

# MANUAL IV

*Window Fashion  
Products & Styles - Part 2*



Window Fashions Certified Professionals Program  
*Briefcase Course*



WINDOW FASHION  
**VISION**

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**Cover photo: Barbara Elliott; Decorating Den Interiors, Stone Mountain, GA. Envision Design**  
Competition winner: 1st place, Combination Treatments

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# **WINDOW FASHIONS**

## **Certified Professionals Program™**

### **Briefcase Course**

#### ***Congratulations!***

By deciding to take this course, you have taken the first step toward distinguishing yourself as a *Window Fashions* Certified Professional™. Custom window fashions and sales offer an opportunity to develop or expand a successful design business.

Because we realize that not everyone has easy access or the time to attend our Regional and National conferences, we have developed this self-direct learning experience. It offers short, high impact courses targeted at the busy practicing professional who is trying to stay ahead of the learning curve and cope with today's time constraints and workplace demands.

The *Window Fashions Certified Professionals™ Briefcase Course* features five manuals, each consisting of three to five lessons that cover a wide range of topics to aid your understanding of the specialized niche of window coverings in the interior design industry. Manuals may be purchased as a complete set or individually. Lessons cover elements of the windows themselves, basic window fashion design, fabrics and textiles, measuring and installation, specific options in products and styles, and information to help you develop a profitable business. Each lesson will feature learning objectives, application exercises/practice questions and a glossary of terms relevant to a specific aspect of custom window fashions. Additional reading will be recommended. As the student works through the manuals and submits the exercises, they are graded and a final exam is sent to be completed and mailed back for review and critique. If satisfactory, the student receives the next manual. After completing all five manuals, and upon completion of a final exam, the student is qualified for Specialist level certification of the *Window Fashions* Certified Professionals™ program.

Because lessons may build upon previous information covered, manuals must be completed in order and your exams must be approved by the WFCP board to confirm your understanding of the principles and concepts of custom window fashions and allow you to achieve full WFCP specialist credit.



## **WFCP**

### **Mission**

### **Statement**

**To provide  
window fashion  
designers,  
retailers,  
workrooms,  
and installers  
with a superior  
advantage  
through  
continuing  
education,  
industry  
knowledge,  
and access to  
resources that  
will distinguish  
these WFCP™  
professionals  
as the best  
in their field.**

In this manual, we will cover specific types of window fashions, including such alternative treatments as horizontal and vertical blinds, cellular and pleated shades, roller shades and shutters. We'll also present information on bedding and coordinating accessories, as well as discuss such upholstered pieces as cornices and headboards. After you have a basic understanding of your product options, you will be able to select appropriate designs and products to recommend to your clients. Combined with your knowledge of window fashion essentials and the design process from earlier lessons, these subjects will enable you to work with greater confidence.

### **Lesson 13 Hard Window Treatments**

- Horizontal Blinds
- Vertical Blinds
- Cellular Shades
- Pleated Shades
- Roller Shades
- Shutters
- Window Shadings

### **Lesson 14 Bedding and Accessories**

- The Bed
- Measuring
- Calculating Yardage
- Soft Furnishings
- Additional Bedding
- Coronas, Testers, Canopies
- Accessories

### **Lesson 15 Upholstery: Cornices, Headboards, etc.**

- Considering Cornices
- Types of Cornices
- Design Options
- Measurements
- Calculating Yardage
- Headboards



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# **MANUAL IV Window Fashions Products and Styles, Part II**

## **Introduction**

Although most often clients will come to seek your services as a window fashions specialist for your expertise in designing, specifying and fabricating soft window dressings, you can increase your profit margins and open your business to a greater variety of customers by offering *hard*, or *alternative*, treatments.

For example, instead of just specifying a top treatment or café curtains for a bright kitchen window, you could suggest the installation of white-lacquered wood shutters along with a soft valance. Your invoice for this project has just grown considerably. Or perhaps you have clients who would like lined draperies on every window to increase energy efficiency, to control light and to provide privacy, but the clients' budget limits them to only having custom draperies in the living room and master bedroom. You can still offer them coverings for the rest of their windows that will meet their criteria by suggesting economical mini-blinds in the kitchen, family room, bathrooms and children's rooms, perhaps with fabric treatments at several windows to soften the lines.

Any way you look at it, the flexibility you can offer with your product lines and your knowledge in the area of specifying hard treatments can contribute significantly to your bottom line.

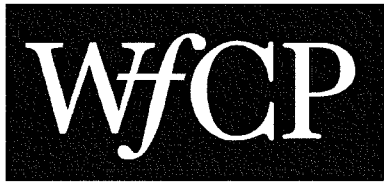
In this lesson, we will discuss the most common alternative window treatments: horizontal and vertical blinds, cellular and pleated shades, roller shades and shutters. Several manufacturers also offer proprietary products; for example, Silhouette® and Luminette® or Vignette™ window shadings from Hunter Douglas. For such additional product options, contact these manufacturers or their representatives directly.

# **CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

## **Hard Window Treatments**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Discover the variety of alternative window fashions
- Learn each hard treatment's design features and applications
- Understand special considerations for each type of alternative window fashion

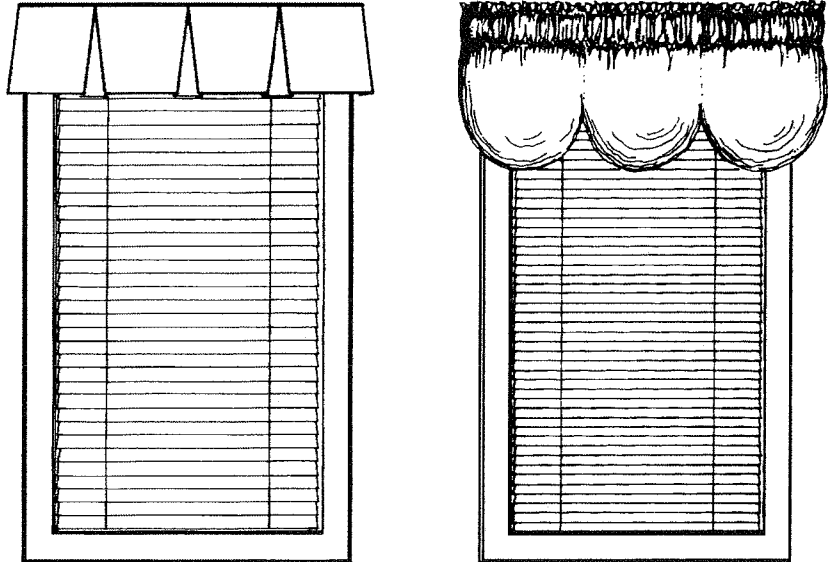


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**HARD WINDOW  
TREATMENTS**  
**Horizontal Blinds**

### Horizontal Blinds

Today's horizontal blinds are a contemporary version of Venetian blinds dating back to the 1600s. This versatile window treatment shows no sign of losing its popularity as new colors, applications and technological advances continue to appeal to a wide audience. Horizontal blinds provide you the option of offering light control and privacy under nearly any fabric window fashion.



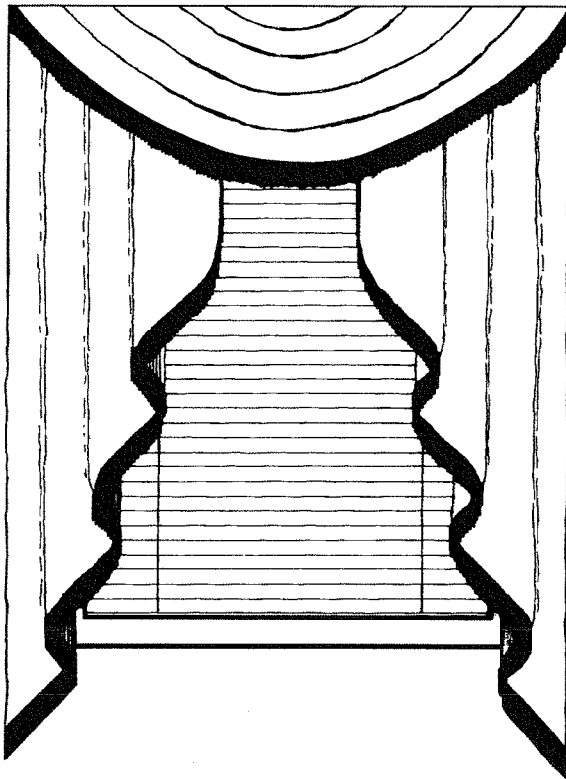
### Design Features

*Horizontal blinds* remain a popular choice for both residential and commercial applications due to their convenience, fashion, selection and economy.

Horizontal blinds consist of horizontal slats suspended by means of *ladders* between a *headrail* and *bottom rail*. These slats can be tilted through the use of a wand-tilt mechanism to open or close to precisely control light, or the slats may be entirely raised to the top of the window opening to allow a clear view through the window.

### Light Control

Horizontal blinds offer almost total light control. A tilt control wand makes it easy to rotate slats from a completely overlapped, closed position to an open position that gives an unobstructed view of the outside. Cords raise and lower the blind and lock at any position. Blinds are also offered with tiny perforations in the slats that allow a view outside even when closed. Increases in technology involving decreasing the amount of light exposed where the ladder system is threaded make horizontal blinds even better as a tool for controlling light at the window. A new feature with no rout holes gives even more light control.



## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Horizontal Blinds**

#### **Materials**

Horizontal blinds are available with either aluminum, wood, vinyl or fabric slats.

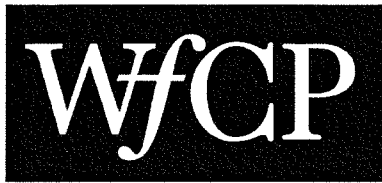
The aluminum-slat blinds are frequently referred to as micro- or mini-blinds as the slats range from the slim, subtle ½" to the classic 1". Traditional 2" aluminum slat blinds are returning to popularity. All three sizes offer a clean-line design that works well in almost any decor. Better quality blinds use .008 gauge tempered aluminum slats that spring back into position, resisting kinks and bends.

Slat spacing can also vary and is another way to determine quality. 20 mm spacing on 1" blinds is considered top of the line.

Vinyl blinds are primarily available in the 1" or 2" size and offer a cost-effective alternative to aluminum blinds.

Wood blinds come in 1", 2" and 2½" slat sizes and add the warmth of wood tones to a room. They are often considered to be furniture for windows and are more expensive than aluminum blinds. Some manufacturers are trying to differentiate their products by offering 3" slats, beveled edges, and decorative cornices and tapes. The best wood blinds are constructed of grade-A basswood and are kiln-dried to prevent warpage, splitting, and twisting. Wood blinds have a thicker slat which creates a deeper stack and requires more ladders. Faux wood blinds have gained a large portion of the market. They resist warping and mildew and are available in a variety of colors and wood grain looks. They are made from a combination of PVC and wood by-products.

Translucent fabric horizontal blinds are a unique alternative to standard blinds. A special process keeps the slats from sagging, and the fabric is treated for ease of care and maintenance. Fabric horizontal blinds may be offered with coordinating cut yardage fabrics that can be used to create matching soft treatments and accessories.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Horizontal Blinds**

#### **Design Options and Finishes**

Aluminum blinds are available in dozens of baked enamel finishes, including a wide range of colors that coordinate with current home furnishings; laminated faux finishes; and wood tones. You can combine two or more colors in one blind (alternating groups of slats in different colors) to create striking designs that pick up colors used throughout the room. Duotone blinds (white outside, color roomside) give a uniformly neutral look outside no matter what the color is inside. This can be a great sales pitch for some clients as the baby boomer population is aging and opting for the convenience of townhouse and condominium living; many associations require a uniform exterior view of windows.

Vinyl blinds are offered in nearly as many colors as aluminum blinds. Two popular vinyl special finishes are pearlized and high-gloss looks which give added depth to the blinds.

Wood blinds are available in a wide array of finishes, from traditional oak and walnut to washed and painted woods and textured finishes that are right at home in contemporary interiors. Woven cloth tapes in coordinating or contrasting colors offer an additional specialty option.

Most blinds today are also manufactured with completely color-coordinated components—slats, head- and bottom rails, ladders and cord pulls. Matching *valances* complete the look for blinds used without fabric top treatments or overdraperies.

Several manufacturers have developed a paint additive for aluminum blinds that reduces static electricity and actually inhibits dust collecting, adding to the ease of maintenance. Special energy-saving finishes can also be requested on aluminum blind slats to prevent the slat from radiating as much heat as a painted aluminum surface.

#### **Applications**

Horizontal blinds can be installed on almost any window. Used alone, with top treatments or as privacy treatments under draperies, they complement every interior design style and are a popular alternative to sheers. They are also suitable for a wide variety of specialty window applications.

Horizontal blinds can be manufactured for almost any size or shape window. They are available from 12" to 12 feet wide and up to 10 feet high. The stacking space for an aluminum blind is minimal: a six-foot blind stacks to less than 6" when fully raised. The combination of fashion and function that is possible with horizontal blinds makes them suitable for almost any installation.



## Special Considerations

### Cut-outs

Mini-blinds can be "cut out" to fit around window obstructions such as window cranks or air conditioners that could interfere with the operation of the blind.

### Multiple Blinds on One Headrail

Two or more blinds can be manufactured to hang from a single headrail. This option is an attractive alternative for sliding glass doors or triple-width windows, especially if the blinds will be used alone. Each blind also operates on separate controls so it is easy to raise or lower one blind at a time.

### Special Shapes

Horizontal blinds are well-suited to oversized, irregular or specialty windows. They can be custom made to fit arch, slant-top, inclined, circular and triangular windows. Some specialty shapes cannot be raised or lowered due to the shape of the window (see Lesson 1); however, most can be tilted for light control.

### Control Options

Lift and tilt controls can be specified left or right or both on the same side.

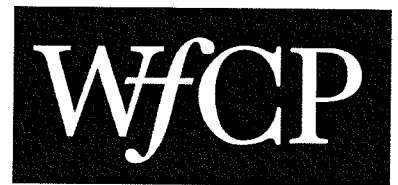
Motorized controls are also available. Motorized blinds are ideal for situations where remote control and/or power tilting action is desired. Motors (which are used *only* to tilt and not to *lift* blinds) can be used with 1" aluminum slats or wood blinds. Check with your manufacturer to determine size limitations. For some motorized systems, a larger headrail is needed to accommodate the motor. Battery-operated systems can easily handle one or two blinds. Power supply units can handle up to six blinds. Control switches can be hand-held or mounted on the wall. As clients desire more conveniences in their lives, being able to offer the option of motorized controls can further increase your array of services and subsequent profits.

### Maintenance

You can help your clients enjoy and protect their window treatment investment by giving them care and maintenance guidelines. If you are in doubt about the care of any product, consult your manufacturer.

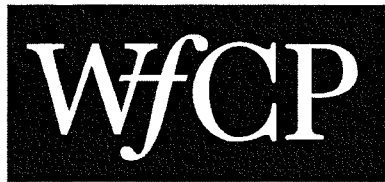
Both aluminum and vinyl blinds are easy to maintain and can be cleaned right at the window or washed in a bathtub. For regular cleaning, ordinary soft, clean dust cloths or a vacuum cleaner brush attachment will do the job. If cleaning at the window, extend the blinds to their full length and close the slats to their overlapping position before wiping or vacuuming. Turn slats the other direction to clean the opposite side.

Care should be taken in cleaning wood blinds made from real wood. Washing wood blinds is not recommended. Water or dampness can cause warping or discoloration of the slats. Dust regularly with a dust cloth or vacuum cleaner brush attachment.



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**HARD WINDOW  
TREATMENTS  
Horizontal Blinds**



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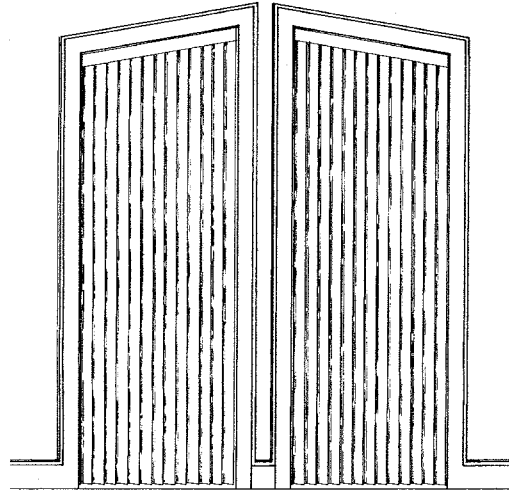
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## HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS

### Vertical Blinds

## VERTICAL BLINDS

Vertical blinds have come a long way since they were first introduced in 1948. Originally valued for their simplicity of line, vertical blinds are now widely accepted as an alternative to draperies. Once considered more of a commercial window treatment, vertical blinds are now widely used as an alternative to draperies in residential applications.



### Design Features

*Vertical blinds* are versatile, attractive, easy to maintain, energy efficient and available in a variety of finishes and wide range of prices. They are a continued favorite for both residential and commercial settings.

Vertical blinds consist of louvers or vanes (generally about 3" wide) that are suspended from a **track system**. A cord system located along the track rotates the louvers 180 degrees to control light at any angle. Or you can draw vertical blinds completely to the side, exposing the glass, or have them installed as a split draw (where the louvers move to opposite sides from the middle) just like a drapery. Vanes are held straight without twists and bows by weights that can be either permanently sealed into the hem or inserted during installation, or by rigid vinyl channels with clear edges that fabric louvers can be inserted into. Inserted weights are held in place with small connector chains that are clipped to the weights and strung along the bottom of the vanes, or are sewn in a pocket at the bottom.

Vertical blinds stack tightly when opened, taking up much less space than a drapery. The vertical line of these blinds complements most window shapes and adds height to a room.

### Energy Efficiency

Vertical blinds are highly energy efficient, especially when vinyl groovers are used. When closed, the vanes overlap tightly, rejecting solar radiation in the summer and creating a thermal barrier in the winter. Vertical blinds also create an insulating air space next to the window, reducing the heat transferred to the interior.

### Materials

Louver materials available include aluminum, vinyl/PVC, fabric, and solid-backed vinyl with clear channels, also called *groovers*, for inserting the fabric or even wallcovering of your choice.

