



# How to make... Draperies

**T**here are many variations in making draperies. These directions are planned to save you time and work and insure satisfaction. Draperies may be made entirely by hand, or partly by machine. They may be lined or unlined.

## MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED

1. A good tape measure
2. A yardstick or steel tape
3. A short ruler or gauge
4. Plenty of good pins
5. Sharp shears
6. Pencil and paper for listing measurements
7. Needles
8. Thimble
9. Heavy duty thread to match draperies  
Thread to match lining
10. Sewing machine
11. Drapery material
12. Crinoline for drapery headings
13. Lining, if used. If drapery material is washable, it is best to use pre-shrunk sateen lining material
14. A large table for cutting and basting. An excellent aid is a large piece of composition board or plywood which can be placed on top of the table. Pins may be stuck into this board to save time in basting materials in place. You may have to spread a sheet on the floor and work there.

S  
544.3  
.N9  
A8  
no.249

## NDSU LIBRARIES

Irene Crouch  
Home Management Specialist

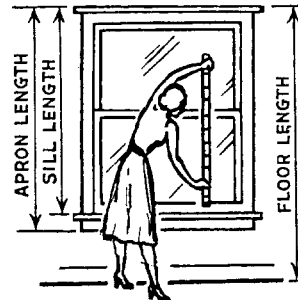
EXTENSION SERVICE  
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

## AMOUNTS TO BUY

Be as generous with yardage as your purse allows. Skimpy hangings are not attractive, and in draw draperies they are not good buys. Use a yardstick or steel tape in measuring the window.

1. Place your drapery fixtures first and figure the length from the top of the fixture to the floor or to the bottom of the window apron or sill.
2. For width: Allow 100 per cent fullness if possible. This means a full width of drapery at each side of normal size windows. For draw draperies, measure the length of rod including curves, if rod is a curved one, plus amount of fullness wanted in pleats. The average pleat allowance is 3 to 6 inches, but this must vary with the weight and width of your fabric.

### Length Measurement



Measure all lengths from the top of the drapery fixture.

3. Repeats in pattern: Allow for matching figures or pattern in drapery material.
4. Allow for hems and headings: For a 4-inch heading allow 8-1/2 inches, for a 3-inch heading allow 6-1/2 inches. For bottom hem allow 3-1/2 to 8-1/2 inches, or more. Each side hem on unlined draperies may be the same width, about 1-1/2 inches, if you want the draperies to be interchangeable. Otherwise, the wall hem may be 1 to 1-1/2 inches, front hem 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches.

## CUTTING

Curtains, if they are to be beautiful, must hang straight with lengthwise and crosswise threads of the material. Straighten one end first. To do this, clip through the selvage, catch one crosswise thread and pull it gently out of the fabric. Then cut along this line for a straight end.

Next, the fabric may need straightening. Pull, gently but effectively stretching it diagonally from corner to corner, then alternating. You will need help with this process. Grasp the material so that you will neither wrinkle nor injure it. Press before seaming. Spread your material on a large table top. The first panel you cut can be a guide for all the others. Match the patterns as you cut, if it is a printed fabric.

If the fabric is resin treated or glazed, very likely you will not be able to cut it on grain and if you did it probably would not hang straight. Instead, square up the cloth using a T-square, carpenter's square or perhaps two adjacent sides of a table. After cutting the first panel use it as a guide for the others.

### **ADJUST MACHINE STITCH**

Use a long machine stitch, about 8 to 10 stitches per inch and a tension that will not draw. This is extremely important if you want draperies to hang right. Check your stitch on a piece of folded material. Use a medium to heavy sewing machine needle, depending on weight of material. For heavier fabric you may need to ease the pressure on the presser foot.

### **JOIN LENGTHS OF MATERIAL FOR EACH PANEL**

Pin and stitch the required lengths of material together for each complete panel. You can save "handling" time if you set aside the required number of lengths for each drapery panel as you cut them. Clip through the selvages every 6 inches, so the seams do not draw or pucker. Press seams open.

