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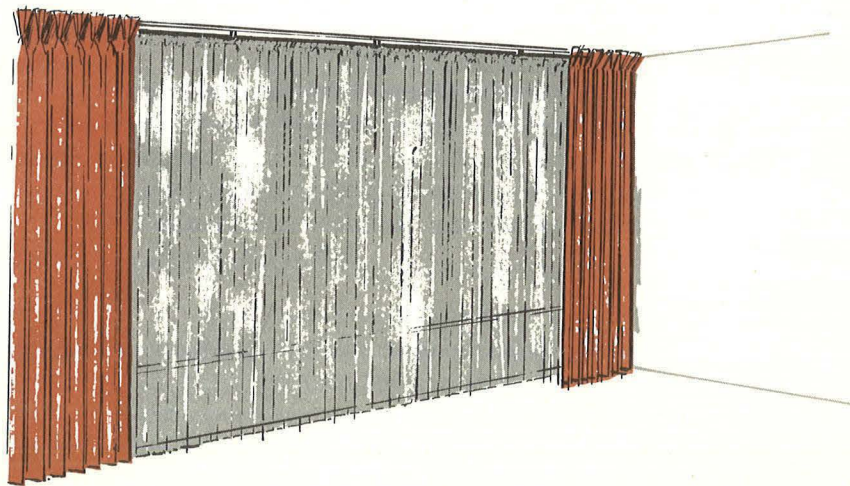
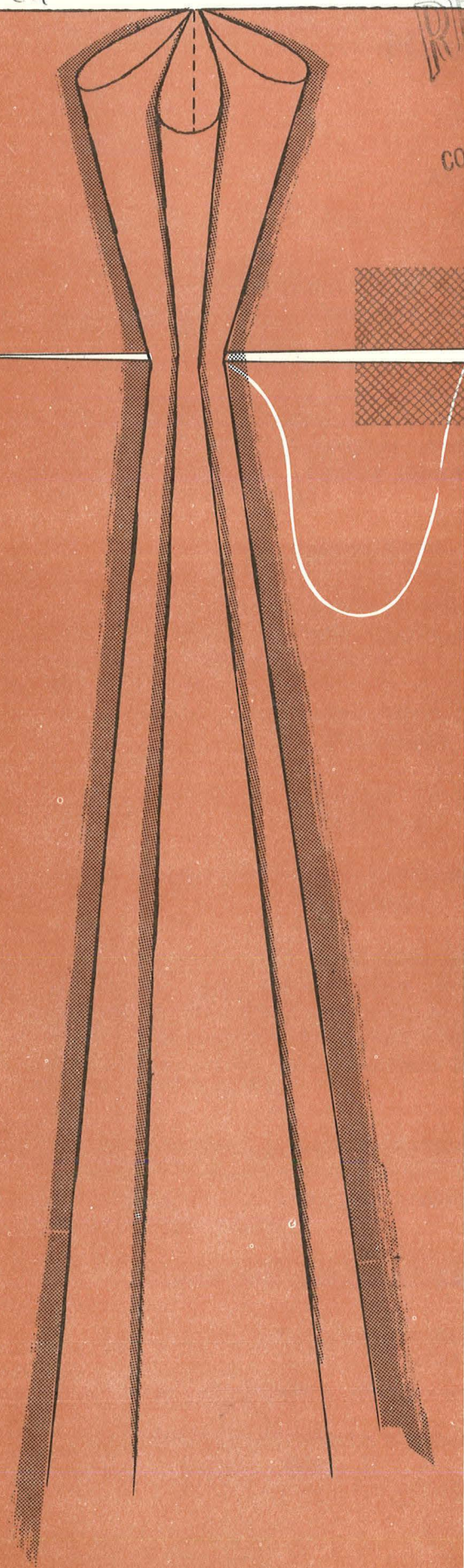
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How to Make draperies



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How to Make Draperies

By
Magdalene Pfister

Assoc. Prof., Clothing, Textiles
and Design

You can make draperies with a tailored, professional look. There are several good ways to make them. They may be machine stitched or stitched by hand and may be lined or unlined. For best appearance lined draperies made by hand may be your choice. Careful planning, measuring, and construction are important. Follow these steps and you will be rewarded.