## Design Options and Finishes

More decorator fabrics, textures and finishes are available with vertical blinds than any other hard window product. Options range from moderately priced aluminum and vinyl vanes to top-of-the-line fabrics. Coordination is possible between vertical blind and pleated shade fabrics, or vinyl and aluminum vertical louvers and horizontal blinds.

Aluminum vanes with baked enamel finishes provide long-lasting, soil-resistant brightness with easy maintenance and moderate prices.

Vinyl vanes, once considered most appropriate in commercial settings, now come in a variety of colors, designs and textures. Better quality vinyl verticals are made from solid PVC that will not twist or bow with age. In addition to the basic neutral-colored vanes, you can now purchase vinyls in several colors, with stripes or ridges, with a shimmering pearlized finish and with hundreds of tiny perforations that retain the view without glare. There are even sculptured louvers that create exciting shapes and patterns for distinctive, contemporary looks.

Fabric vanes are also available in a wide range of textures and colors, adding a touch of softness and warmth. Fabrics are available free hanging or can be inserted in groovers.

Fabric-insert verticals are strips of fabric inserted into solid vinyl backings with clear grooved edges. You can provide your own fabric (or wall-covering) for inserting or choose from one of hundreds of fashionable styles available from manufacturers. Fabric inserts give all the benefits of vinyl with the design possibilities of fabric. They also provide a neutral color outside and decorator color roomside.

## Applications

Vertical blinds can be installed on many windows. Used alone, with self-valances or fabric top treatments, or as privacy treatments under draperies, they complement most decorating styles beautifully. They also are suitable for a wide variety of special applications.

## Special Considerations

### Track Systems

The most important component to consider when specifying a vertical blind is the track system. The track system facilitates rotation and traversing of the vanes. Heavy usage can put a great deal of stress on the track system. Usually both standard and deluxe track systems are available. Deluxe systems are advised for installations where the height, weight or length of the finished treatment is such that a superior mechanical advantage is necessary for proper usage.

### Special Shapes

Vertical blinds are well-suited to most irregular and special-shaped windows. They can be custom made to fit arch, angle, bay, circular, A-frame, Palladian and skylight windows. Curved headrails are available for bow window installations, and combination arch and straight form windows. In some specialty situations verticals will rotate for light control but due to the shape of the window cannot traverse.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS Vertical Blinds**



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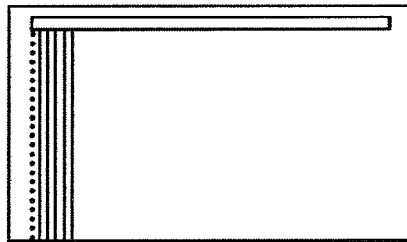
**HARD WINDOW  
TREATMENTS  
Vertical Blinds**

**Cut-outs**

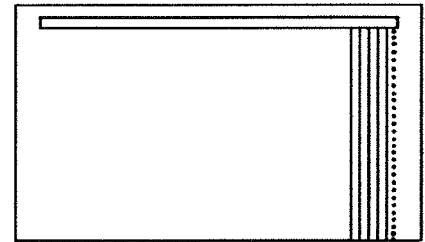
Vanes can be “cut out” or notched to fit around window obstructions such as window cranks and air conditioners that could interfere with the operation of the blind.

**Stacking Options**

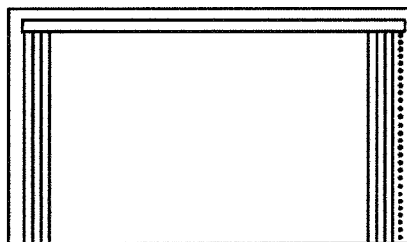
You can offer your clients four stacking options for vertical blinds: one-way left, split draw, one-way right or opposite stacks. Controls can be placed on the same or opposite side of the blind stack but must be specified when ordering. Split-draw blinds may even be ordered with an off-center split.



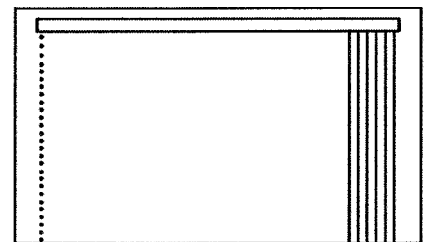
One-Way Left



One-Way Right



Split Draw



Opposite Stack

**Control Options**

Standard controls include a traversing cord (that pulls the louvers across the face of the window) and a rotating chain (that rotates the louvers to the desired angle).

Motorized controls by wall switch (for a maximum of two blinds) or infrared remote control (for a maximum of ten blinds) are available. A popular choice when installing verticals in a bay window is a unique control option where one set of controls can operate two or more individual blinds.

Low-cost, tilt-only motorized verticals are available as well as more costly tilt and traverse motors. Both wired and wireless models are available.

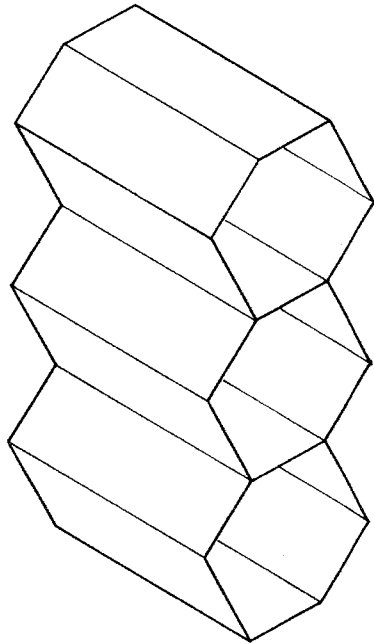
Tilt only systems can be operated by hand-held switches that are powered with batteries. The tilt control is replaced with a motor in the head-rail, while the traverse cord is left in the headrail for manual operation. Tilt only motors are popular options for slant-top verticals as well as for hard-to-reach places. Consult your manufacturer’s specifications.

**Maintenance**

Since the vanes of vertical blinds hang vertically, there is less dust accumulation. When blinds do need a cleaning, use a vacuum cleaner brush attachment for fabric vanes. Stains on fabric vanes can usually be removed with a dry fabric cleaner. To clean aluminum or vinyl vanes, use a clean, damp cloth and mild detergent; leaving a thin film of detergent on the louver will reduce buildup of static electricity.

## CELLULAR SHADES

Cellular shades, also known as *honeycomb shades*, were first introduced in 1985. Today they are available in a wide variety of pleat sizes, fabrics, colors and styles, and in multiple-celled construction.



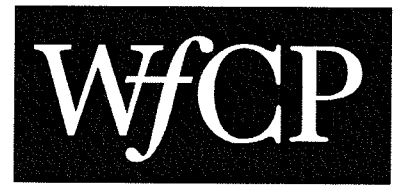
### Design Features

*Cellular shades* have gained wide acceptance in both residential and commercial markets due to their unique combination of style, durability, practicality and energy efficiency.

This permanently pleated shade is formed with single or multiple fabric “cells” which act as insulators. The continuous fabric cells are attached to top and bottom rails. Pleat sizes range from  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 2" and come in both horizontal and vertical applications, making cellular shades suitable for almost any style window, including sliding glass doors. The narrow  $\frac{3}{8}$ " pleat complements smaller windows, the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pleat works well on most average size windows, and the 2" pleat provides a suitably proportional look to large windows.

Cellular shades are aesthetically pleasing. They have no visible seams, light holes or cords, except for the draw cord at the front that operates a cord mechanism concealed in the headrail. The draw cord can also be a continuous cord loop, so no long cord dangles down as the shade is raised. This is recommended for wide or large shades. The fabric stacks compactly to give the optimal view when the shade is at its highest point. Since many cellular shades have duotone construction, the colors and patterns face inside, while a uniform neutral appearance is maintained outside.

The distinctive honeycomb pleat design of cellular shades traps air and acts as an insulator—keeping out summer heat and winter cold. Double- and triple-cell styles create additional air pockets that provide even greater energy efficiency than single-cell shades. *R-ratings* range from 3.5 for single-cell shades to 4.8 for triple cells.



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**HARD WINDOW  
TREATMENTS**  
**Cellular Shades**



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Cellular Shades**

#### **Design Options and Fabrics**

The softness of the fabric combined with crisp pleating yields a look equally at home in traditional or contemporary interiors. Fabrics are offered in a wide spectrum of colors including soft neutrals, classic favorites and rich jewel tones. Even the hardware components and cords are color-coordinated with the fabric color for a truly custom look.

A variety of privacy options are available—from nearly transparent to gentle light filtering to complete room darkening. Cellular shades, called Duolight, are also available in a combination of sheer and opaque fabrics installed on a traveling rail to give the benefit of light filtering and room darkening in one shade.

Printed fabrics give the look of marble, granite and other faux finishes. Many different textures are now offered which suggest tweeds, linens and silks. Top Down/Bottom Up options are also available. This is a shade with a third moving rail to allow the shade to travel from the top down or from the bottom of the window up. This offers the consumer more options for privacy and view. Flame-resistant fabrics are available for commercial applications.

#### **Applications**

Cellular shades work well on most window styles, from a basic casement to bays and bows and difficult-to-treat arches and angle-tops. They can be used alone, with simple top treatments or under full drapery treatments. Thanks to manufacturing innovations in recent years, specialized shades are now available to accommodate a wide range of needs. For example, adaptable mounting systems for cellular shades allow for vertical applications that are ideal for sliding glass doors, French doors and room dividers.

#### **Special Considerations**

##### **Multiple Shades on One Headrail**

Two or more cellular shades can be installed to hang from a single headrail. This option is an attractive alternative for sliding glass doors or extra wide windows, especially if the shades will be used alone. Each cellular shade can operate on separate controls so it is easy to raise or lower one shade at a time.

##### **Special Shapes**

Cellular shades are available to fit such specialty shapes as angles, arches and skylight windows. Flexible tracking systems that follow practically any curve can be installed to fit the tight radius of a bay or curved greenhouse window. Cellular shades can also be made as movable arches to fill the space of Palladian and other arch-top windows. Poles can be used to operate window fashions in high locations such as skylights.

##### **Stacking Options**

Optional stacking systems allow shades to stack at the top and/or bottom of the window.

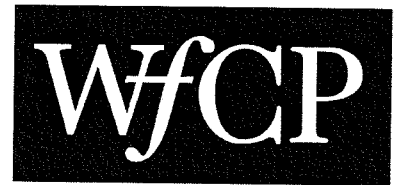
### **Control Options**

The lift cord or continuous cord loop can be specified on the right or left side of the window for convenience. Manual, motorized and remote control options make opening any shade simple. Some motors have been specifically designed to lift cellular shades. All mechanical components and even the optional wireless remote control electronics are fully concealed within the headrail. And because existing manually operated shades can now be easily converted to motorized systems, you can offer additional services to your client. (Consult your manufacturer for details.) New to the market are cordless cellular shades. All cords are hidden internally and operate with a simple push or pull at the bottom rail. This new safety feature keeps cords away from children or pets.

### **Maintenance**

Cellular shades can be cleaned by a light sweep with a feather duster or a vacuum cleaner brush attachment. Stains can be removed by spot cleaning with a damp cloth and mild detergent. Use extra care when spot cleaning; if too much pressure is applied to the fabric, it can cause small balls of lint to form. It is best to wipe the stained area in one direction, parallel to the pleats in the fabric until the stains are removed.

For thorough cleaning, cellular shades can be washed in a tub of lukewarm water and mild detergent. Check specific manufacturer instructions as some fabrics, headrails and hardware systems should not be immersed in water. Discourage your clients from cleaning cellular shades too frequently as the cells tend to lose fullness and body.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS Cellular Shades**

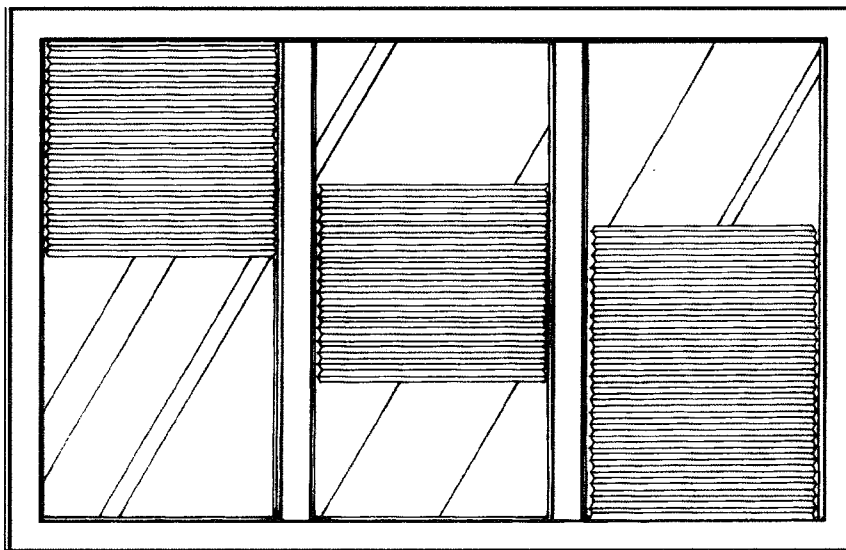


## HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS

### Pleated Shades

## PLEATED SHADES

A precursor to cellular shades, a new window fashion category was created in the 1970s by the successful bonding of energy-efficient aluminum to lightweight fabric. Since then, permanently pleated fabric shades continue to grow in popularity. Today they are available in hundreds of colors and fabrics, and their high-style look complements any window as a solitary treatment or in combination with draperies or top treatments.



### Design Features

*Pleated shades* are noted for their crisp permanent pleats attached to top and bottom rails. The lightweight polyester fabric stacks compactly when the shade is raised: a six-foot-shade stacks to under 3", making the shade an undertreatment that virtually disappears when raised.

Pleated shades can be manufactured in widths from 12" to 12 feet and up to eight-foot lengths. New, wider fabrics have eliminated seams in pleated shades up to six feet wide. Also innovations in pleating have reduced the size of cord holes. Standard horizontal pleat size is 1".

Pleated shades are also recognized for their energy efficiency. The vacuum-bonded aluminum backing on metallized pleated shades filters the sun's rays and helps prevent fading of carpets and furniture. With an average R-rating of 1.92, metallized shades reduce heat loss in winter by as much as 50 percent and heat gain in summer up to 84 percent.

Today pleated shades are available in cordless operation which allows shade to go up or down with the touch of a finger for the safety-conscious consumer.



## Design Options and Fabrics

The first pleated shades offered limited fabric choices, but today there are literally hundreds of fabrics from which to choose. Metallized shades offer high energy efficiency and are available in translucent, sheer fabrics that allow light in. Semi-private fabrics softly diffuse light by day and add privacy by night.

Popular nonmetallized fabric choices include lace and eyelet, voile, linen-like textures, silk and sateen looks, and even suede effects. Intricate, luxurious woven fabrics are available, and many looks coordinate with vertical blind fabric choices. Even the hardware components and cords are color-coordinated with the fabric color for a truly custom look.

Other features make pleated shades a flexible design option. Standard or blackout lining can be added to pleated shades to give extra privacy and a uniform, white exterior appearance. Coordinating or contrasting fabric can be added to create decorative borders and stripes. And flame-retardant fabrics are available for commercial environments. Even pleat features a spacer ladder that keeps every pleat crisp and uniformly spaced. No sagging fabrics.

## Applications

Pleated shades are versatile alternative window products that can be easily installed on almost any window. Their slim line, high energy efficiency and privacy options make them ideal undertreatments for draperies. They are also well-suited for a variety of special applications.

## Special Considerations

### Cut-outs

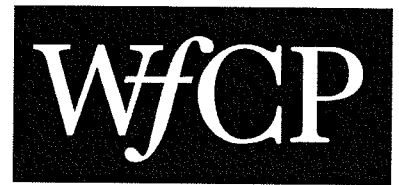
Shades can be constructed to surround center or side obstructions such as air conditioners and window cranks that might interfere with the operation of the shade.

### Shade Installation Options

Two fabrics combined in one shade are referred to as privacy/view shades. A traveling center rail lets you choose a sheer fabric for day and a privacy fabric at night with the pull of a cord.

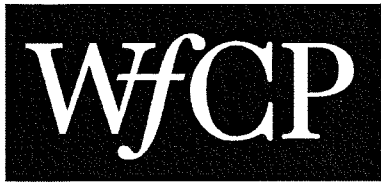
A traveling rail also can allow shades to be lowered from the top or raised from the bottom of the window opening. Top/bottom shades are ideal for increased air circulation and for use on double-hung windows. Or you might specify them for windows where privacy is a concern (such as in bathrooms) but where air circulation and light is desired.

Two or more shades can be manufactured to hang from a single head-rail. This option is an attractive alternative for sliding glass doors and extra wide windows. Each shade operates on separate controls so it is easy to raise or lower one shade at a time. For three or more shades on one headrail, two shades may be controlled by one cord lock. Check manufacturer's specifications for the specific product you are ordering.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS Pleated Shades**



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Pleated Shades**

#### **Special Shapes**

Pleated shades are well-suited to irregular and special-shaped windows. They can be custom made to fit arch- and slant-top, inclined, circular and triangular windows. The angled portions of these shades are usually stationary.

#### **Control Options**

Both motorized and continuous loop cords are available on many shades. Lift cords can be specified left or right.

Some motors have been specifically designed to lift pleated shades. All mechanical components and even the optional wireless remote control electronics are fully concealed within the headrail. Existing manually operated shades can now be easily converted to motorized systems. Consult your manufacturer. Cordless options are also available on pleated shades.

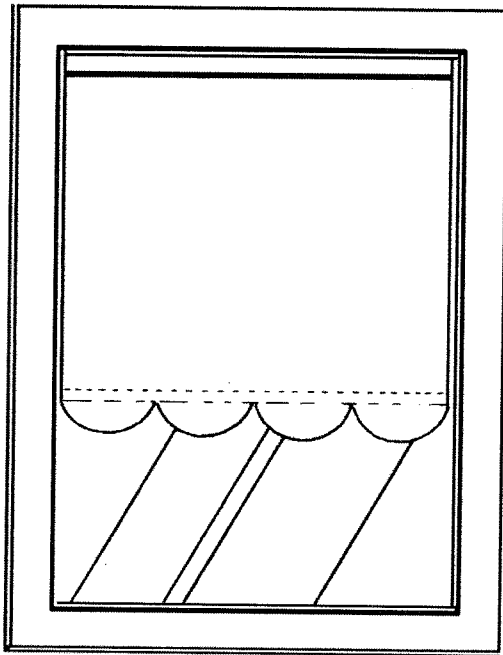
#### **Maintenance**

Most pleated shade fabrics are anti-static and repel dust. They can generally be cleaned in the same manner as cellular shades. As with cellular shades, frequent cleaning may tend to reduce the fullness and body of the pleated fabric. You may want to advise your client that their pleated shades should be raised and lowered periodically to add to the life of the pleats.

