

1962

EC62-1160 Preparing to Make Draperies

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Preparing to Make DRAPERIES



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PREPARING TO MAKE DRAPERIES

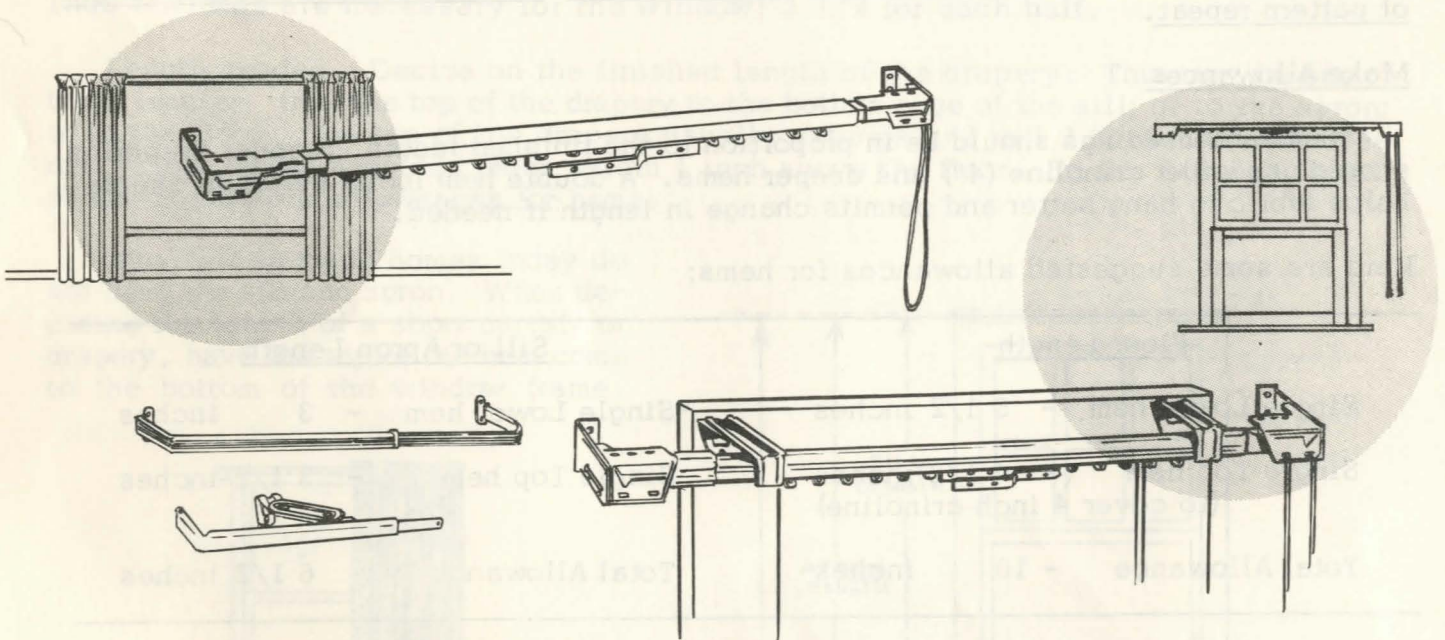
By Magdalene Pfister
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Decide on the Type of Window Treatment

The attractive appearance of your draperies depends largely on how well you have thought out details. Consider the furnishings and spaces of the room. Should the treatment be formal or informal? Look in magazines, in stores, and in homes for ideas. Remember, windows serve such purposes as to let in light, permit ventilation or to give a view. See E.C. 60-1148 "Selection of Window Treatment."

Use Good Hardware

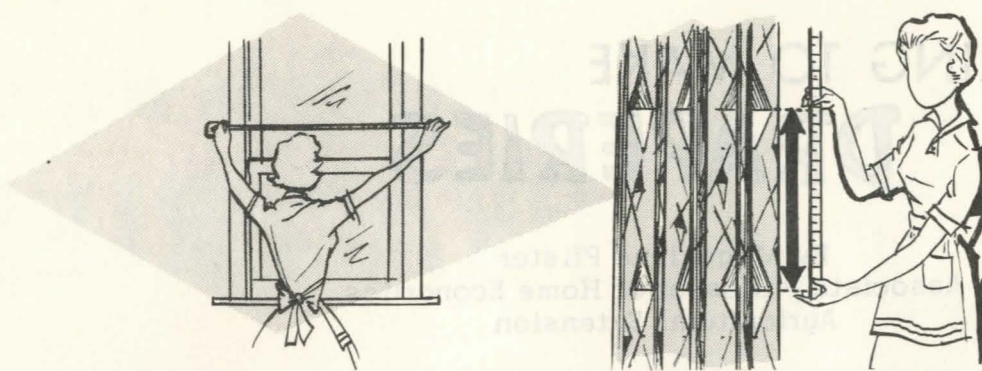
Install the kind of rods needed before you measure for yardage to assure correct length and width. Place the rods to keep hardware and headings from showing from the outside. Extenders may be used to change the apparent height or width of a window.