PLAN CAREFULLY

The following circulars will help you decide on style, fabric, tools and equipment, and yardage needed:

E.C. 60-1148 - Selection of Window Treatment

E.C. 60-1149 - Fabrics for Curtains & Draperies

E.C. 62-1160 - Getting Ready to Make Draperies

Where you work is as important as how you work. A padded surface large enough to lay out an entire drapery is ideal. A table or board may be padded with blankets and covered with sheeting that is stitched and tacked tightly.

With a square and yardstick mark off accurate measurements for the drapery on the sheeting. All work and pressing can be done on this board.

STRAIGHTEN AND CUT FABRIC

1. Check and recheck measurements for drapery length and allowances for headings, hems and seams. (See E.C. 62-1160)

2. Straighten fabric by pulling from corner to corner. (Fig. 1)

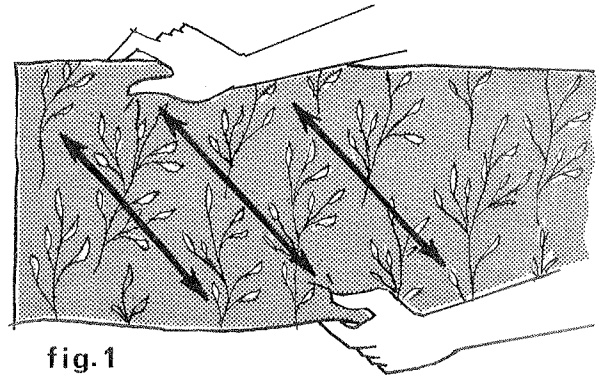
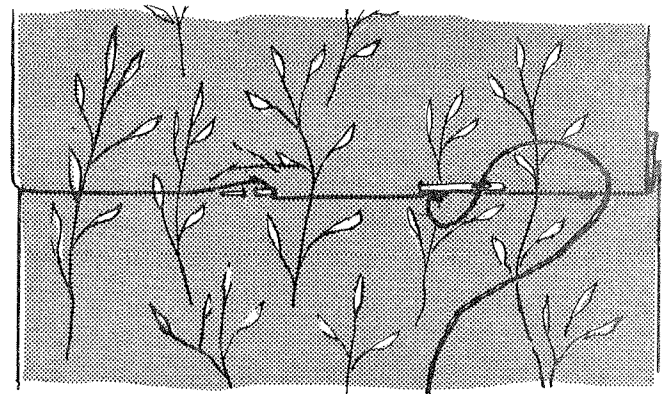


fig.1

3. Cut fabric desired length, allowing for all seams and matching of design. Drapery materials do not tear well so pull a thread on plain fabrics. Cut figured material according to pattern. Figure pattern repeat for entire yardage before cutting panel lengths.

4. Sew fabric widths together if necessary. When sewing two or more widths of printed fabric together, pattern can be matched better if you baste from right side of the fabric. Lay one length right side up. Press down seam edge of second length. Then lay this with folded edge down on the first and pin. Slip stitch with long stitches. (Fig. 2) Machine stitch seam on wrong side.

fig.2



5. Press after cutting. If fabric has a center fold press it out with the grain of material to avoid stretching. Usually it is better to press crosswise, but a test may show that up and down is better. Crosswise creases will hang out when drapery is hung.

MAKE HEADING AND HEMS

1. Cut permanent, finished crinoline the length of finished width of drapery, plus 6" to reinforce ends.

2. Place drapery right side down upon working surface.

3. Pin crinoline strip even with the top edge of fabric, matching center of crinoline with center of fabric. Fold back 3 inches on each end to reinforce returns and overlap. Side hems will be left free. (Fig. 3)

4. Baste crinoline in place with a long diagonal stitch 2 inches apart. (Fig. 4)

5. Turn top hem down the width of the crinoline and baste in place. (Fig. 5) It is not necessary to turn under raw edges for lined draperies.