Ultrasonic cleaning can be a safe, effective and professional way to clean fabric alternative shades. Confirm with your manufacturer that ultrasonic cleaning is suitable for shades you sell as it is not appropriate for all hardware systems and fabrics.

## ROLLER SHADES

Dating back to the 1760s, roller shades remain a popular window treatment because of their dependability, durability, versatility and affordability. While it may not be the first option that springs to your mind when specifying custom window fashions, including roller shades in your complete line of window fashion products and services can boost your bottom line. And if you think roller shades are simply made of thin white vinyl sheets and raised by means of a yank (and occasional tear) at their bottoms, it may have been awhile since you've checked them out. Today's roller shade, available in a myriad of fabrics, colors, textures and design options, has been revolutionized by using a clutch to replace the traditional spring-loaded system.



### Design Features

Gone are the basic white and green vinyl shades with crocheted shade pulls. Today's *roller shades* are available in everything from cotton to clear film. It can roll from the top down or the bottom up, or even in reverse, concealing the roller.

The top edge of the shade fabric is attached with adhesive or staples to the roller, which is usually made from wood, plastic or metal. The shade is operated with either a spring-tension mechanism (spring-loaded roller) or a clutch system (chain-drive roller). The spring-loaded roller is considered the standard operating system and is relatively inexpensive. The roller has a spring and notched wheel mechanism at one end. The spring extends approximately one-third of the way into the roller. It catches the wheel to keep the shade snapped into correct tension. When the shade is pulled down, the spring is wound up. A quick downward pull on the shade releases the wheel, allowing the shade to be raised. Over time, this type of system can lose its spring, making it difficult to stop the shade at the desired height.

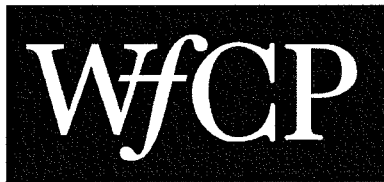


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## HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS

### Roller Shades



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Roller Shades**

The revolutionary chain-drive or clutch system operates with a continuous cord and pulley. A slight pull on the cord releases a brake inside the clutch, allowing the shade roller to spin as long as the continuous loop cord is pulled. The brake engages as soon as the cord is no longer pulled. While this system is more expensive than the spring-loaded roller, it is preferred for long shades, narrow shades and oversized shades. It is used almost exclusively with custom shades today.

Roller shades can also be energy efficient treatments. The degree to which they block heat and cold is dependent upon the cloth from which they are made. Typically outside-mounted shades will offer greater energy efficiency than inside mounts because they overlap the window opening. There are some fabrics used for roller shades that are designed to block the glare of sunlight; these solar fabrics are open-weave cloths that cut glare and heat while retaining the view. They are most frequently used in commercial installations.

#### **Design Options and Materials**

Roller shades are fabricated using flat fabrics that allow the shade to wrap tightly around the shade roller. Most roller shade cloth comes in widths up to 96". Seamless shades can be made as wide as the cloth width. Some fabricators will make shades that exceed the width of the cloth. To do this they railroad the fabric, running the cloth horizontally across the face of the shade. This may require horizontal seams in the shade. Use this option with caution as it can cause operation problems as well as unsightly seams.

The most popular roller shades are those which feature decorative fabric laminated to a vinyl base cloth. The vinyl can be translucent or opaque; however, the opaque is generally preferred as it gives better light control. When choosing fabrics for laminated roller shades, limit your choice to a fabric that has a tight weave, is preshrunk and of medium weight (without heavy texturing or slubbing). Cotton prints, for example, work well when laminated. Today, both wet and dry laminating are available. Wet laminating is done with a glue formulated specially for laminating; dry is done with a heat-setting process.

Roller shades also feature a variety of hem styles ranging from a simple straight edge to elaborate scallops with ruffles, fringe or other embellishments. Additionally, they can be ordered with coordinating laminated valances as well as wood or plastic cornices. Almost any style top treatment works well as a decorative finish to a roller shade.

## **Applications**

Roller shades are most commonly installed in single, double-hung or casement style windows. The maximum width available is dependent upon the cloth used for the shade. A shade laminated with a 54" wide fabric, for example, can typically be fabricated at a maximum of 50–52" wide. While multiple shades on one roller are not available, individual shades can be installed across a larger window area and covered with a decorative top treatment, hiding the rollers.

Bottom-up shades can be installed at the bottom of the window to allow for privacy. These are popular options in bedrooms and bathrooms. The shade pulls up from the bottom of the window and is anchored in place with the use of a pulley system and cord cleat, allowing light at the top while maintaining privacy at the bottom of the window. This type of installation is best suited for spring-loaded roller systems.

Reverse-roll shades are also available. These shades are used when there will be no top treatment covering the roller itself. The shade is attached to the roller so that it rolls from the front of the roller instead of from the back. This type of installation keeps the decorative fabric visible at the roller. These shades are most appropriate in situations where the shade will not be raised and lowered frequently.

## **Special Considerations**

### **Customization of a Stock Product**

Roller shades are a great opportunity to use your designing imagination. Consider such customization options as decorative painting, stencilled designs, contrasting fabric inserts, wallpaper or fabric lamination, cutouts laminated to the shade, decorative trims, coordinating tassels or any number of ideas that will elevate this old standby to a custom-designed work of art.

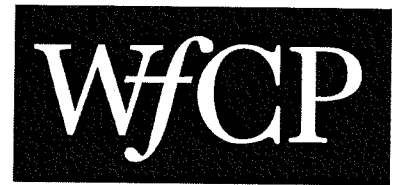
### **Control Options**

The control device on the spring-loaded roller shade is usually a decorative pull or tassel centered at the hem of the shade. The continuous loop cord on the chain-drive roller can be located on the left or right side of the shade. The loop length can be specified, and a stop link can be placed on the cord to prevent the shade from unwinding too far while lowering.

Clients may be unaware that a clutch-driven mechanism is not expensive. You can stress how easy this will make operation of the shade by older children, seniors and disabled persons.

### **Maintenance**

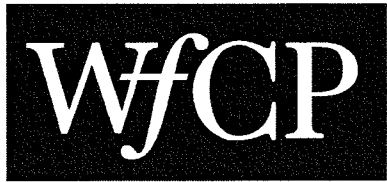
Roller shades require minimal cleaning. Vinyl shades can be wiped clean with a damp cloth and mild detergent. Those laminated with decorative fabrics should be cleaned according to the care instructions for the face fabric. Frequently this requires only an occasional dusting with the dusting attachment of a vacuum cleaner and spot cleaning for stains. Be more careful with hand-painted designs or roller shades that have additional trims or cut-outs attached as cleaning may fade or run the paint or loosen the glue used in the design.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Roller Shades**



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## HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS

### Shutters

## SHUTTERS

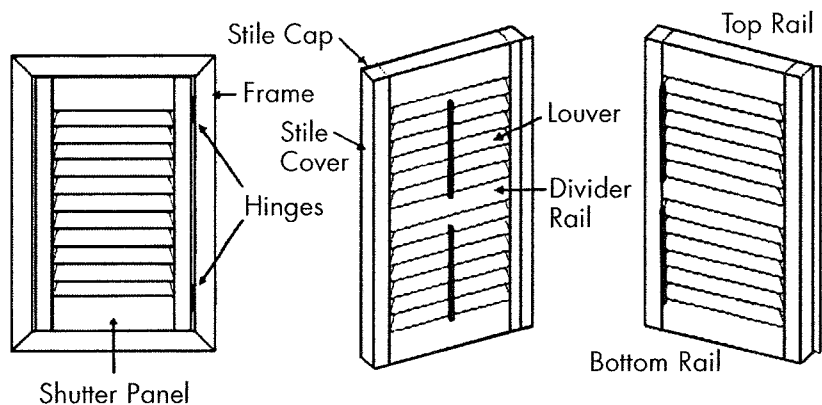
Shutters remain a popular window fashion for discriminating homeowners because they provide a time-honored look that is both clean and functional. Their relatively high cost is more than offset by an inherent beauty that yields a finished look when used alone or when dressed with overdraperies and top treatments to suit any decor. Additionally, they can provide a high degree of light control, energy efficiency and long life span.

### Design Features

*Shutters* are composed of panels that are hinged together. The size of the window determines the number of panels. Most manufacturers recommend that no more than three panels be hinged together and that the maximum three panel span should be 48" hinged to one side.

Each panel has a top rail and a bottom rail. The sides of the panels are called stiles. A divider or center rail separates sections of the panel on longer shutter styles. On custom shutters, the divider rail can be located wherever a louver is located, not necessarily at the shutter center.

### Basic Shutter Design



The most popular style of shutter is manufactured with movable horizontal louvers. These movable louvers and hinged panels offer the maximum in light control and privacy. However, multiple panels hinged together over wide windows may interfere with the operation of drapery panels. Louver sizes vary from 1¼" for a traditional style shutter to 2½" for plantation shutters. Some manufacturers also make shutters with louvers as large as 3½" to 4½". Generally, the wider the louver, the thicker the louver. Movable louvers are controlled by a tilt rod which opens and closes the louvers, thereby offering varying degrees of light control and privacy. With the louvers closed, the tilt rod is stored in the notch (rabbet or groove) at the bottom of the top rail.

## Design Options and Materials

Shutters are also available with stationary louvers that can be positioned either horizontally or vertically within the panel. Other variations of solid or "immovable" shutters include panels with raised inserts that can be filled with bamboo, lattice work, fabric or wire mesh. While this type of shutter can be updated by changing the insert, it generally does not provide the same level of light control as the more popular movable louver shutter.

The three most common shutter styles are full length, café and double hung. The full length style allows single or multiple panels to cover the full length of window. Divider rails are usually necessary for this style. (Contact your fabricator for options on divider rail placement.) Café style shutters cover either the top or bottom of the window. This is a popular choice when used with a valance for country or casual looks. Double-hung shutters consist of two rows of single or multiple panels mounted one above the other. Each row operates independently of the other. Usually the division between the two units is placed in the center of the window at the lock rail or at another horizontal division in the window's glass. Double-hung shutters usually require more maintenance and adjustment than full-length or café styles; they are also more expensive.

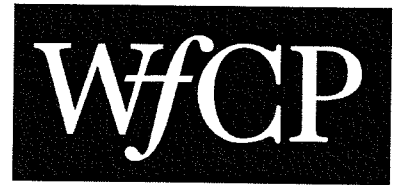
Custom shutters are made from basswood, high-altitude northwestern pine or cottonwood. Less expensive stock shutters are usually made from soft pine and have a higher moisture content which results in less stability and possible "bleeding" or collection of sap on the wood surface. Both stained and painted finishes are available in custom wood shutters. Some fabricators will customize the finish according to the designer's request.

Custom shutters are now also available in extruded or molded PVC resin. This material is a specially formulated, quality grade of engineered resin. It provides a colorfast shutter that will not warp, shrink, chip or peel. Also, PVC shutters are fire-retardant and self-extinguishing, making them safer than wood and a preferred product in public access areas. Custom PVC shutters are also less expensive than comparable wood shutters.

## Applications

Shutters can be installed on a variety of windows and doors. While most commonly seen on casement and double-hung windows, they also can work well on corner and bay windows where one shutter abuts another.

Patio and sliding glass doors can also be treated with shutters. They can be outside-mounted on or outside the molding, or inside-mounted when the door is located within a recessed area. A patio door bypass system is also available. This shutter features nonhinged, joined pairs of either four or six panels that slide on a two-channel steel track. Most bypass units are made with the pair of panels that rides on the front channel aligned on the same side as the door handle when slid closed. This generally eliminates the need for projection mounting. French doors can also be fitted with shutters providing there is enough room for mounting the frame on the door without interfering with the door handle or hinge. Shutter frames can butt against but not overlap handles or dead bolt hardware.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Shutters**



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Shutters**

Shutters can also be fabricated to fit into or around an arch- or slant-top window. The arch part of the shutter can be made of either fixed louvers or hand-operated movable louvers. Slant-top windows usually limit movable louvers depending on the angle of the window. Fabricators require a template for both arch- and slant-top windows to ensure accurate dimensions and angles.

### **Special Considerations**

Measuring for shutters is more detailed than other alternate window products. Most fabricators require that approved/certified shutter installers confirm measurements and install the shutters. Warranties generally are not honored if someone other than a certified shutter installer measures and installs the finished product.

The number of panels in a shutter system is an important consideration. Unless the client has a specific request, use the least number of panels per opening for maximum visibility and lower cost. However, do not hinge more than three panels together and do not exceed 48" in any three panel span. (Some fabricators recommend a maximum of two panels with a 48" maximum span.) If you need to span more than 96", you will need an overhead track system to support the weight of the shutter.

When possible, use a sample shutter panel with the desired mounting hardware to help visualize installation possibilities and limitations. Place your sample frame where it will be mounted and double-check to be certain there are no interfering factors.

Outside-frame mounting is the method recommended by most fabricators. This type of installation overcomes many of the problems inherent in mounting shutters inside a window that is out of square. To determine if a window is out of square, measure the two diagonals from top left to bottom right and from top right to bottom left. If the two measurements differ by more than 1/2", the window is generally not suitable for an inside mount. Check with your fabricator for individual ordering guidelines.

### **Maintenance**

As with all high quality wood furnishings, wood shutters should be dusted regularly and never cleaned with water as moisture may cause warpage.

PVC shutters can be easily cleaned with detergent and water as well as strong disinfectants, which makes them ideally suited for medical facilities requiring hygienic environments.



## **WINDOW SHADINGS**

Window shadings combine the advantages of draperies, shades and blinds for the best of both worlds. Since the introduction in 1991 of soft horizontals, the category has grown to include soft verticals, fabric shades, and next generation horizontals.

Soft horizontals have suspended fabric vanes between sheer fabric facings and tilt for light and privacy.

Fabric shades are made of soft folds of fabric on metal headrail systems similar to those used for cellular shades. Soft verticals combine the function of a vertical with soft fabric to soften and diffuse light. The vanes that are wrapped with sheer fabric rotate or stack for light and privacy.

### **Soft Horizontals**

Soft horizontals provide precise light and privacy control. Most are available in a range of knitted fabric sheers and a palette of colors. The fabrics are soil resistant and anti-static. The vanes are available in 2" or 3". The 2" vane is well proportioned for most windows. The 3" vane offers more view when open and is better proportioned for larger windows. Vanes are also available in light filtering or room darkening.

The soft horizontal is fashionable but functional. There are no cords or ladders and most can be made in widths up to 108". Color coordinated headrails and continuous cord loops offer safety from dangling cords. The fabric rolls completely up into the headrail. Most horizontals are available with headrail dust covers, and optional cord drop lengths.

The cord loop operation attached to a roller lowers the fabric and, at the bottom, pivots the bottom rail and opens the vanes. Newer versions of this shade are now allowing vanes to remain open when partially raised. Moving the cord when the shade is fully lowered adjusts the vanes from open to closed.

### **Applications**

Soft horizontals work well on most window types and can be ordered for most speciality shapes, narrow openings or motorized applications. Arches and angles are available in 2" vane size. The vanes remain fully opened and are non-operable. All installations must be inside mounted. For narrow windows, tilt only shadings are available from 6–11 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". They can't be raised or lowered, but you can position vanes for the best light control.

Soft horizontals are also available with two shades on one headrail. Motorized shades in switch control or remote control are available.

### **Special Considerations**

Because soft horizontals roll onto a roller they need to wind evenly and not skew to one side as it damages the fabric. The bottom rail has a balance weight that can be adjusted if it winds unevenly. Holddown brackets are used to secure the bottom and to prevent swaying. These work well on doors.

Soft horizontals are meant to offer privacy and filter light. The vanes don't contact each other, thus not forming a perfect seal against light leakage. It is wise to advise your customer of this. Measurements are critical with this product also. Check with manufacturer regarding allowances and specifications before ordering.



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Window Shadings**



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## **HARD WINDOW TREATMENTS**

### **Window Shadings**

### **Maintenance**

Window shadings are easy care. Most fabrics are polyester and can be hand vacuumed or spot cleaned with a aerosol upholstery cleaner. An optional dust cover for the headrail keeps the fabric and internal components free of dirt and dust.

### **Soft Verticals**

Soft verticals are vertical track systems that have polyester fabric louvers or PVC vanes wrapped in sheer fabrics. They give the customer the best of both worlds—the function of small stack and rotating vanes of the vertical, and the softness of a sheer fabric. Most verticals are available in a wide range of sheer fabrics ranging from elegant traditional voiles to striated linen looks and soft scrolls to give light a pattern to play off. All the fabrics come in a large palette of colors.

### **Applications**

The soft verticals are available in left stack, right stack or split stack. Control systems vary from one touch wands to beaded chain continuous cord systems. The vanes rotate for light and privacy. The fabric choices allow you to choose translucent to opaque room darkening vanes. If they are wrapped; PVC vanes allow for light blocking and energy efficiency. The system can be mounted both inside and outside the window. If mounting inside at least a 1" depth is required. This is a manual system as of now, no motorization is available. A 5" header conceals the track system. Several valance styles are available.

Soft verticals work well on most rectangular doors or windows, but are not good choices for specialty windows.

As with any sheer fabric, when it is layered the color intensity increases. Be sure and compare gathered fabrics to a single layer before making a final decision. Most manufacturers sell fabric by the yard to allow you to coordinated or create matching soft treatments.

### **Special Considerations**

There is a return gap between the rear of the end treatment and the rear of the installation bracket. There is also a vane closure gap, as the vanes overlap when closed, but don't always touch. On split draws there is a center gap between fabric panels when the vanes are closed.

### **Fabric Shades**

Capitalizing on the increasing popularity of soft treatments, fabricators have developed fabric shades that are mounted using shade hardware systems. There is a large selection of fabrics to choose from and a wide range of colors in the fabric selection.

### **Applications**

These shades resemble romans or hobbles and are mounted on a roller headrail with a continuous cord loop or on cellular shade systems with cord locks and cords. Fabrics have usually had a soft knitback added for stability and to keep their shape and fullness. Headrails can be fabric covered and fabric by the yard is available.

