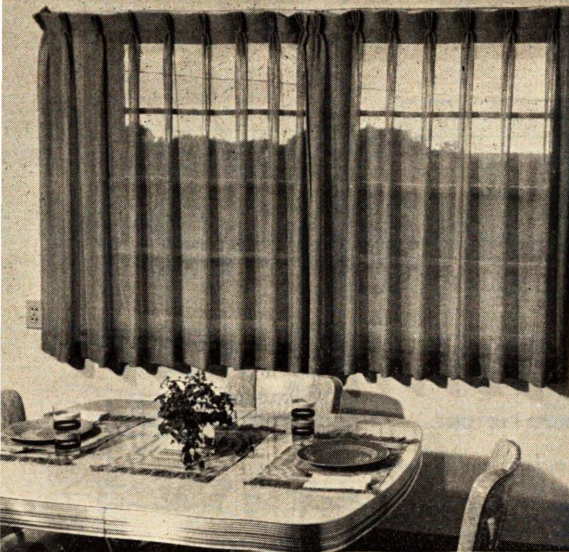


Cornice added to top of window. Valance may be attached.

For a fitted valance, make a paper pattern, then cut a buckram foundation the exact size. Cut cotton flannel inner lining exact size of pattern. Place inner lining next to material. Cut material 1 inch larger than pattern. Place drapery wrong side up, inner lining next, then buckram. Draw 1 inch seam allowance of drapery to wrong side and catch stitch. Clip edges at curves and for mitered corners. Turn lining $\frac{1}{2}$ " narrower than finished valance and



Fitted valance



Translucent draperies of casement cloth allow the light to filter through without glare.

blind stitch in place. See drawing. Attach to valance board which is fastened to top casing of window. It is usually 4" by 1/2" by width of window. See illustration.

Acknowledgments

This large well proportioned picture window is the center of interest in the room in the picture on the cover. The informality of the curtains sets the theme for the room. The white of the curtains enables one to change the color scheme of the room whenever desired.

At present the colors in this room are brown walls, copper rug, medium pink sofa, brown and pink for the large chair, with touches of chartruese in accessories such as the horse. These three colors are used throughout the room. This is a lovely room and the windows add beauty and charm as well as light to it.

Acknowledgments

"Make Your Own Draperies"—Myrtle Carter, Oregon State College

"Draperies, Glass Curtains and Window Hardware"—Evelyn Funk, Oklahoma State College

"Well Dressed Windows"—Montana State College

"Curtains and Draperies"—Jessie Marion, Michigan State College

"How to Make Draperies"—Ruth Comstock, Cornell University

"Selecting and Making Curtains and Draperies"—Helen Matheis, University of Minnesota

"Guide to Easier Living"—Mary and Russell Wright

Pictures were taken at the homes of Mrs. Elmer Cummings, Mrs. Clarence Nelson and Mrs. W. M. LeFevre, all of Brookings, S. D.