6. Remove excess material on wrong side at top corners of drapery. Start at edge of fabric $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch from top. Cut toward center until you reach crinoline, then down along crinoline to the bottom of fabric. (Fig. 6)

7. Miter upper corners. (Fig. 7) Turn material down the width of the side seam to form right angles (crosswise of corner). Cut off corner $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from diagonal fold (see dotted line).

8. Turn side seam in the desired width, usually $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Catch stitch. Raw edge of side seam will be covered by lining. (Fig. 8)

9. Turn up desired width for bottom hem.

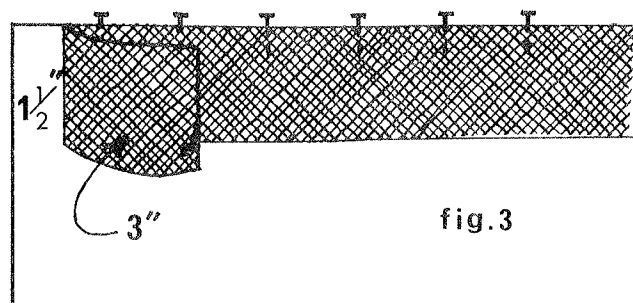


fig.3

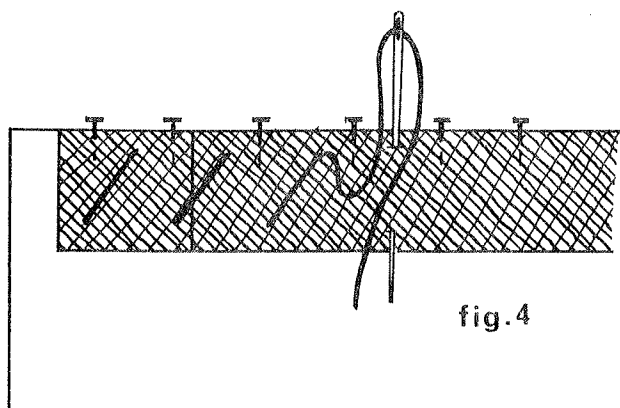


fig.4

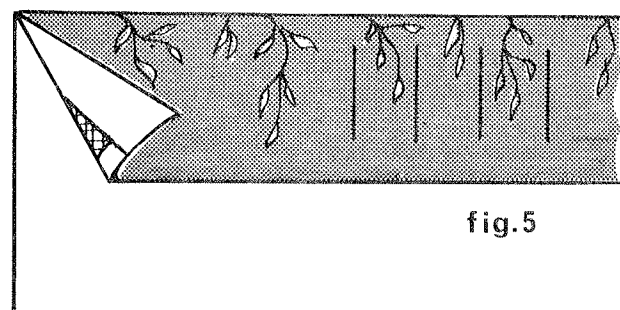


fig.5

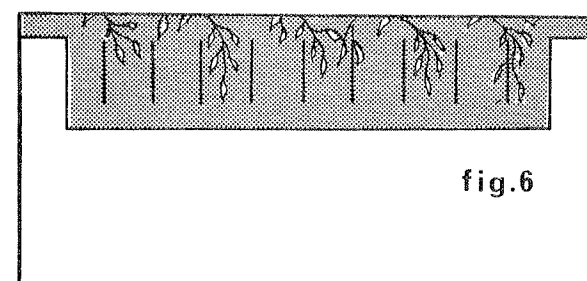


fig.6

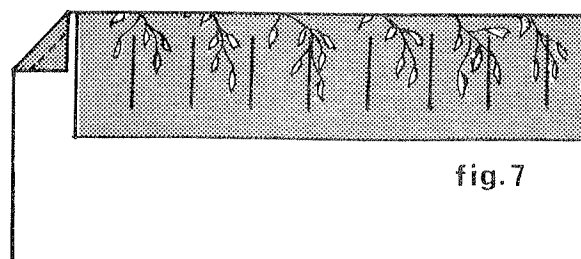


fig.7

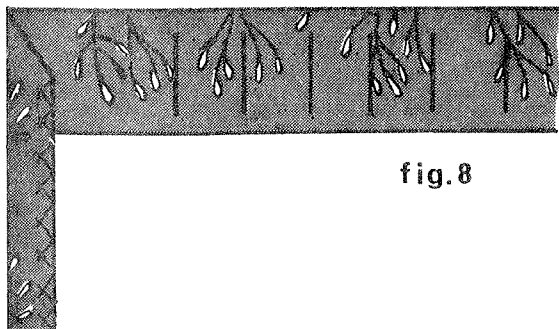


fig. 8

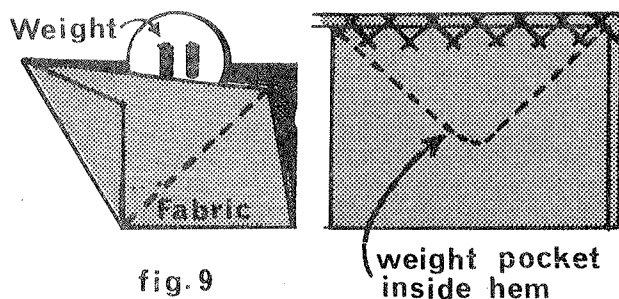


fig. 9

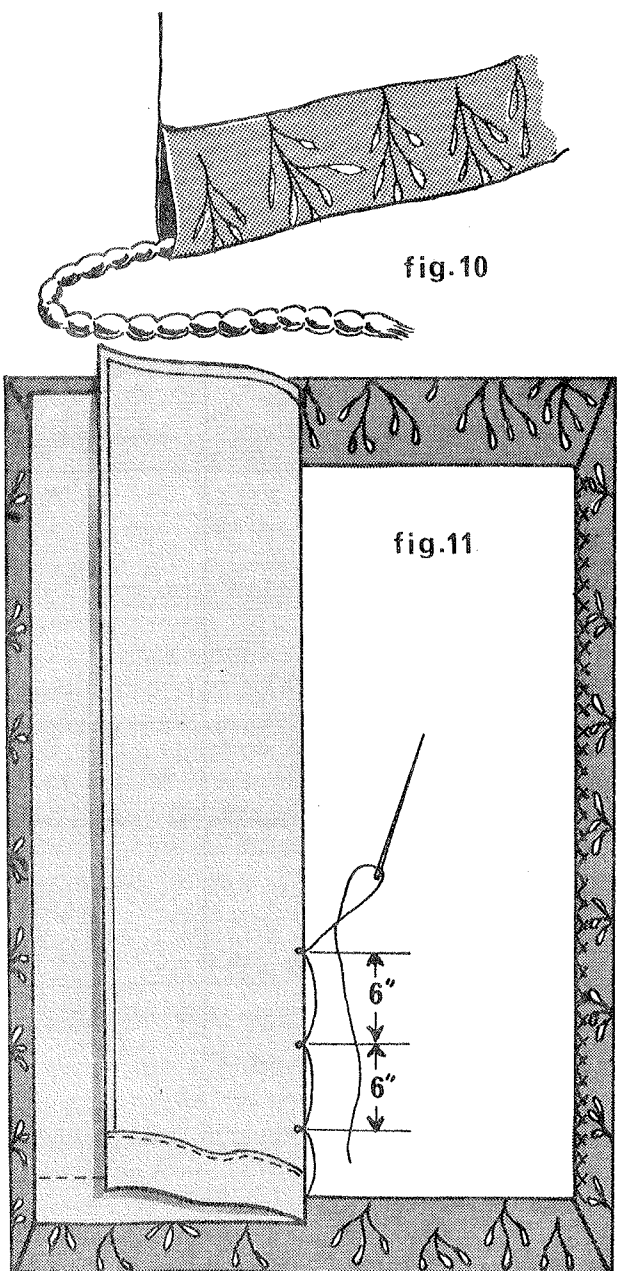


fig. 11

10. Attach lead weights covered with lining fabric, one near outer edge under hem. To cover, use square of fabric three times the diameter of the weight. Fold fabric square in half then bring corners to center. Slip weight into pocket and sew under hem. (Fig. 9) For wide draperies more weights may be needed. Weighted tape may be used in hem of light weight fabric and tacked at the base of hem. (Fig. 10)

11. Miter bottom corners, follow directions for top corners. However, unless material is very heavy, do not cut material away or you will find it difficult to change length of draperies.

LINE DRAPERY