## **Woven Woods**

A product category that is experiencing a comeback from its peak of popularity in the 1970's is woven woods. Traditional stylings using natural woods and reeds help create informal surroundings that reflect the outdoors. Each shade has its own distinct appearance. The shades work on a pulley and cord lock system which allows for unlimited levels of light or privacy.

Most shades have a 6" attached valance with valance returns. The shades are available in roman fold or bottom roll styles.

## **Special Considerations**

Because woven woods are made of natural materials like bamboo, palm, and raffia. There are variations in color and hue. Bamboo ages from green to beige-brown. Other variations could be knots and cracks, or bow and camber. The loose weave and variation in materials can prevent perfect horizontal alignment, as well as fold alignment. Woven woods stretch over time. If needing privacy, a liner should be ordered, be aware it might show through the face. Make customer aware of these things.

## **Applications**

These shades are perfect for casual settings and most rectangular windows up to 96". Shades can be mounted inside or outside the window. Angle top styles are also available, as are top down-bottom ups and multiple shades on one headrail.

Decorative trims and edgings compliment the wood or bamboo combinations. Along with this, decorative scalloped hems on the valance and shade are available. A privacy option is available in translucent or opaque liners.

## **A FINAL WORD ON ALTERNATIVE WINDOW FASHIONS**

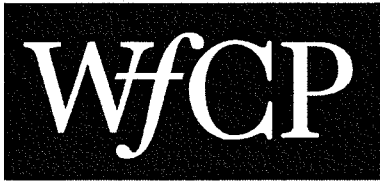
While innovations in hard window treatments may have made it possible for many consumers to install their own horizontal and vertical blinds, cellular and pleated shades, and roller shades, offering shades and blinds will not take away from your own window treatment design and fabrication business. In fact, the more you know about these additional product lines, the more expertise and design options you will be able to offer your clients as a window fashions specialist. You should always be considering the possibility of including these layers in your window fashion designs, as each layer will increase the overall profitability of your project.

Alternative window fashions also have many advantages you should sell to your client: light control, energy efficiency, durability and privacy highest among them. And certainly your suppliers can provide you with blinds and shades at higher price points and superior quality than consumers will be able to pick up at their local home centers. With the support and service of your business to back up the products, you should have the strength for persuading the sale.



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**HARD WINDOW  
TREATMENTS  
Window Shadings**



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**APPLICATION  
EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

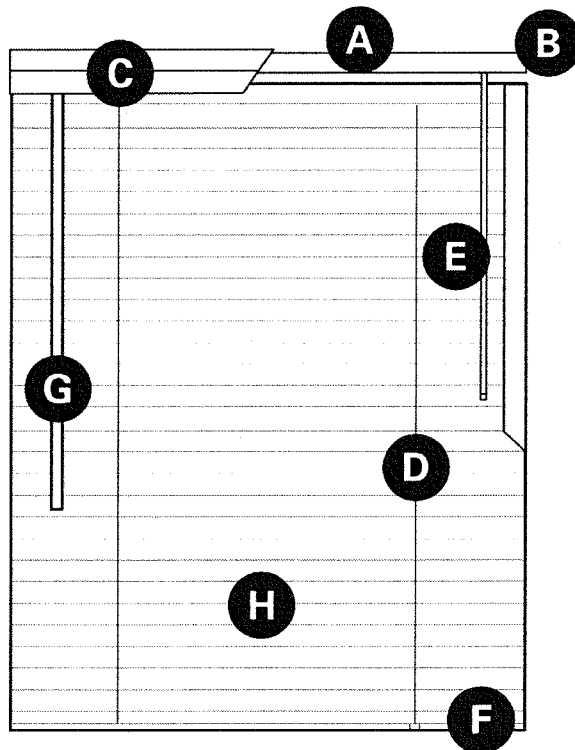
Return this completed exercise to *Window Fashions* magazine with lessons 14 & 15's to receive the Manual IV final exam.

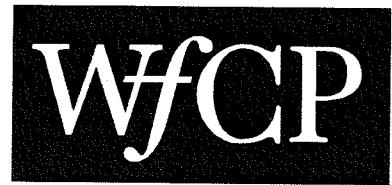
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone w/area code \_\_\_\_\_  
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1. List at least three alternative window treatment products you could specify with a soft fabric treatment as part of a total window fashion design.

2. See if you can name all of the parts of this mini-blind.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_  
E. \_\_\_\_\_ F. \_\_\_\_\_  
G. \_\_\_\_\_ H. \_\_\_\_\_

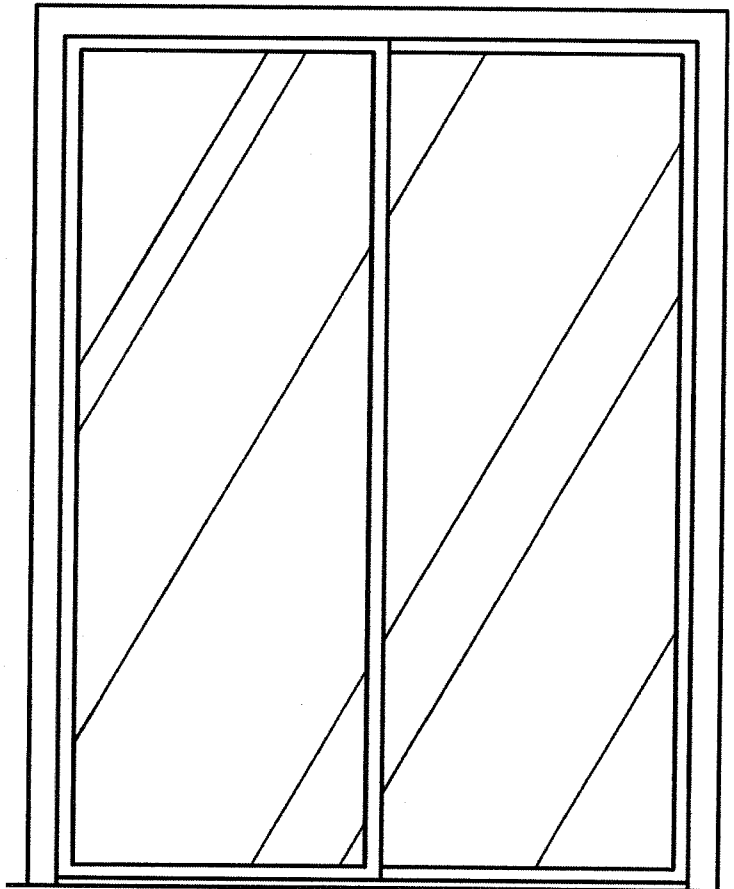




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**3. Describe three combinations of hard and soft window fashions for the windows on the following pages.**

**A.**



**APPLICATION  
EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

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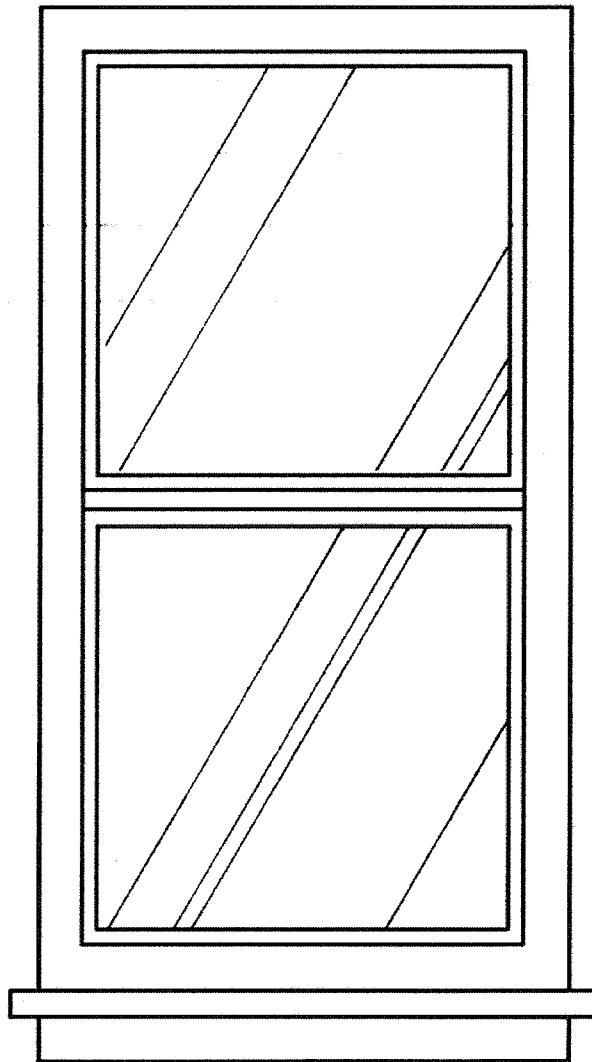


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**APPLICATION  
EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

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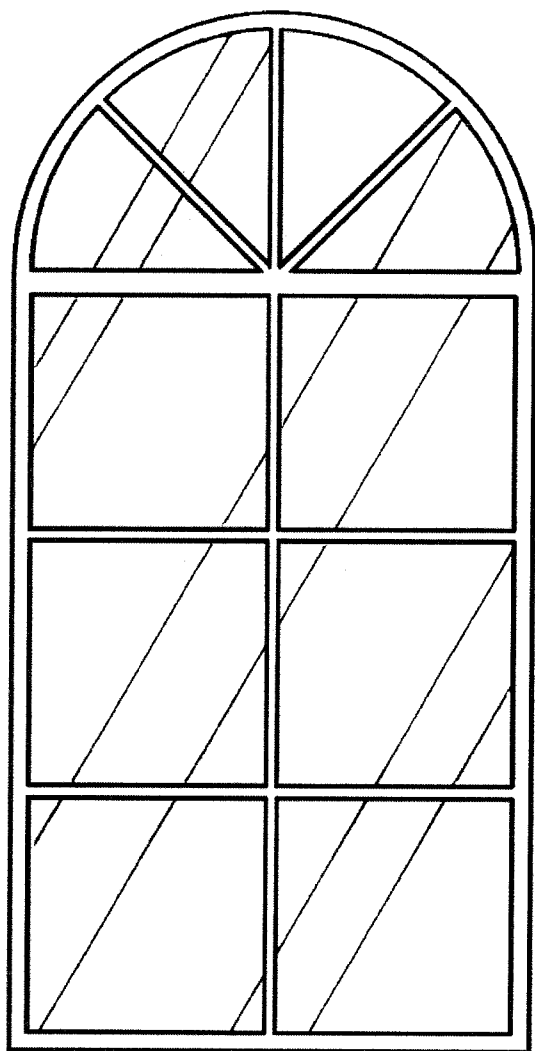
**B.**



**WfCP**

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**c.**



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EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

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**APPLICATION  
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15's to receive the  
Manual IV final exam.**

**4. Are vertical blinds a good choice for:**

bays \_\_\_\_\_  
kitchen patio doors \_\_\_\_\_  
inside mounts \_\_\_\_\_  
formal living rooms \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Are shutters a good choice for:**

arches \_\_\_\_\_  
atrium doors \_\_\_\_\_  
windows over 140" \_\_\_\_\_  
double hung windows \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Are cellular shades a good choice for:**

bedrooms \_\_\_\_\_  
palladium windows \_\_\_\_\_  
sliding doors \_\_\_\_\_  
multiple windows \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What hard treatments might you specify for a formal  
living room under swags and cascades?**



**alternative window treatment**—A window covering primarily constructed of non-fabric materials or, while consisting of some fabric materials, is considered to be an “alternative” to curtains and draperies. This definition includes **horizontal** and **vertical blinds**, **shutters**, **cellular** and **pleated shades**, and **window shadings**.

**bottom rail**—A metal rail on the bottom of a blind or shade that rests on the window sill.

**cellular shade**—A type of **alternative window treatment**. This permanently pleated shade is formed with single or multiple fabric “cells” which act as insulators. Also known as a **honeycomb shade**.

**cord pull**—A cord that is used to raise or lower a blind or shade; it can also be used to open or close a drapery.

**duotone**—Said of a window treatment that is neutral facing the outside of the house, but having a color, pattern or design facing the interior of a room.

**groovers**—A name for special louvers or vanes of **vertical blinds** that are designed so that fabric or wallpaper can be inserted into them.

**hard window treatment**—See **alternative window treatment**.

**headrail**—The metal rail at the top of a blind or shade; the cords to raise and lower the treatment are hidden inside the headrail for a more attractive appearance.

**honeycomb shade**—See **cellular shade**.

**horizontal blinds**—A type of **alternative window treatment** featuring horizontal slats which can be tilted for light control, and which can also be raised or lowered by means of a cord pull.

**ladders/ladder system**—The small cords that separate and hold the slats of a **horizontal blind** in place.

**louvers**—See **vanes**.

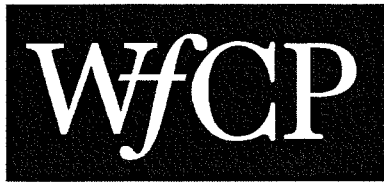
**metallized**—A fabric finishing process that bonds a thin layer of energy-efficient aluminum to lightweight fabric to increase energy efficiency.

**micro-blinds**—**Horizontal blinds** with ½" wide slats.



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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**



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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**mini-blinds**—*Horizontal blinds* with 1" wide slats.

**pleated shade**—A type of *alternative window treatment* which consists of energy-efficient aluminum bonded to lightweight fabric designed with crisp horizontal pleats.

**PVC (polyvinyl chloride)**—A polymerized thermoplastic vinyl commonly used for window treatments.

**roller shade**—A type of window treatment fabricated using flat fabrics which allow the shade to wrap tightly around the shade roller. The shade is operated with either a spring tension mechanism or a clutch system.

**R-rating**—A scale for indicating energy efficiency. The higher the number, the greater the energy efficiency.

**shade**—A device used to reduce or screen light or heat.

**shutters**—A type of *alternative window treatment* composed of panels that are hinged together.

**stiles**—The sides of the panels in *shutters*.

**track system**—The track in which the components of some *alternative window fashions (vertical blinds, cellular shades, pleated shades)* are held in place and manipulated. For example, a vertical blind's track system facilitates rotation and traversing of the vanes. Specialized track systems can accommodate such specialty shapes as the curves of bow windows.

**valance**—A horizontal top treatment constructed from fabrics; may be flat, pleated or gathered; may hang from a board or rod. A valance is also the front plate covering the mechanical workings of some alternative treatments; it is usually designed to color-coordinate with the other components and to provide a more attractive appearance.

**vanes**—The long fabric, vinyl or aluminum components that hang from a headrail on a vertical blind. Also called *louvers*.

**vertical blinds**—A type of *alternative window treatment*. Vertical blinds feature vertical *vanes* which hang from a headrail and that traverse and rotate.

The logo for Windowfashions Certified Professionals Program, featuring the letters 'WfCP' in a stylized, white, serif font against a black rectangular background.

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## Introduction

You may be wondering why this briefcase course for window fashions includes a lesson on bedding and accessories. As you may recall from Lesson 2, where we reviewed general periods of architectural and interior design history, window fashions actually evolved out of bed coverings. Textiles were too expensive for all but the wealthiest of homes, and even as they came into wider use during the Renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries, they were used for bed and wall hangings, not for window coverings.

Again, while window curtains as we now know them were not yet used, fabrics were used as curtains and canopies for the ever-important bed or as wall hangings. Curtains for the bed, the most important and expensive piece of furniture in the home, were usually made of tapestry, rich silk velvet or *brocatelle*. At first, these bed “draperies” were held up on rods stretched across the room by means of cords attached to hooks in the ceiling. These evolved into canopies supported by a headboard and corner posts.

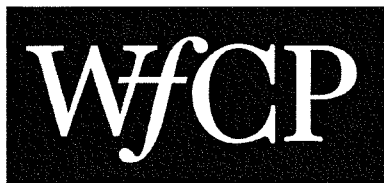
In this lesson, you will learn about a variety of bed coverings, from bedspreads and duvet covers to coronas, half-testers and canopies. So many additional items can be coordinated with bedding that a window fashions specialist could create quite a sideline business. We'll suggest a range of other accessories that can be fabricated from fabric, including pillows, cushions, tablecloths, placemats, napkins, shower curtains, and even lampshades and covered waste cans. As always, the successful designer is the one who sees the opportunities!

# CHAPTER FOURTEEN

## Bedding and Accessories

### OBJECTIVES

- Understand the role of the bed as a centerpiece of the bedroom
- Learn basic measuring guidelines for specifying bedspreads
- Consider optional bedspread designs
- Learn about additional custom bedding—coverlets and bed skirts/dust ruffles; comforters and duvets; and pillow shams
- Be aware of options for creating custom pillows
- Distinguish between coronas, half-testers and canopies
- Identify other accessories—tablecloths, placemats, napkins, shower curtains, and more.



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## **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

### **The Bed**

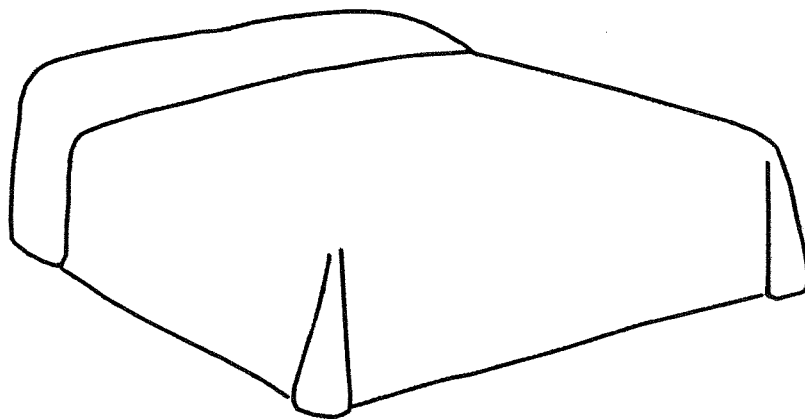
#### **THE BED**

Any discussion of bedding and related accessories has to begin with the bed itself. In almost all bedrooms, the bed is the *focal point* of the room. While you may create stunning window fashions, in most cases you won't want to draw attention away from the bed as centerpiece, and in fact, you may want to use your expertise in soft fabrics to specify an elaborate bed treatment to coordinate with the window treatment.