Select Appropriate Fabric

Choose material that is in harmony with the other furnishings in the room. Consider the budget, also. It is more effective to use an abundance of less expensive fabric than a skimpy amount of costly material. As you shop notice the cleaning care the fabric requires.

Draperies of plain material require less yardage than those with a design that must be matched. The distance of the design repeat determines the additional amount needed. This will be discussed in measuring.



Notice if the pattern is printed on the grain. If it is off more than an inch it will be wise to select another design so that the draperies will hang and clean satisfactorily.

A lining protects draperies from the sun and helps make them look and hang better. Draperies with a pattern look better when the light does not blur the design, and are more attractive from the outside. On the other hand, light coming through unlined textured or semi-sheer materials creates a pleasing effect. It is possible to use a separate lining by using double rods. Pre-shrunk sateen makes a good lining. See E.C. 60-1149 "Fabrics for Curtains and Draperies."

Take Measurements Carefully

Use a steel tape or yardstick for accurate measurement. You will need to write down these facts: width of area to be draped; desired length; width of fabric selected; length of pattern repeat.

Make Allowances

Hems and headings should be in proportion to the finished length. Longer draperies should use wider crinoline (4") and deeper hems. A double hem looks better in sheers, helps fabric to hang better and permits change in length if needed.

Here are some suggested allowances for hems:

<u>Floor Length</u>	<u>Sill or Apron Length</u>
Single Lower hem - 5 1/2 inches	*Single Lower hem - 3 inches
Single Top hem - 4 1/2 inches (to cover 4 inch crinoline)	Single Top hem - 3 1/2 inches
Total Allowance - 10 inches	Total Allowance - 6 1/2 inches
Double Lower hem - 10 1/2 inches	*Double Lower hem - 6 1/2 inches
Double Top hem - 8 1/2 inches	Double Top hem - 6 1/2 inches
Total Allowance - 19 inches	Total Allowance - 13 inches

*Use a width that does not show above sash.

Allowance on the width should be made for side hems, for the overlap in the center to shut out the light for draw draperies, and for the depth of return (the bend of the rod to wall). On draw draperies 10 to 12 inches is enough allowance for these.

Figure Amount of Fabric Needed

To find width needed, measure the area you wish to drape, whether it is the window or the wall. Often it is better to extend the draperies beyond the sides of the window to prevent light streaks at the sides when draperies are drawn back.

Add the allowance needed. Sheers should be three times the width for adequate fullness; draw draperies at least two times for best appearance.

Example of figuring width:	Width to be draped	- 144 inches
	Allowance	- 12 inches
	Total	- 156 inches

Multiply x 2 for 100% fullness
(x3 for sheers)

Total width needed - 312 inches

Divide total width by
width of fabric - 48 inches ÷ 312

Number of widths - 6 1/2
(carry to whole number - 7 widths)

Thus 7 widths are necessary for the window; 3 1/2 for each half.

Length needed. Decide on the finished length of the drapery. This may be one of three lengths: from the top of the drapery to the bottom edge of the sill; or to the apron; or to the floor. The top of the drapery usually extends 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches above the rod. Floor length hangings reach within 1 inch above the floor. To the finished length of the drapery add allowances for hems.

Windows in many homes today do not have the sill and apron. When deciding the length of a short curtain or drapery, have the top of the hem come to the bottom of the window frame.