1. Cut lining one inch narrower and 1 1/2 inches longer than exact size of hemmed drapery.

2. Turn up a 2 1/2-inch hem at lower edge of lining. Machine stitch. Note: This hem is not fastened to hem of drapery.

3. Mark lengthwise center line of both drapery and lining.

4. Place lining on top of drapery with wrong sides together. Make sure that drapery hem extends two inches below lining and that lengthwise center lines match.

5. Fold lining back on itself, lengthwise, exactly on center line. (Fig. 11)

6. Tack center line of lining to center line of drapery with knot stitches or loose buttonhole stitches 6 inches apart, keeping thread loose. Use three or more rows of such tacking for wide drapery.

7. Turn in raw edges of lining 1/2 inch at each side so that drapery extends 1 inch beyond fold of lining.

8. Pin, baste, and slip stitch along side. Work from bottom to top.

9. Turn top of lining under 1/2" and slip stitch to top of drapery.

FIGURE PLEATS & SPACES

One panel of finished drapery after it is pleated must measure one half the length of the rod, plus overlap in the center, plus distance from rod to wall.

I. USE ROD MEASUREMENTS	Example	Your drapery measurements
1. Measure length of rod	66	
2. Divide by 2 to get center.	33	
3. Add for center overlap (this will vary from 2 to 4") . . .	4	
4. Add distance from wall to rod (this will vary from 2 to 4")	4	
5. Add for ease 1" for small window, 2" for large window. ("Ease" allows drapery to give so it isn't stretched too tightly when drawn)	1	
6. Total amount to be covered by one panel	42"	
II. USE DRAPERY MEASUREMENT		
7. Finished width of drapery for one side of window--(at least 2 X space)	86	
8. Subtract amount for rod (#6) from finished width of drapery	42	