A bed treatment may be anything from a simple bedspread to a full canopy with bishop sleeves down four posters, an upholstered headboard and luxurious quilts trimmed in lace and cording, layered over dust ruffles. If a client hires you to design the soft furnishings for an entire bedroom, you will want to be sure to consider the elements and principles of design (see Lesson 5) to create window and bed fashions that incorporate expert use of space, line, form, color and texture, giving a room pleasing balance, emphasis, rhythm, proportion and scale, and ultimately harmony and unity.

#### **Bedspreads**

Let's begin with the simplest bed treatment: the *throw bedspread*. This bedcovering falls loosely over the bed and in its basic form may not have any additional decoration beyond quilting. The throw bedspread can be made with fabric that drops fully to the floor or a *coverlet* may be used in conjunction with a *bed skirt* or *dust ruffle*. The throw bedspread is usually completed with a *pillow tuck* or *reverse sham*. The bottom corners are usually rounded.



The throw bedspread is a simple design that falls loosely over the bed.

Most throw bedspreads have a quilting pattern to add interest and texture. Fabrics selected for quilted bedspreads should be of medium weight and stable construction. Loosely woven fabrics and fabrics that are bulky are generally not good choices. For simpler fabrics, details such as scallops and ruffles can be added to create different, more elaborate designs.

Fabric widths may be pattern matched (so patterns align at the seams) and stitched together, then quilted as a single piece. The fill for quilting is generally 100 percent polyester in widths up to 135", and polyester/cotton lining is available up to 122" wide. Be careful when selecting the lining and quilting thread as colors may show through portions of the fabric pattern.

## Measuring for a Custom Bedspread

If you do not have your own quilting equipment (and we realize that many window fashions specialists are designers who utilize skilled workroom professionals), you will need to know several basic pieces of information before ordering a throw bedspread:

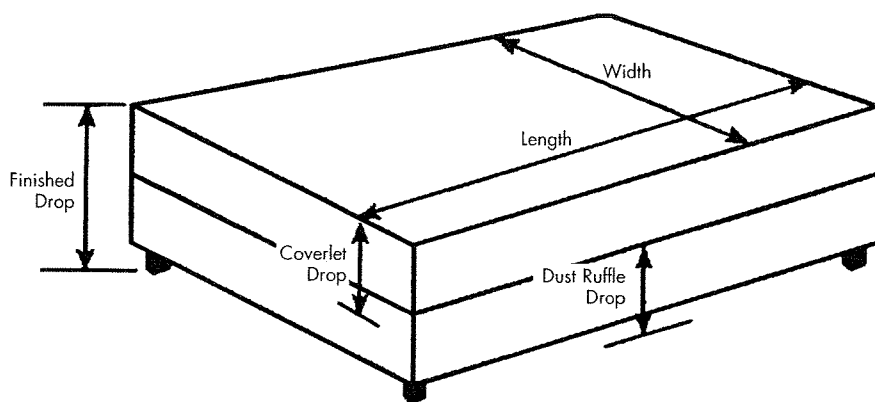
- width and length of the top of the mattress
- drop measurement from the top of the mattress to the floor for a full drop, or specify desired measure if only a half-drop (such as for a coverlet and underlying dust ruffle)
- whether the completed bedspread should have a pillow tuck or reverse sham.

You should be aware that the standard *allowance* for a pillow tuck on a twin or full size pillow is 15", or 20" for queen and king size pillows. The reverse sham requires additional yardage. When you specify a pillow tuck or a reverse sham on the work order, the workroom will allow for the appropriate amount of fabric unless instructed otherwise.

Measurements for the total cut length include the length at the top of the mattress, plus one drop at the foot of the bed, plus the appropriate allowance for a pillow tuck or reverse sham. Additional allowances are added for shrinkage (which will vary depending on the quilting design) and for the hem (which will vary depending on whether it is a turned-under hem, cording or other design).

Measurements for the total cut width include the width at the top of the mattress, plus two drops (one for each side of the bed). Additional allowances are added for shrinkage and for the hem.

Adjustments need to be made for a fabric that requires pattern matching. Each time a pattern starts again is called a *repeat*. Divide the total cut length by the size of the repeat in a pattern to get the number of full repeats that will be needed in the cut length (round up to the nearest whole number); then multiply that number by the size of the repeat to get the adjusted cut length. This figure will allow enough material for pattern matching.



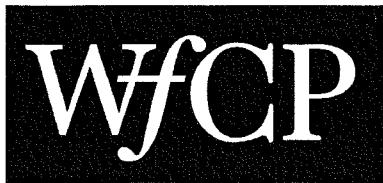
Measurements you will need in order to specify a bedspread.



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## **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

### **Measuring for a Custom Bedspread**



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**BEDDING AND  
 ACCESSORIES  
 Calculating Yardage**

To calculate yardage, divide your total cut width by the fabric width. Round this figure up to the nearest whole number to get the number of widths you will need. Then, multiply the number of cuts (pieces of fabric) by the total cut length (or the adjusted cut length if you've accommodated pattern repeats); divide this figure by 36" to determine your total yardage (round up to the nearest 1/4 yard).

For a more tailored bedspread with a custom fit, you'll want to include layers of bedding before taking measurements of the mattress. The following, then are general guidelines for a standard bedspread:

**Calculating Length:**

- length at top of mattress
- + one drop (for foot end of bed)
- + pillow tuck or reverse sham allowance

- 
- = finished length
  - + shrinkage
  - + bottom hem

---

= total cut length

**Calculating Width:**

- width at top of mattress
- + two drops (one for each side)

- 
- = finished width
  - + shrinkage
  - + bottom hem

---

= total cut width

**Calculated Adjusted Cut Length**

(for fabric with pattern repeats):

$$\frac{\text{total cut length}}{\text{size of repeat}} = \text{number of repeats needed}$$

then: multiply number of repeats needed by  
 size of repeat = adjusted cut length

**Calculating Yardage:**

$$\frac{\text{total cut width}}{\text{width of fabric}} = \text{number of widths}$$

$$\frac{\text{number of widths} \times \text{total cut length}}{\text{(or adjusted cut length)}} \div 36" \text{ (one yard)} = \text{total yardage}$$

## SOFT FURNISHINGS

Bedding is as diverse as window treatments. It can convey lots of different moods—formal, country, romantic...

### The Basics

#### Mattress sizes

Twin 38 x 75

Full 54 x 75

Queen 60 x 80

King 76 x 80

Cal. King 72 x 84

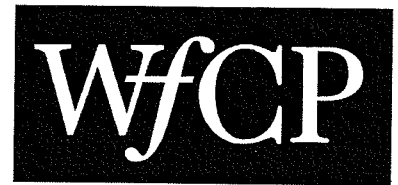
### Standard Bedding Sizes

Bed	Comforter	Coverlet	Bedsread
Twin	65 x 88	63 x 108	81 x 117
Full	80 x 88	78 x 108	90 x 123
Queen	86 x 95	84 x 113	96 x 129
King	102 x 95	102 x 113	117 x 129

Note: These sizes may vary workroom to workroom, this is a general sizing chart based on drops and tucks my workroom considers standard. Duvet covers should be made to the comforter size that is going in it. Always measure length, width, drop of bed with bedclothes on to determine the correct size and provide measurements to the workroom.

### Bedding Comparison Chart

Comforter	Coverlet/Bedsread	Duvet
Square Corner	Rounded Corner	Square Corner
No Pillow Tuck	Pillow Tuck 21-25"	No Pillow Tuck
Reversible	Lined/Hemmed	Reversible
Filled - thick	Filled - varies	No Fill
Drop - 12"	C. Drop - 12" Spread Drop - 21"	Drop Varies
Edging Options	Edging Options	Edging Options
Quilt Pattern Only	Top/Corner Options	Top - Quilt Only
Never Outline Quilt	Outline Quilt	Outline Quilt
Casual-Unmade Bed		Unmade Bed Look
Provides Warmth		Never Stitched Thru
		Keeps Comforter Clean
		Velcro/Zipper Closure



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## BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES

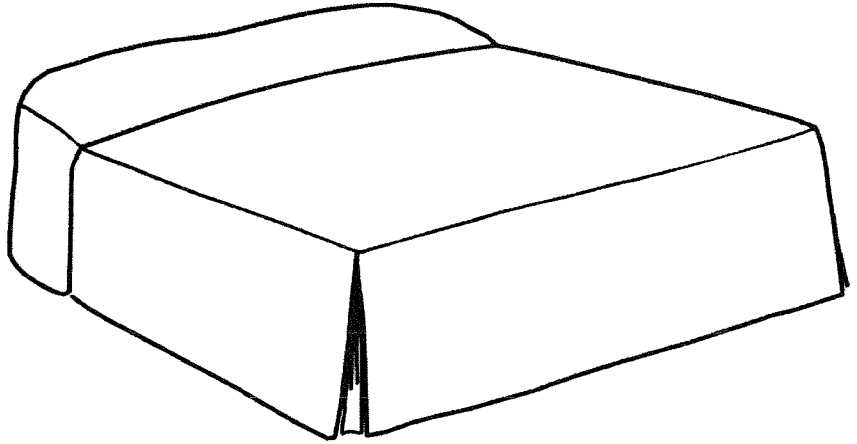
### Soft Furnishings

**BEDDING AND  
ACCESSORIES**  
**Common Variations  
for Bedspreads**

**Common Variations for Bedspreads**

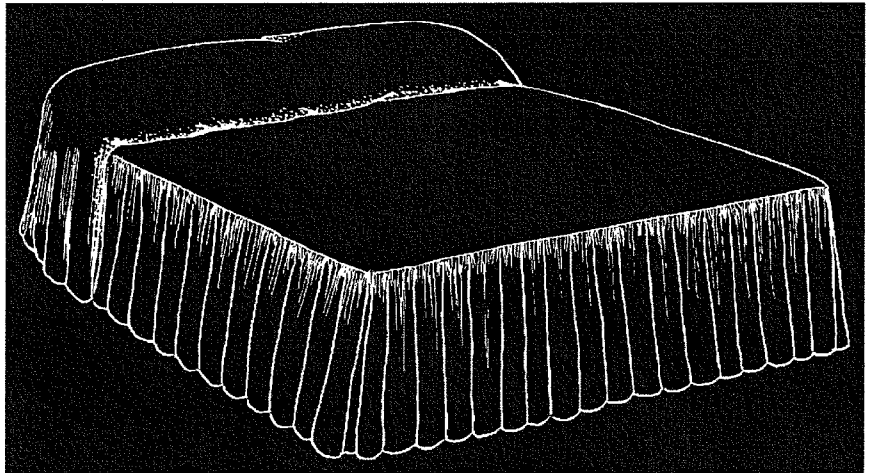
Two of the most common bedspread designs are *fitted bedspreads* and *gathered drop bedspreads*.

Fitted bedspreads are suitable for beds with footboards or posts as they have a split corner. The quilted design is seamed around the perimeter of the bed and finished with box corners. A pillow tuck or reverse sham is usually used. Adding contrast piping or scalloped edges can change the look.



The fitted bedspread adds a tailored look with its box corners.

The gathered drop bedspread is quilted on top, piped along the edge and softly gathered along the sides, dropping gracefully to the floor. Because of its tailored design, this style also lends itself well to a four-poster bed.



The gathered drop bedspread style works well with a four-poster bed.

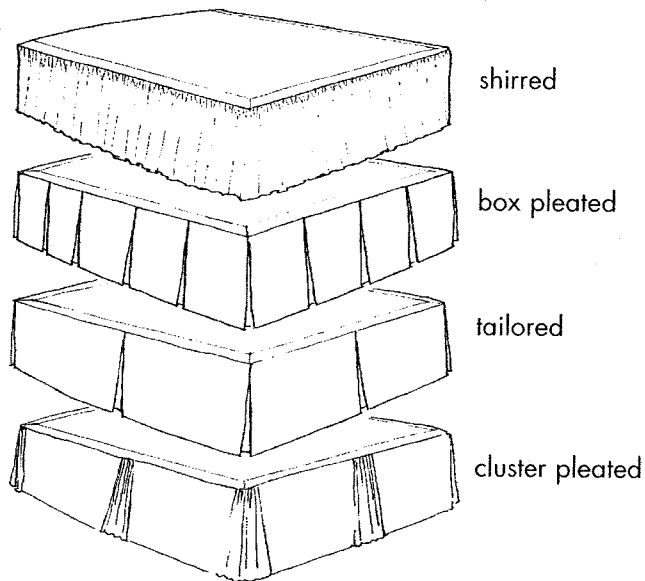
There are countless other options for designs. Consider just a few: box fitted; ruffled drops; scalloped drops; scalloped quilted top with shirred drops; shirred drops; trims such as fringes, lace or cording; and waterfall fitted.



## ADDITIONAL BEDDING

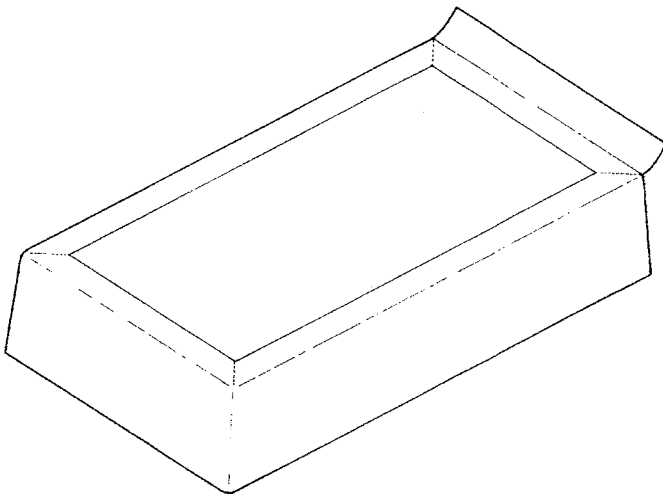
### Coverlets and Bed Skirts/Dust Ruffles

The options multiply when you use coverlets with bed skirts or dust ruffles instead of standard bedspreads. *Coverlets* are bedspreads which do not reach the floor. They are commonly used with *bed skirts* and *dust ruffles*, layers of fabric which hang below the mattress, concealing the box springs. Bed skirts and dust ruffles are also often used as a finishing touch for comforters, half-drop bedspreads and duvet covers. Bed skirts come in styles such as gathered, tailored, box pleated, and cluster gathered.



Here are four common designs for bed skirts.

Two tips for the professional look of a custom design: Bed skirt platforms should have several inches of the same fabric as the exposed bed skirt based on three sides so the lining does not show. And an extra flap at the head of the bed will help to keep the bed skirt in place under the mattress.



With the mattress removed, you can see that this bed skirt has extra material around the edges and an extra flap at the head end made of the same fabric pattern.



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## BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES

### Additional Bedding

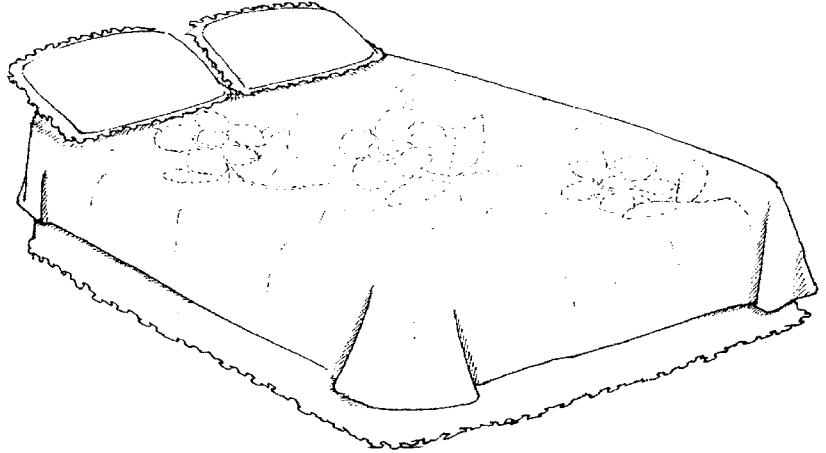


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**BEDDING AND  
ACCESSORIES**  
**Additional Bedding**

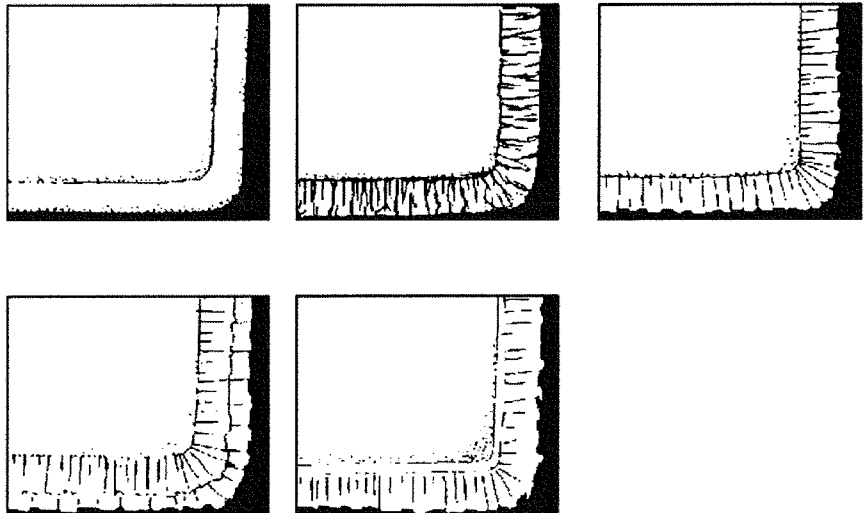
**Comforters and Duvets**

Like coverlets, *comforters* do not have a full drop. They are commonly padded or filled, usually reversible, and thus have a greater volume than coverlets and give a more informal appearance. They also do not have a pillow tuck allowance and need pillow shams.



Comforters have a shorter drop than a bedspread and are usually used with pillow shams and bed skirts.