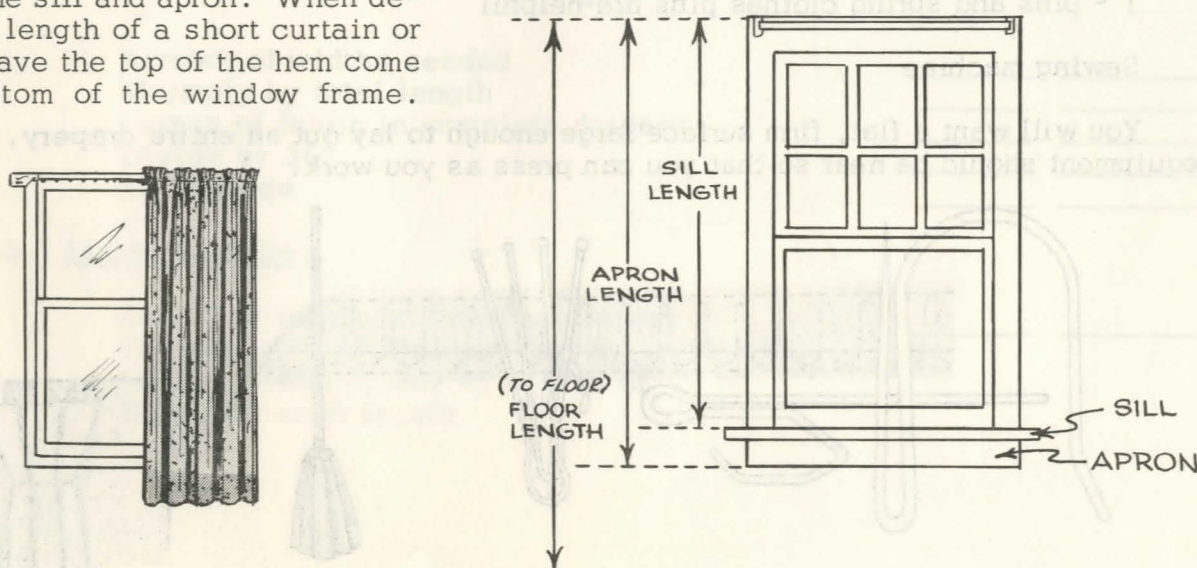


Figure Total Yardage

The total yardage will be the length needed, including hem allowances, times the number of widths.

It is well to buy a little more than enough fabric, because if you are short even a little it means buying a complete length. Then it may be that the fabric is not available, or the color may not be the same if it is cut from a different bolt.

To estimate yardage for figured material measure the length of the repeat. This distance is often printed on the selvage. To get the number of repeats necessary, divide the length of the drapery (including hems) by the length of the repeat. You need to decide where the design should appear at the window.

Be sure it is right side up. If it is impossible to have a complete design at both top and bottom, it is better to break the design at the top of the drapery. The design should come at the same level in every drapery in the room.

The width of lining fabric can be 3 inches less than the width of the drapery. Since the finished length of the lining should be 2 inches shorter than the drapery, this can be deducted.

Assemble Equipment and Supplies

In addition to the fabric you will need the following:

Thread - matching in heavy duty mercerized cotton, finer for sheers, contrasting basting thread.

Crinoline - permanent finish

Weights - choose the kind appropriate for fabric

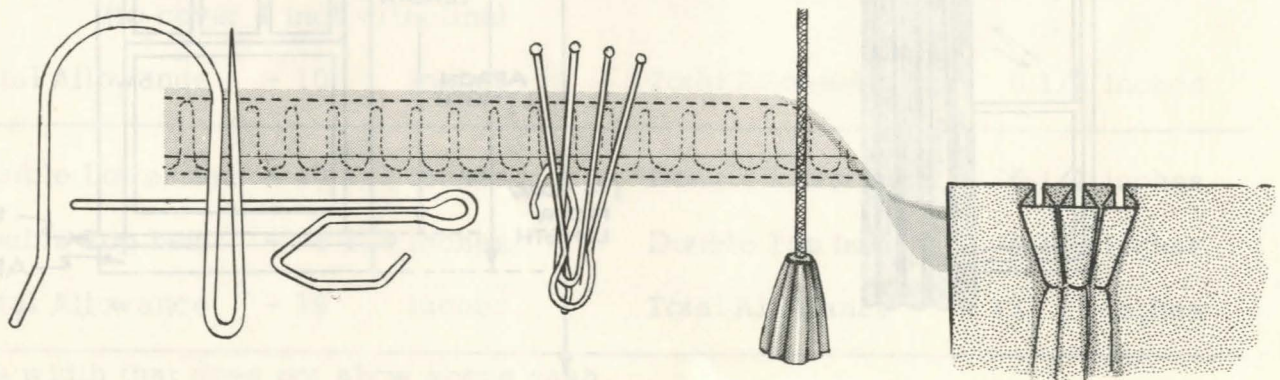
Hooks - suitable style, to fit top hem width

Sewing equipment - to include good dressmaking pins, needles, tape measure yardstick, gauge, tailors' chalk.

T - pins and spring clothes pins are helpful

Sewing machine

You will want a flat, firm surface large enough to lay out an entire drapery. Pressing equipment should be near so that you can press as you work.



DO YOUR FIGURING HERE

For Yardage

1. General Information

Width of area to be draped
Desired length
Width of fabric selected
Length of pattern repeat

Example For Your
Inches Draperies

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Width

Area to be draped
Allowances for return & overlap
Total
Multiply for fullness (x2 or x3)
Fabric width
Divide by fabric width
Number of widths (carry to whole number)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Length

Rod to desired length
Heading allowance
Hem allowance
Total length in inches

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

If figured fabric, divide by length of repeat for number of repeats

_____	_____
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Total length in inches

_____	_____
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4. Total Yardage = $\frac{\text{LENGTH REQUIRED} \times \text{No. of widths}}{36''}$

Number of widths needed
Multiply by total length
Inches of fabric in complete drapery
Divide by 36"
Total yards

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Lining Yardage

Add 3" to length of finished drapery
For example: If finished drapery is to be 42 inches, buy 45 inches of lining for each length

_____	_____
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