### **FOR UNLINED DRAPERIES**

Trim off selvages before making side hems, or clip selvages at intervals of 4 to 5 inches. Draperies are usually hemmed in this order: Hem sides, making hem about 1-1/2 inches wide. Then put in the bottom hem, making it at least 3 inches deep. Make a single or double hem, depending on extra yardage allowed for shrinkage. Miter the corners and sew either by hand or machine. Hand sewn draperies hang better. Since the bottom hem is wider than the side hem, this will not be a true miter but corners will simply be turned to the wrong side and slipped stitched in place.

In making bottom hem, turn and press down 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch to the wrong side. Stitch this first fold by machine but not directly on the edge of the fold. Then, using a ruler or a cardboard gauge, pin hem to proper width. Pin at opposite ends first, then along center. Baste and stitch by hand.

Heading may be a 3-inch hem with a casing, or allow enough material to turn down a 3-inch double hem. This usually will give enough stiffness for pinch pleats. Crinoline stiffening, or self pleating material, may be used for pinch pleats. (See heading and pinch pleats under lined draperies.

### **FOR LINED DRAPERIES**

Lining protects drapery from sun and gives better shape to folds formed by pleats. The following directions will give a 3-inch bottom hem. Cut fabric the desired length, including hem allowance. Join lengths for each drapery panel. Cut lining 4 inches narrower and 8 inches shorter than the panel.

To hem the panel, turn bottom edge 1/4 to 1/2 inch to the wrong side. Stitch by machine 1/8 inch or less from edge, but not right on edge of fold. Press. Fold to the wrong side a 3-inch hem. Pin, baste and press. Hem by hand, making slip stitches 1/2 to 3/4 inches apart.

Use heavy duty thread. Remove bastings and press again. Lay  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch hem in bottom of lining. Hem by machine. Press.

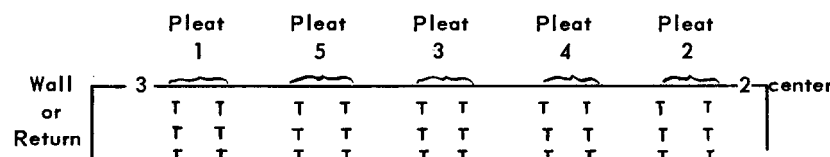
Mark centers of panel and lining both top and bottom with pins. Place panel face up on table. Lay lining face down on panel 5 inches below top edge of fabric. The stitchings in hems of panel and lining should match. Pin lining and panel together carefully along the sides. Stitch together, making  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seams from top to bottom on each side. Clip seams at 6-inch intervals. Open and press. Turn right side out. Pin centers together top and bottom. Smooth toward side seams. Pin and press side seams.

### FOR DRAPERY HEADING

Cut crinoline long enough to reach from side to side of finished drapery panel. Place crinoline  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch overlapping on top edge of drapery. Stitch in place. Then turn crinoline strip over completely on the lining. Pin or baste hem. Stitch hem to lining by hand. Catch through only lining material as you sew.

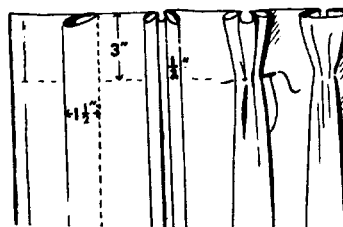
### FOR PINCH PLEATS

Heading can be finished with pinch pleats or with box pleats. If your panel is 36-inch fabric (measuring about 32 inches after hemming or lining) 4 pleats are ample. Five pleats for 48-inch fabric. This allows 3 inches for each pleat and a  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inch space between each pleat.



If curtains are to be hung interchangeably, the amount allowed for center edge should be the same as the return - (usually 3 inches)

Start your first pleat about 3 inches from the edge. Taking care to space them evenly, baste the vertical tucks and stitch down by machine 3 inches below the top which makes a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch tuck or pleat. Then divide each  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch pleat into 3 pleats and catch together just below the crinoline with heavy duty thread. Pleats are then flattened out somewhat.



Drapery hooks should then be pinned or sewed to back of each pleat, 2 to 3 inches down from the top. One hook also should be used at inside edge and one at outside edge of drapery. Fold draperies lengthwise according to pleats and tie together for a few days to block press. Do not press in the folds with a hot iron.