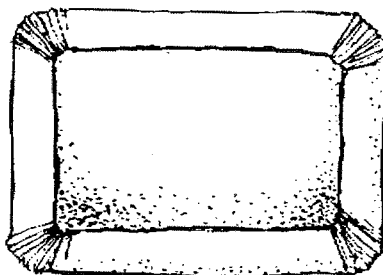
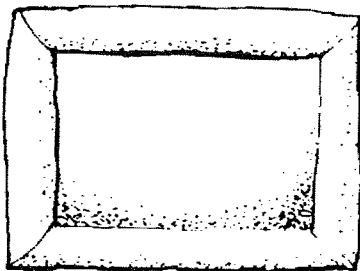
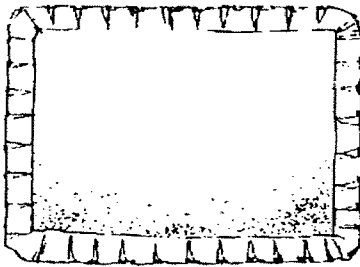
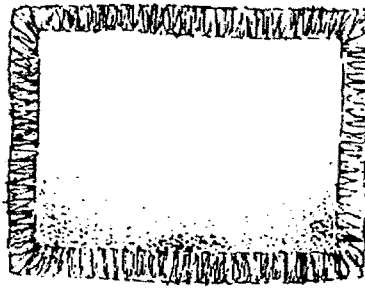
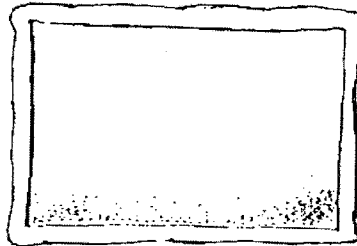
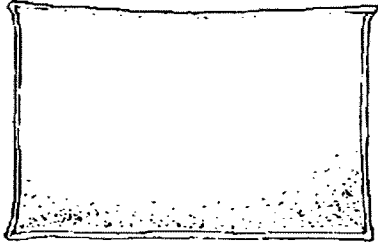
*Duvets*, padded top layers like comforters sometimes added to beds to provide warmth and softness, can be covered with decorative fabric that protects the duvet, which is often down-filled. *Futons* that double as both guest beds and sofas, thanks to ingenious convertible wood frames, are also served well by a decorative cover that can be cleaned simply, as the futon itself is more difficult to have cleaned.



Add a custom touch by finishing the edges of a comforter or duvet cover with one of the details shown. Repeat the design on pillow shams and window fashions.

## Pillow Shams

*Pillow shams*, decorative fabric covers for bed pillows—or finished decorative pillows—placed on top of bedspreads, comforters or duvets, are excellent places to add a custom touch that you can coordinate with window fashions. Be creative by using such styles as clutch, corded, envelope, pleated, decorated with extra trims, rosettes, bows and ruffles.



Here are just a few design options for pillow shams.

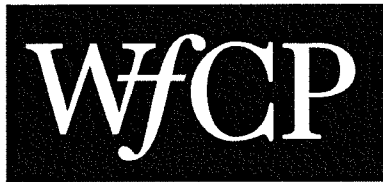


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**BEDDING AND  
ACCESSORIES**

**Additional Bedding**



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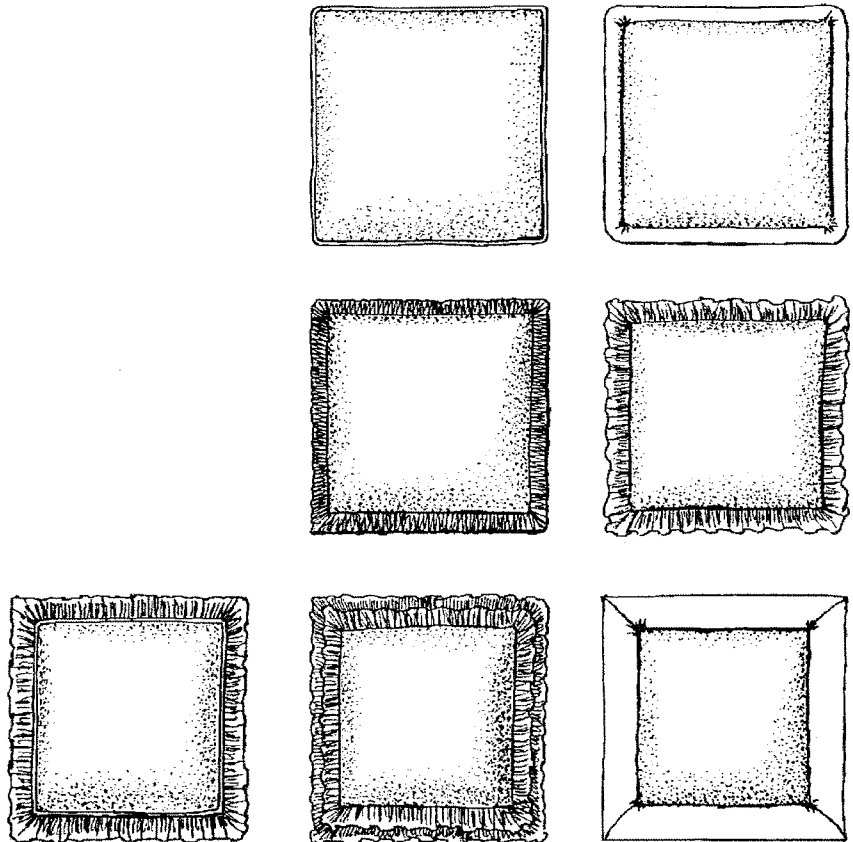
## **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

### **Additional Bedding**

#### **Custom Pillows**

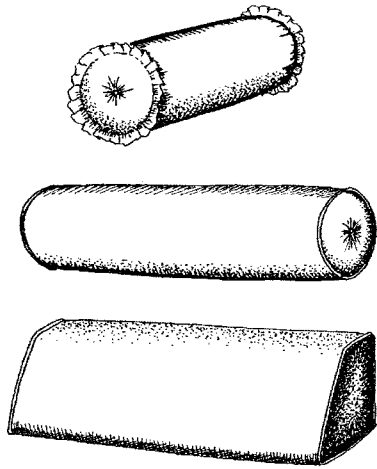
We're not talking about the bed pillows that hide under the decorative pillow shams with which you'll be dressing your clients' beds. We're referring to pillow styles that can strengthen your overall design of soft fabric furnishings in the bedroom. By repeating the style, fabric and motifs of your other creations, you'll strengthen the complete custom appearance of your projects. You may even consider making (or having your workroom fabricate) a pillow from any leftover fabric from other projects as a thank-you gift to your client. Imagine the referral you'll get! ("Not only did my decorator create fabulous window fashions and a stunning bedding ensemble," your client will gush to friends, "but she even gave me a lovely custom pillow to dress up the easy chair!")

Consider just a few of the design possibilities that can coordinate pillows with bedding and window fashions: such shapes as round, square and hearts; such designs as flanges, knife edges, scallops, shirring, sunbursts and Turkish corners; and such trims as appliqué, buttons, fringes, knots, lace, piping, ruffles, tassels and welts.



Here are a few basic possibilities with a simple square pillow.

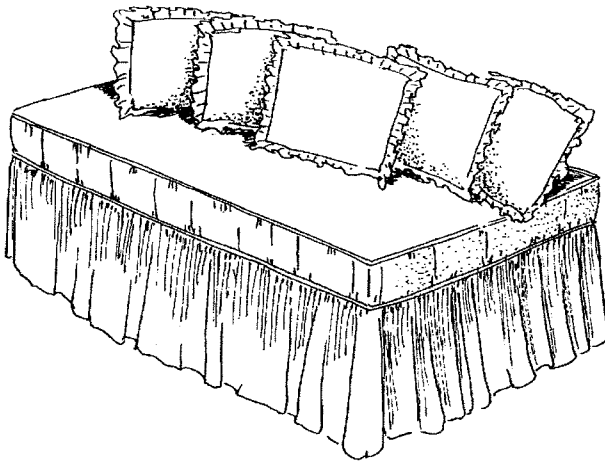
Neckrolls add a delicate accent to a bed or chaise lounge. Bolsters are the full width of the bed and add extra support for the back and neck. Round bolsters and neckrolls are available with polyester fill for a softer look and feel, or foam to create a more structured finish. Wedged bolsters are only available with foam. Used on daybeds, bolsters create a nice seating area.



The smaller neckroll, larger round bolster or wedge bolster add an attractive detail, particularly to daybeds or chaise lounges.

### Daybeds and Cribs

Bolsters, cushions and multiple pillows work particularly well with daybeds, a custom option to suggest to clients with guest rooms or children. For a young girl's room, a quilted surface and shirred or ruffled drop with matching pillows might make a ladylike design. A young boy might prefer a tailored, box pleated look. For daybeds with ironwork or rails that are frequently made and unmade, you may want to reinforce longer slits at the back edges or insert gussets.



The finished sides and gathered skirt of this daybed cover are accentuated by ruffled throw pillows.

You may not want to neglect the needs of clients' with very young children. Suggest a crib ensemble with coordinating quilts, sheets, dust ruffles or skirts, and bumper pads. An entire nursery could include such additional soft fabric furnishings as chair pads for a rocking chair or a slipcovered easy chair, fancy lampshades, a skirt for a diaper table, an upholstered storage trunk and, of course, window fashions.

### BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES

#### Additional Bedding

## **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

### **Coronas, Half-Testers and Canopies**

#### **CORONAS, HALF-TESTERS, AND CANOPIES**

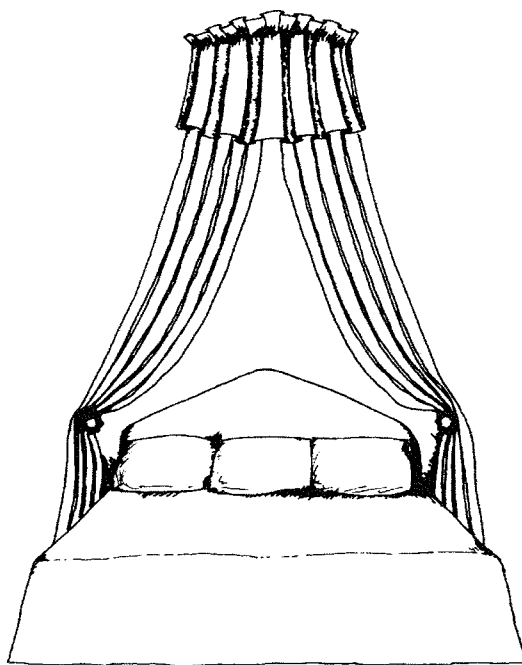
At the other end of the scale, however, there can be lucrative business in creating elaborate bed treatments for the more mature members of the family, particularly for those clients desiring period designs. Coronas, half-testers and canopies really only belong in bedrooms of sufficient size, as these designs command attention with their height and dignity. These bed treatments, especially canopies installed on four-poster beds, tend to make some rooms feel smaller, so you'll want to start with a room that's very large in the first place. A recommended height would be a ceiling at least seven feet and six inches high, and the wider the room the better, as the bed treatment will lift the eye up from the lower mattress and box spring.

#### **Coronas**

A *corona* is a round or semicircular board covered in fabric and suspended above or at the back of the bed, high on the wall. In most cases, back and side curtains will extend from this "crown" to frame the bed. Side curtains are often held away from the sides of the bed by large *holdbacks*. Additionally, a fabric valance can dress the corona around its circumference.

As you can imagine, a corona requires a strong system to support its weight. Installation usually involves a curved board attached to the wall with sturdy metal brackets. (For such an elaborate project, you would be wise to consult and use the services of an installation professional.) The short valances and side and back curtains can be hung in the traditional manner from hooks or screw eyes, or in these days of convenience, attached with hook-and-loop tape (VELCRO®).

Because both sides of side and back panels and even the underside of valances will be visible, this is a design that requires lining. Use the same, a coordinating or a contrasting fabric for the lining. Hint: A contrasting fabric works especially well as the back panel surrounded by side panels which match the fabric of the corona's valance. Coronas can be elaborately trimmed or clean-lined, but in any case they create a dramatic design with an assuredly historical flair.



A finished corona treatment can add considerable height and dignity to a bed fashion.

## Half-Testers

A *half-tester* is similar to a corona, but it is larger and rectangular. In almost all cases, the half-tester will be the width of the bed. Sometimes also called a *partial canopy*, it usually extends as far over the head of the bed as where the pillow shams rest on the surface (about 28" to 32"). Because of its girth, a half-tester also requires particular attention to installation, supported above the bed by metal brackets screwed into the wall. To give additional support, decorative chains can also be used to suspend the half-tester's heavy board and accompanying fabrics from the ceiling.

Because your clients will be spending so much time lying in their wonderfully designed beds after your project is completed, and they'll be looking at the underside of the bed fashion, it would be wise to cover the board with coordinating or contrasting fabric.

## Canopies

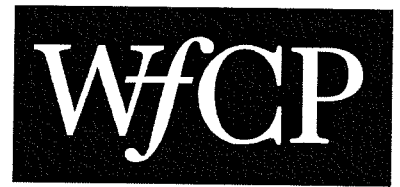
The third historical bed treatment you should be familiar with is the *canopy*. Clients romanced by *four-poster beds* have already invested a great deal into this centerpiece of their room, and it's likely they can be convinced to give it the royal treatment.

Four-poster beds vary greatly but are usually made from wood or metal. They have a post at each corner, and often feature a fabric-covered ceiling (sometimes gathered to a sunburst at the center) and curtains at each corner. While in earlier centuries these curtains were functional—necessary to keep out drafts in very cold houses—most often today they are merely decorative. In any case, such a design requires a suitably large room.

All panels, curtains and valances must be lined (except the back panel which will be flush with the wall; although for consistency of draping and light shining through, you may want to line this panel as well). Fabric fashions for four-poster beds require an especially talented workroom, as every piece will be viewed from all sides. Seams and machine lines cannot be obvious.

Let's break down the canopy into its various components. Each component will need to be measured and planned for separately for your workroom and installer, but you will also need to be aware of how the pieces work proportionately in the finished design. Canopies consist of three general components:

- The top covering and valance that is held above the entire bed.
- The back panel that extends from the top covering at the wall end behind the headboard.
- Stationary side panels or bedpost panels. (Usually there are four, but some clients with especially attractive four-poster beds—such as antique carved wood—may want to leave the bedposts at the foot end uncovered to reveal their beauty.)



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## BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES

### Coronas, Half-Testers and Canopies



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## BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES

### Coronas, Half-Testers and Canopies

While you may discover as many variations for canopy treatments as for window fashions (some are listed further below), let's discuss a design for the covering where the fabric is shirred over a frame and gathered at the center (like a sunburst). For such a design, figure  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 times fullness for the central portion that is viewed from underneath. Don't forget to order enough lining as well.

The valance that extends around the perimeter of the canopy should be in good proportion with the bed fashion as a whole as well as in scale with the ceiling height and/or height of the four-poster bed itself. A general range might be 18" to 26".

Generally, measure the width of the bed or the headboard and add 6" to 8" for the width of the back panel. For a gathered back panel, also figure  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 times fullness. Finished length for this panel and the side panels will be determined by the height of the bedposts. Additional fabric is sometimes ordered so that *bishop sleeves* can be created or for a puddling effect at the base of the posts.

Side panels should also be figured at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 times fullness. This is one design for which you definitely should not skimp on fabric—the height of the bed calls for the right proportion of fabric to create balance and harmony. Anything less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times fullness may look skimpy. You may recall that in centuries past, when the bedroom was the focus of the house, sumptuous and expensive fabrics were a sign of wealth and status. This fullness is still a mark of extravagance.

Here are a few additional ideas for canopy styles, some involving more complicated frameworks: arch-top, bishop sleeves, box pleats, cloud valance, flat-top, inverted box pleats, lambrequin (with hard, framed extensions dropping at each bedpost), pencil pleat valance, ruffled tiebacks, ruffled canopy, shirred rod pocket and swags (tailored or free-form—free-form can work especially well with a metal frame that extends from the four posters in a box around the top of the bed). Many of these designs can and should be coordinated with a bedspread, additional bedding—such as dust ruffles and pillow shams—and window fashions.



## ACCESSORIES AND OTHER SOFT FURNISHINGS

You can create a great variety of soft fabric accessories and furnishings! If you are a one-person window fashions business (designer, workroom and salesperson wrapped into one), many of the items listed below could be made simply, keeping your costs down and your profit margins high. Even for designers who are not seamstresses, suggesting some of these accessories as part of a total design package can certainly build your business.

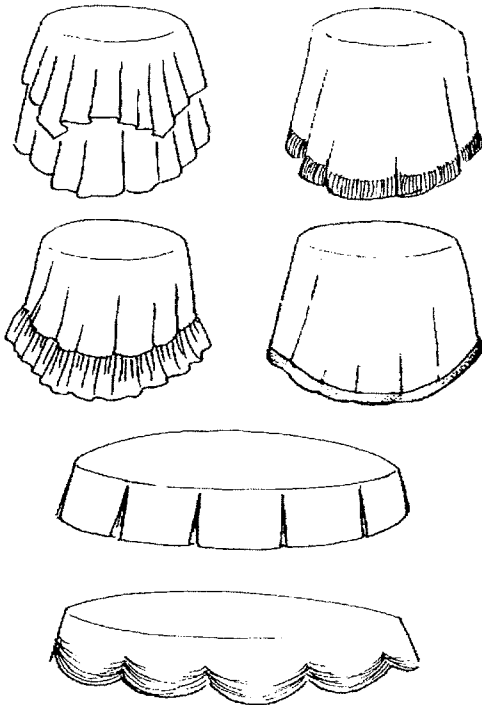
### Tablecloths

Tablecloths aren't just for the kitchen; the bedroom gives you a terrific opportunity to create a table cover for a bedstand or dressing table, whether the table is round, square, rectangular, hexagonal or octagonal. Tablecloths give you another place to repeat the same design motifs and trims as the bedding and window fashions: bows, contrast banding, cords, frills, fringes, lace, pleats, quilting, rosettes, ruching, scallops, shirring and tassels, to name a few. These design details will keep the whole room in harmony.

Tablecloths also provide an opportunity to repeat such elements of design as color, line and texture. Best of all, they don't require large amounts of fabric, making them an economical addition. You may want to line the fabric, however, to make a tablecloth drape well.

To figure table round measurements, use the following formulas:  
finished cloth diameter = table top diameter + table top height x 2 + allowances.

Hem circumference = table top diameter x 3.14.



Here are just a handful of ideas for simple table toppers.

If you make tablecloths for dining tables, consider creating coordinating or contrasting napkins and placemats as well. Simple extras like piping, quilting or ruffles can add design interest to oval, rectangular or hexagonal placemats. And for the environmentally conscious, you may not have much trouble convincing a client of the value of fabric napkins, which in addition to being kinder to the environment also provide a coordinated finished ensemble when given your design expertise.