9. Amount left for pleating	44"	
III. FIGURE PLEATS		
10. Divide amount available for pleats by the number of pleats desired. Each pleat will take from 4 to 6 inches, depending on the width of the fabric. Estimate three pleats for 36-inch material and 5 pleats for 48-inch material		
11. Desired number of pleats	11	
12. Divide amount for pleating (#9) by number of pleats $44 \div 11 =$	4"	
IV. FIGURE SPACES		
Space between pleats should be no wider than pleats themselves, otherwise loops will be large when drawn back and may sag rather than hang in pleasing folds.		
13. Measure distance to the first pleat, from the wall to end of rod. (If the return and overlap are made the same, panels may be exchanged to prolong wear.) Wall-to-rod allowance	4"	
14. Add for center overlap to cover master slide.	4	
15. Total.	8	
16. Subtract this total from length of rod to be covered by one drapery panel	42	
17. Space between pleats Number of spaces will be one less than number of pleats.	34	
18. Divide to find distance between each pleat $32 \div 10 =$	3 4/10	
V. CHECK YOUR MEASUREMENTS		
19. Distance from wall to first pleat.	4	
20. Amount taken up in pleats (No. of pleats X width) . . .	$11 \times 4 = 44$	
21. Amount for spaces between pleats	$10 \times 3 \frac{4}{10} = 34$	
22. Amount for center overlap.	4	
23. Total width of hemmed, up-pleated drapery	86"	

MAKE PLEATS

1. Check pleats and spaces on rod. Use strip of paper the length of finished panel and later it can serve as a gauge. (Fig. 12)

2. Mark amounts for pleats and spaces on panel by placing pins vertically at upper edge. If a seam comes at top of a pleat move pleat a little to right or left to keep seam inconspicuous.