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## BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES

### Accessories and Other Soft Furnishings



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## **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

### **Accessories and Other Soft Furnishings**

## **Shower Curtains and Sink Skirts**

The bathroom, particularly the bathroom in the owners' suite (the current popular term for the master bedroom), also should not miss your touch. Specify window fashions that meet privacy needs and aesthetic appeal, and then coordinate shower curtains and even soft fabric sink skirts (to conceal under-the-counter items or just to jazz up a boring vanity).

Many of the same designs now popular at the window have made their way into the bathroom too. Besides the traditional straight shower curtain hung from rings, tab-top/tie-top shower curtains and curtains hung from decorative hardware have livened up bathrooms. You can also layer fabrics, the same as at the window, with the "overdrapery" permanently held to the sides by tiebacks and under-layers pulled across the tub. Or just use a valance across the top. Be sure to order large enough rings or hooks to accommodate all of your layers, and don't forget to include a plastic liner!

## **Slipcovers**

Another wonderful way to build on your soft-furnishing and fabric sales is to create custom *slipcovers* for furniture throughout the home. Whether you fabricate tightly fitted slipcovers for an overstuffed couch or you design loose and flouncy "clothes" for straight-backed dining room chairs, you can give ever more options to your clients to use your services.

Slipcovers provide three opportunities for a strong sales pitch. By protecting the usually more expensive fabric of upholstered furniture (especially from the damaging rays of the sun), slipcovers extend the life of furniture. In some countries and in the United States in some high-end homes, furniture is covered every year in "summer whites."

The second reason to give your clients why they should have you create slipcovers for them is to revitalize their furniture. A slipcover doesn't have to be plain fabric—you can add pizzazz to the furniture they're tired of by helping them select a fun fabric or adding oversized bows or using bold stripes, or anything else to give a room a little injection of freshness. In addition to being able to update their decor, they can "try on" something different without going to the expense of labor- and time-intensive reupholstery, only to discover they didn't want to try something so different. Encourage them with your creativity!

The best thing to tell them is that slipcovers can be easily removed for cleaning. Most are affixed to furniture with zippers or hook-and-loop tape, and depending on the fabric, can be laundered in the home or sent out to be dry-cleaned. For clients with children you may want to specify fabrics that are soil-resistant.

### **Using "Leftover" Fabric**

Even the window fashions specialist who calculates precisely is likely to sometimes have additional pieces of fabric, as it's always wise to order fabric in adequate amounts from the same dye lots (see Lesson 7). For the accessories listed here, you may even want to plan for several additional yards of fabric.

Consider these accessories: small pillows trimmed to match the window fashions and bed furnishings you designed; shelves covered in fabric and decorated with trimmings; trimmed fabric "cases" for potted plants or waste cans; fabric-covered lampshades; or a trimmed, oversized floor pillow for pets. These items can also make terrific thank-you gifts for clients, to show your appreciation for their business without taking away from your bottom line. Such an unexpected courtesy might come back to you in referral business.



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### **BEDDING AND ACCESSORIES**

**Accessories and Other  
Soft Furnishings**



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**APPLICATION  
EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**Return this completed  
exercise to *Window  
Fashions* magazine  
with lessons 13 &  
15's to receive the  
Manual IV final exam.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone w/area code \_\_\_\_\_  
ID# \_\_\_\_\_

**1. A client would like a throw bedspread with a simple pillow tuck at the head end and cording around the base of the throw. Calculate the approximate total yardage of your primary fabric for a quilted bedspread to fit a twin bed with the following measurements:**

- length at top of mattress = 75"
- width at top of mattress = 38"
- distance from top of mattress to floor = 21"

You can estimate shrinkage for this particular quilting design at 10 percent. The pattern repeat on this 54" fabric is 12". Allow 2" for the corded edge.

**What will be the adjusted cut length? . . . The total yardage?**

**2. What is the difference between a corona and half-tester?**

**3. List 3 things that differentiate a comforter from a coverlet.**

**a duvet from a comforter?**



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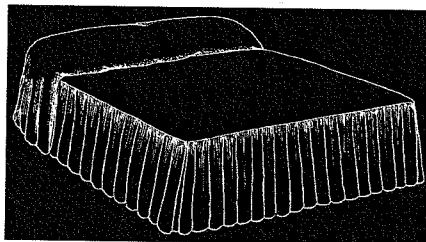
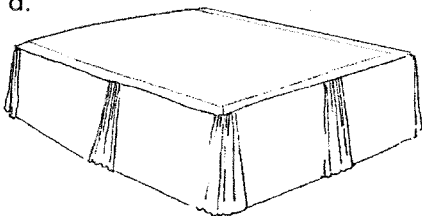
4. What options might you specify to a fitted bedspread?

to a pillow sham?

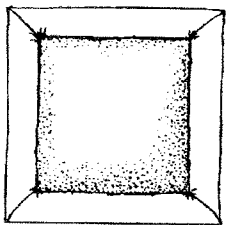
to a tableround?

5. Label these soft furnishings:

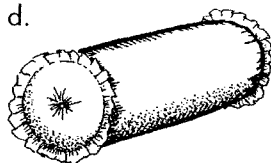
a.



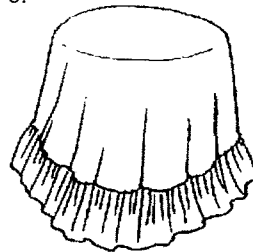
c.



d.



e.



\_\_\_\_\_ gathered drop bedspread

\_\_\_\_\_ neckroll

\_\_\_\_\_ cluster pleat dust ruffle

\_\_\_\_\_ flanged pillow

\_\_\_\_\_ ruffled tableround

**APPLICATION  
EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

Return this completed exercise to *Window Fashions* magazine with lessons 13 & 15's to receive the Manual IV final exam.



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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

- allowance**—An allowed difference from an exact measurement, which takes into consideration an additional amount normally required under common circumstances.
- bed skirt**—A fabric bed treatment which hangs below the mattress, concealing the box springs. It is commonly used with a coverlet. Also called a dust ruffle.
- bishop sleeve**—A design created when a generously sized panel of fabric is lifted up 12" to 18" under itself, giving a bloused effect. The fabric is held up by strings or ribbons.
- box pleat**—Flat pleat created by folding fabric back at each side of a pleat.
- brocatelle**—A type of silk strengthened with linen. It was used in the 17th century mainly for wall hangings.
- canopy**—A bed treatment that consists of a top covering that is suspended above the bed by bedposts at the four corners, often with a back panel that extends from the top covering to behind the headboard and stationary side panels at each bedpost.
- comforter**—A fabric bed treatment that is usually padded or filled and which does not have a full drop to the floor.
- corona**—A round or semicircular board covered in fabric and suspended above or at the back of the bed. In most cases, back and side curtains will extend from this "crown" to frame the bed.
- coverlet**—A bedspread which does not reach the floor.
- cut yardage**—A cut is a specific yardage order, smaller than a piece (or bolt) of fabric.
- drop**—In a bed treatment, fabric that falls from the edge of the top of the mattress to the floor. The measurement of this distance.
- dust ruffle**—See bed skirt.
- duvet**—A padded top layers, often filled with down, that is sometimes added to a bed to provide warmth and softness.
- fitted bedspread**—A bedcovering that is seamed around the perimeter of the bed and finished with box corners that fit closely to the edges of the bed. A pillow tuck or reverse sham is usually used.

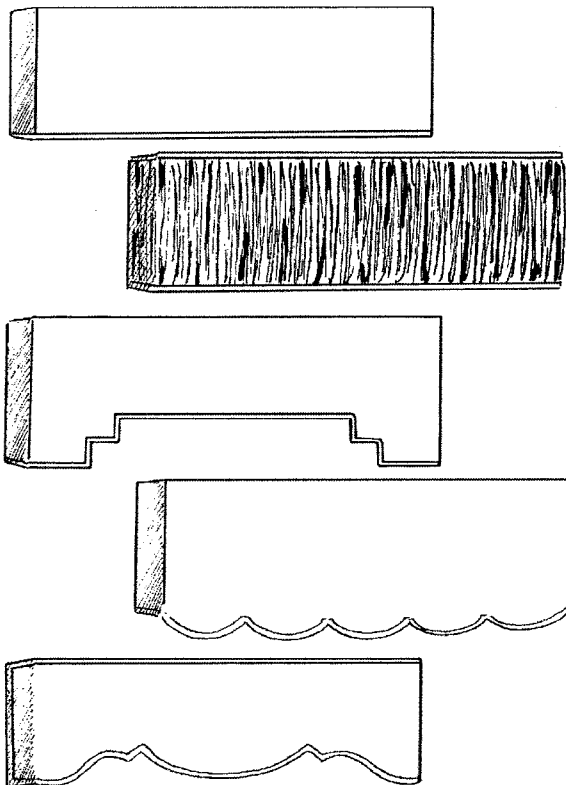
- focal point**—The area or specific object in a room to which an eye is drawn.
- four poster**—A bed that has a post at each corner, often with a fabric-covered ceiling and curtains at each corner. Often decorated with canopies.
- futon**—An article of bedding consisting of a pad of tufted cotton batting or similar material, used on a floor or on a raised frame as a mattress.
- gathered drop bedspread**—A bedspread that is quilted on top, piped along the edge and softly gathered along the sides, dropping gracefully to the floor. Because of its tailored design, this style lends itself well to a four-poster bed.
- half-drop**—In a bed treatment, fabric that falls from the edge of the top of the mattress toward, but not all the way to, the floor; usually used in conjunction with a bed skirt or dust ruffle. The measurement of this distance.
- half-tester**—This historical bed treatment is larger than a corona and rectangular in shape. In almost all cases, the half-tester will be the width of the bed and project from the wall only to the distance of the pillow shams on the mattress. Also called a partial canopy.
- holdbacks**—Various designs of decorative hardware that can hold curtains and draperies away from the glass of the window, or hold panels of fabric away from the head of the bed in bed treatments.
- partial canopy**—See half-tester.
- pillow tuck**—A bedspread fabricated with an allowance of fabric to tuck under the edges of pillows at the head end of the bed.
- repeat**—The design inclusive of the area between one edge of a pattern and where the pattern begins again.
- reverse sham**—A bedspread fabricated long enough to fold back on itself and cover the pillows at the head end of the bed.
- slipcover**—A fitted, removable cover of fabric for a piece of furniture.
- throw bedspread**—A simple bedcovering that falls loosely over the bed. The throw bedspread is usually completed with a pillow tuck or reverse sham. The bottom corners are usually rounded.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## Introduction

*Cornices* and associated upholstered treatments add to the drama of window fashion design whether used alone, with draperies or other soft underlayers, or with alternative window treatments such as blinds and shades. Consider the cornice as a blank “canvas” on which you can “paint” a picture with your design. If you aren’t already including cornices among the product options you’re offering to your clients, study this lesson and realize the incredible opportunity you have to create traditional, modern and avant-garde one-of-a-kind designs!



Cornices provide a classic topping for windows of any size and make an excellent overtreatment for draperies, vertical or horizontal blinds, and pleated or cellular shades. The cornice is constructed of a wood frame which is padded and upholstered in a decorative fabric and often finished with piping or other decoration on the top and bottom edges. But as a custom window fashion designer, your creativity is unlimited on this “canvas” at the window.

# CHAPTER FIFTEEN

## Upholstery: Cornices, Headboards, Etc.

### OBJECTIVES

- Learn the standard proportions for cornices
- Discover the two basic types of cornices
- Distinguish between cornices, cantonnières, and lambrequins
- Consider design options for cornices
- Calculate measurements and yardage for upholstered cornices
- Understand important considerations for specifying headboards
- Contemplate other upholstered accessories





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**UPHOLSTERY:  
CORNICES,  
HEADBOARDS, ETC.  
Considering Cornices**

**CONSIDERING CORNICES**

Cornices not only offer aesthetic appeal, but they serve several functional purposes as well. They can be the outermost layer in a window fashion, concealing the hardware of sheers and underdraperies or alternative window treatments. Usually designed with a *dustcap* across the entire top, cornices can prevent light gaps and add energy efficiency. Some cornice designs are installed right up to the ceiling, making maintenance hassle-free. Because of their solid construction, cornices can also be designed to be installed above the window opening, allowing maximum light to enter and giving you opportunities to correct architectural defects such as multiple window sizes and levels, to add height to short windows or to simply make any ordinary window appear stately.

Cornices offer a terrific opportunity to capitalize on other elements and principles of design (see Lesson 5). Shaped cornices can repeat architectural lines within a room, and fabric and trims can build on or contrast from the color scheme used throughout a room. Cornices with flat, upholstered surfaces invite trims or soft decorations that can be echoed on underlayers at the window or on other soft furnishings, while hard cornices can pick up on the motif of decorative moldings or border designs. Consider painting, stenciling or gilding to highlight form, line and texture.

Upholstered cornices are also ideal for displaying fabrics with large prints or patterns that are normally "lost" in the folds of pleated window fashions such as draperies and valances. The pattern is viewed across the large, flat surface in a prominent location.

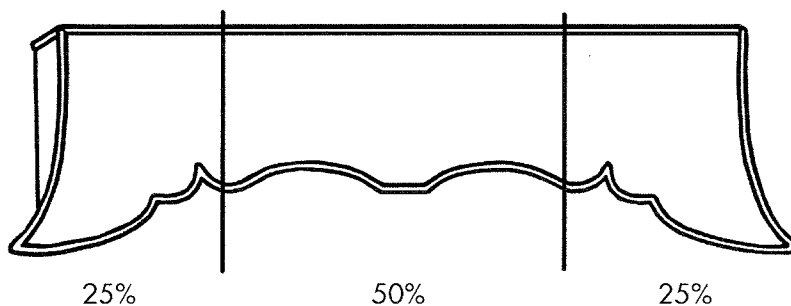
Or if it is your goal to make another item in the room the focal point, cornices can be designed to blend in with underlayers, wallcoverings and other soft furnishings. Swag fabric or drape tassels or other trimmings over the cornice to coordinate it with its surroundings. From plain boxes to elaborate layered and dressed treatments, cornices offer you versatility for any window setting—and usually at less expense than other top treatments as they require less fabric.

## LEARNING PROPER PROPORTIONS

Cornices, often referred to by the English as *pelmet*s, are *top treatments*, which means they don't cover the entire window opening. Even lambrequins and cantonnières (discussed below), which extend over more of the window, do themselves not block light or ventilation.

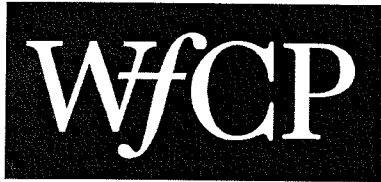
Because they are solid treatments, unlike sheers or other layers of fabric, you must be careful not to design them to such a proportion that they overpower the window. In general, the proportion of a cornice is one-sixth to one-fifth of the length of the entire window opening or full drapery length (if draperies are used in conjunction with the top treatment). Likewise, the top treatment portion of lambrequins and cantonnières should stay within these proportions, although the "legs" will frame the window down the sides. Proportions on cornices with shaped bottoms should also be considered. As proportion is a function of face width and depth, these shapes will change depending on width of the cornice. A shaped bottom on a cornice 40" wide looks much different on a cornice 120" wide. Always sketch for design intent. Remember the following guideline: linear width of cornice divided 25% / 50% / 25%.

One way to be sure the proportion of your design will be appropriate when finished is to use a *template*. Hang a sample of the selected fabric or a paper pattern of the proposed window fashion design at the window and stand across the room. Does it appear to be too skimpy? too cumbersome? Many other factors will influence the finished design (such as fabric choice, fullness, decorative trims, additional layers, surrounding wallcoverings and other potential focal points in the room), but you can at least get a good picture of the cornice's overall fit in proportion to the window.



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**UPHOLSTERY:  
CORNICES,  
HEADBOARDS, ETC.**  
**Learning Proper  
Proportions**



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**UPHOLSTERY:  
 CORNICES,  
 HEADBOARDS, ETC.  
 Basic Types of Cornices  
 Cantonnières and  
 Lambrequins**

**THE BASIC TYPES OF CORNICES**

As you learned in Lesson 10, a cornice is a type of top treatment constructed of a wood frame, often padded and covered with fabric. While in some parts of the United States cornices are solid wood treatments, intricately carved, painted or covered with sculptured resin, the term cornice also may refer to fabric adhered to a stiffener such as buckram which is then mounted to a board at the top of the window (sometimes called a pelmet board, even in the U.S.).

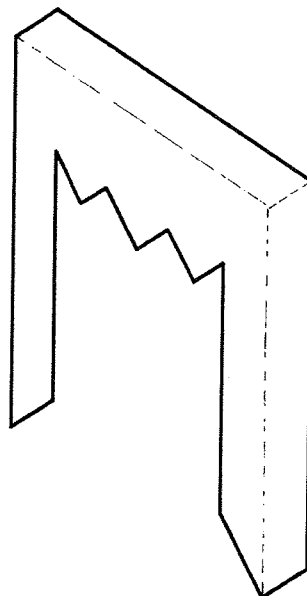
This "softer" version allows greater flexibility, as designs can be shaped and curved with less labor and expense than a solid wood cornice. They can be attached to pelmet boards by hook-and-loop tape such as VELCRO®, adding to design versatility as you can create multiple cornices for your clients which they can easily take down and replace as the seasons or their moods dictate.

Cornices are also commonly created from plywood, which is lightweight and easy to install. Padding such as Dacron® that is adhered to the plywood adds depth and a soft texture. Fabric covers the padding and wood, stretched taut and neatly finished at the back, out of sight. Even padded cornices can have curved or angular top or bottom edges, adding interest to the lines at the window. Understandably, the weight of completed cornices requires installation with angle irons for support.

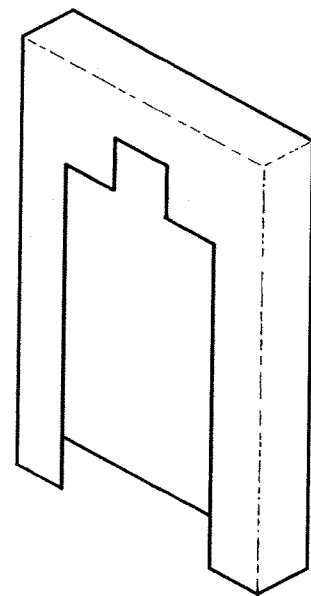
**CANTONNIÈRES AND LAMBREQUINS**

Two variations on standard cornices are cantonnières and lambrequins. While these elaborate treatments were highly fashionable in the 1800s, their relative obscurity today has caused great confusion over their quite obvious distinction. In other words, people (even window fashion professionals!) have come to use the same terms interchangeably and likewise for cornices, when in fact they are simple to distinguish.