3. Machine stitch each pleat (tuck) from top to base of crinoline.

4. For a French pleat divide each tuck into three smaller ones. This can be done by pinching edge of fold with thumb and forefinger and pushing back firmly to stitched line. (Fig. 13) Tack each dent with matching thread.

5. Box pleats are made by pressing tucks flat and tacking them to back. Cart-ridge pleats are made by stuffing the tuck with cotton.

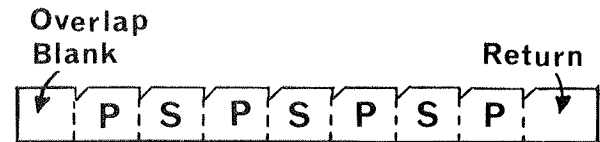


fig.12

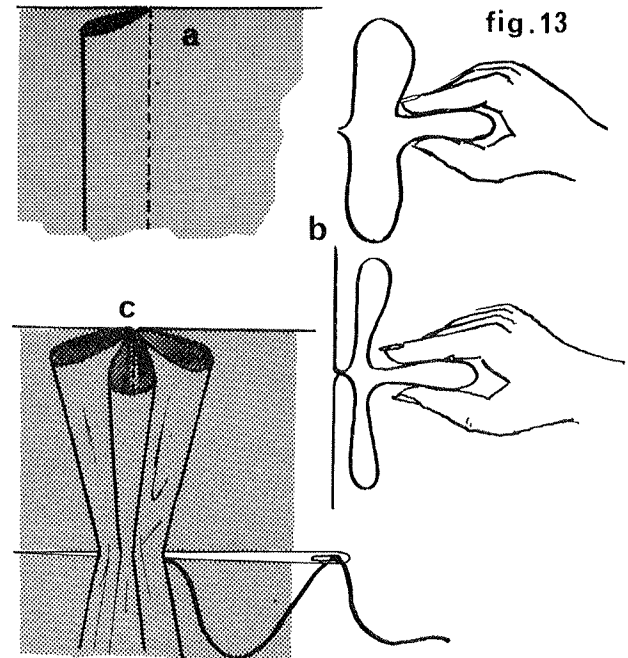


fig.13

FINISH & HANG

1. Sew drapery hooks back of each pleat and one at each end. Those with a long shank will help to hold heading erect.

2. Fasten hooks to rod, adjusting them to make drapery hang evenly.

3. Run fingers down about a foot, starting at top of each pleat. Tie this portion loosely and continue tying. Leave tied two to three days so drapery will hang in attractive, even folds. (Fig. 14)

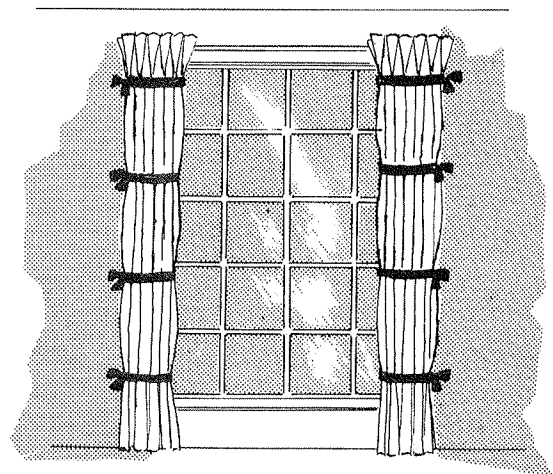


fig.14

UNLINED DRAPERIES

An unlined drapery is made like the lined one except that raw edges on side and top are turned under. Follow all other steps.