A *cantonnière* is a rigid cornice which has "legs" descending from each end at the top of the window that frame the window part of the distance along the casement. These elegant and richly historical window fashions give a tailored look that works especially well with blinds and shades.



A cantonnière is midlength between a cornice box and a lambrequin.



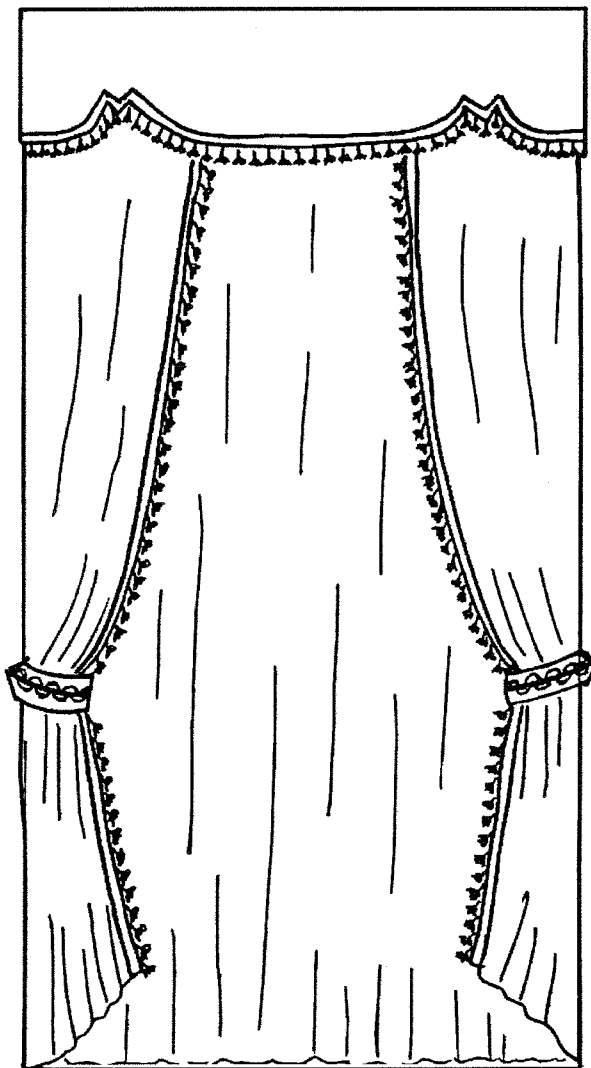
A lambrequin's "legs" extend to the floor.

A *lambrequin's* "legs" extend to the floor, providing a three-sided box for the window opening. Combined with heavy draperies, it can appear to be too bulky, but lightweight fabrics, curtains or sheers make wonderful underlayers to lambrequins.

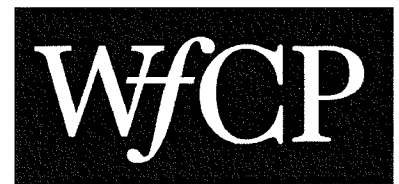
Because of their insulating qualities at the top and sides of the window, *cantonnières* and *lambrequins* help save energy and also prevent light gaps. One installation hint: Sizable *cantonnières* and *lambrequins* should be made in three sections by the workroom and assembled on site to ease problems in moving them. Remember to specify cutouts for baseboards, outlets, and obstructions.

### DESIGN OPTIONS

Cornices, *cantonnières* and *lambrequins* can be embellished in any number of ways. Consider cording at the top, bottom, across the face or along the sides; cutouts; an hourglass overlay; pleats or swags; ruching or ruffles; shirred banding or shirred cascades; sunburst designs; or fabric descending to the sides from a central crown. This is a custom window fashion product that cannot be shopped so easily!

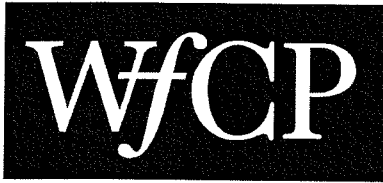


Here, a tassel fringe follows the bottom edge of a shaped cornice and is repeated along the leading edge of the draperies.



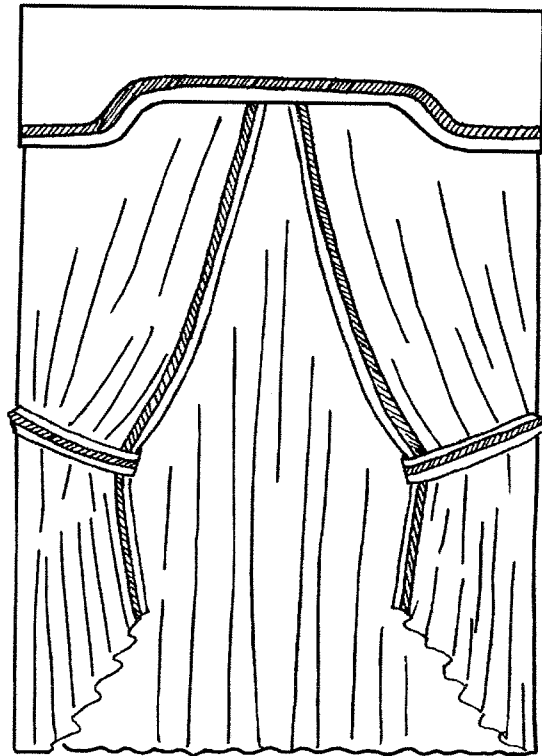
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**UPHOLSTERY:  
CORNICES,  
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Design Options**

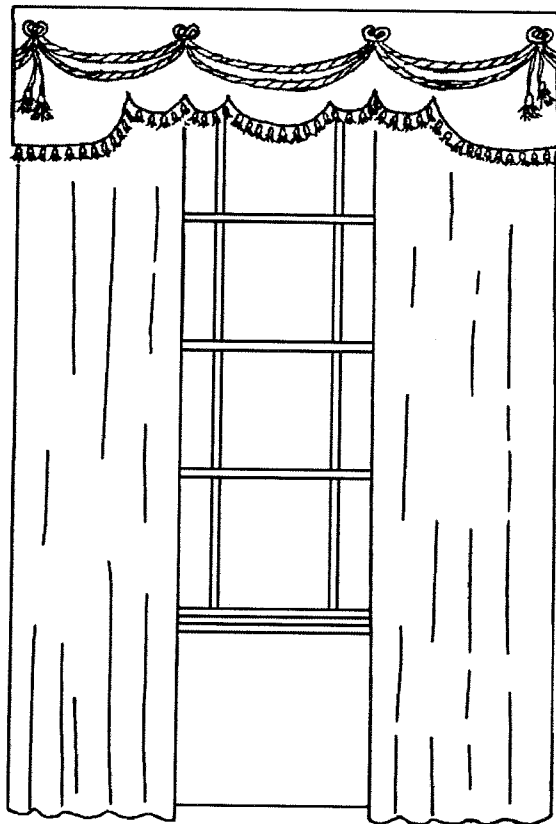


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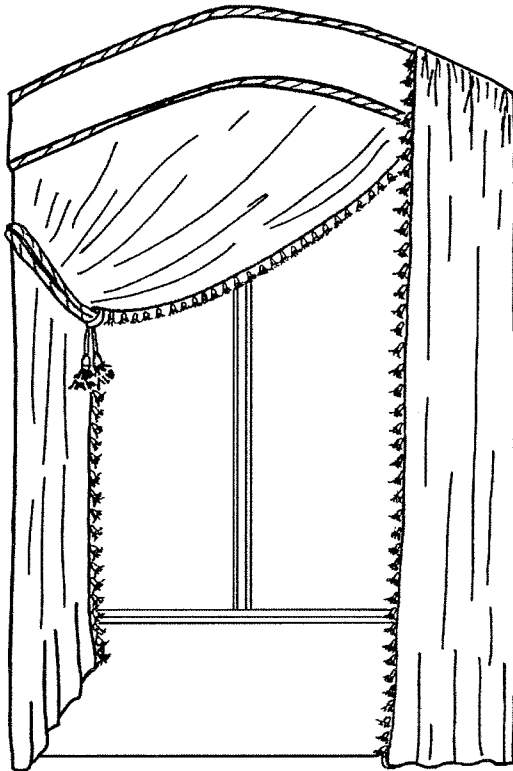
**UPHOLSTERY:  
CORNICES,  
HEADBOARDS, ETC.  
Design Options**



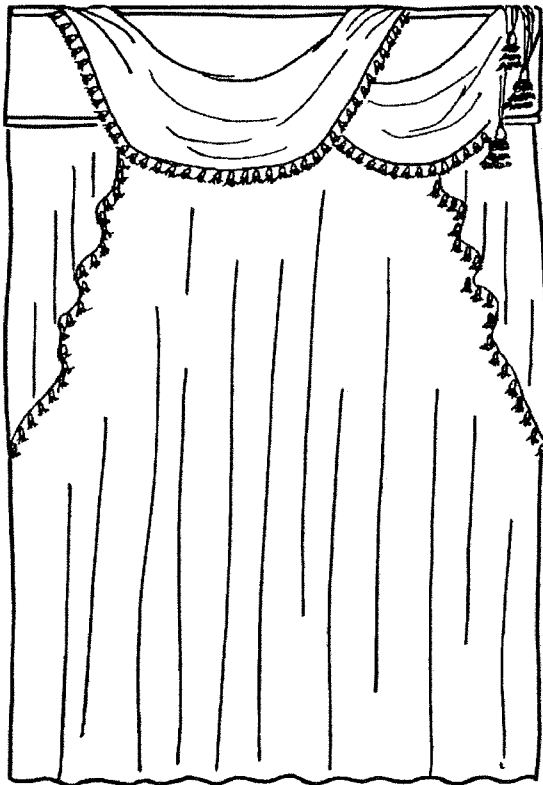
A simple sketch illustrates how an upholstered cornice can complete the window fashion design with coordinating fabric, leading edges and tiebacks.



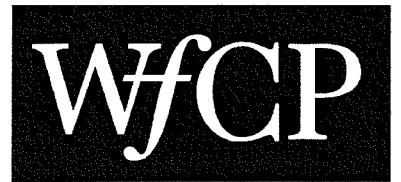
This window fashion emphasizes design at the cornice, while keeping the drapery panels simple.



Offer your client custom flair with an asymmetrical design incorporating a curved cornice.



Even standard window fashions such as swags and cascades can be given a dramatic difference when dressed over an upholstered cornice and accentuated with large tassels.



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**UPHOLSTERY:  
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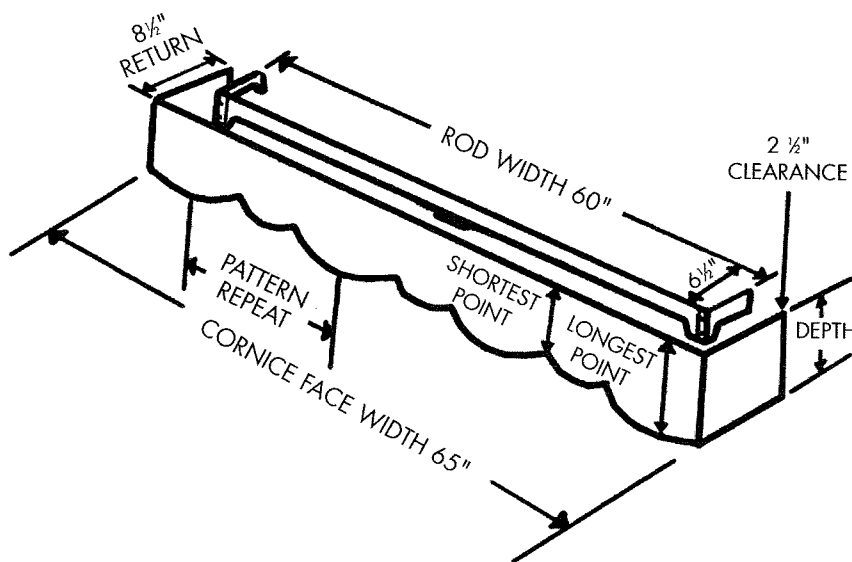
**UPHOLSTERY:  
CORNICES,  
HEADBOARDS, ETC.  
Measuring for Cornices  
and Upholstered  
Window Fashions**

**MEASURING FOR CORNICES AND UPHOLSTERED WINDOW FASHIONS**

There are several items you'll want to be sure to specify whether ordering cornices, cantonnières or lambrequins from a vendor (if you won't be creating them yourself).

- Measurements at the face (width and depth), plus returns
- Inside width plus clearance for undertreatments
- Total finished (outside) width
- The short point and long point of the face (or of the top section for cantonnières and lambrequins)
- The finished length of the "legs" for cantonnières and lambrequins
- Shaped edge—the design and whether shape will be at top or bottom edge
- Whether fabric should be railroaded to avoid seams (you will need to calculate appropriate yardage for railroaded fabric—see below)
- Measurement of pattern repeat for nonrailroaded fabrics where pattern needs to be matched at seams
- Specifications for trim, including size and placement

Most fabricators will also require a full-size template of the design.



This illustration shows essential measurements you will need to create a custom cornice.

When you are designing a cornice as an overtreatment, you'll need to leave room between the underlying rods and the finished cornices so that underdraperies, sheers, blinds or shades can operate smoothly. The standard allowance is 2½" from the rod or roller at the front and returns. As you calculate your measurements, you will add 5" to the rod face width of your drapery rod (2½" each side) as well as 2½" to each rod return.

For example, let's say you have a 48" rod that will support sheers under your cornice, and this rod has a 5" return.

### To calculate cornice face width:

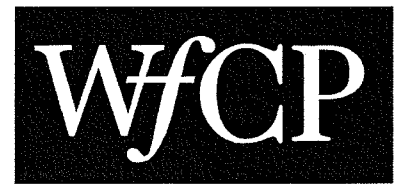
48"	rod face width (bracket to bracket measurement)
+ 5"	standard allowance for clearance (2½" each side)
<hr/>	
53"	cornice face width

### To calculate each cornice return:

5"	rod return
+ 2.5"	standard allowance for clearance (2½")
<hr/>	
7.5"	cornice return
53"	cornice face width
+ 15"	two cornice returns
<hr/>	
68"	total finished cornice width (to outside)

That's the simple part. But as a window fashions specialist, you may be designing cornices with sculptured or scalloped edges at the face, where some points will be longer than others. While a straight cornice has only one depth measurement (the height from top edge to bottom edge of the cornice face), a shaped cornice has two: the **long point** and the **short point**.

The long point, as is apparent by its name, is the greatest vertical height at any place along the horizontal face of the cornice. When we talked about proportions in this lesson and Lesson 3, we stated that generally the proportion of a top treatment is 20 percent or 1/5 of the total window treatment design or window opening. If a cornice is mounted entirely above the window opening or all the way to the ceiling, a proportion of 1/5 may be more appropriate for the space. The short point, the smallest height at any place along the horizontal face of the cornice, will depend on the design of the cornice, but it should at least cover the glass or any undertreatments by 3" to avoid revealing any hardware or the window frame underneath.



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**UPHOLSTERY:  
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 Calculating Yardage  
 for Upholstered  
 Cornices**

**CALCULATING YARDAGE FOR UPHOLSTERED CORNICES**

Continuing with the example we used above, let's walk through the steps for calculating the amount of fabric necessary for a printed fabric and for a railroaded fabric. (Incidentally, fabrics you select for cornices should be of medium weight and tightly woven for the best results. Fabrics that are lightweight may not be opaque to hide hardware or padding underneath and will be unstable. Upholstery fabrics need to be stretched taut across the frame; lightweight fabrics may pull inconsistently, and heavyweight fabrics may be too difficult to handle. See Lesson 7 for fabric variations and qualities.)

Let's assume for our exercise that the long point is 18". We also need to provide enough fabric to cover the dustcap, so we'll add the length of the return (the same length as would be required for the return of the dustcap from the front edge of the cornice to the wall) to our total cut length of the fabric. We'll also need to calculate additional yardage for the printed fabric's repeat, which for this example we'll say is 12".

**Calculating length and width for a printed fabric**

18"	long point of cornice depth
+ 7.5"	Return plus allowance for clearance (for dustcap)
+ 6"	standard allowance (enough fabric give for padding, overlap at back, etc.)
<hr/>	
31.5"	cut length
53"	cornice face width
+ 15"	two returns (including standard clearance)
+ 8"	standard allowance (enough fabric give for padding, overlap at back, etc.)
<hr/>	
76"	cut width*

\*Multiply this number by two times fullness if the fabric will be shirred on the face of the cornice, and by three times fullness if the fabric will be pleated.

**Calculating cut length when printed fabrics have a pattern repeat:**

31.5"	cut length
+ 12"	size of pattern repeat
<hr/>	
2.63	number of repeats needed
3	round up to nearest whole number
x 12"	size of pattern repeat
<hr/>	
36"	adjusted cut length

**Calculating cut yardage and total yardage required in this example for a printed fabric:**

	76"	cut width	
÷	54"	fabric width (54" is standard; you may be working with a different width)	
<hr/>			
	1.41	number of cuts	
	2	round up to next whole number	
	2	number of cuts	
x	31.5"	cut length	
<hr/>			
	63"		
÷	36"	(a yard)	
<hr/>			
	1.75	total yardage required (round up to nearest ¼ yard)	

However, if we were to design this project by railroading the fabric (where the fabric has been turned off the bolt so that the width becomes the length—which is recommended for cornices so there are no visible seams on the face), the calculations are simplified somewhat.

**Calculating length for a railroaded fabric:**

	53"	cornice face width	
+	15"	two returns (including standard clearance)	
+	8"	standard allowance	
<hr/>			
	76"	cut width*	
÷	36"	(a yard)	
<hr/>			
	2.11	total yardage required	
	2.25	round up to nearest 1/4 yard	

\*Multiply this number by two times fullness if the fabric will be shirred on the face of the cornice, and by three times fullness if the fabric will be pleated.

Does it seem a bit confusing? You'll have the opportunity to try these calculations in the application exercise later in this lesson.



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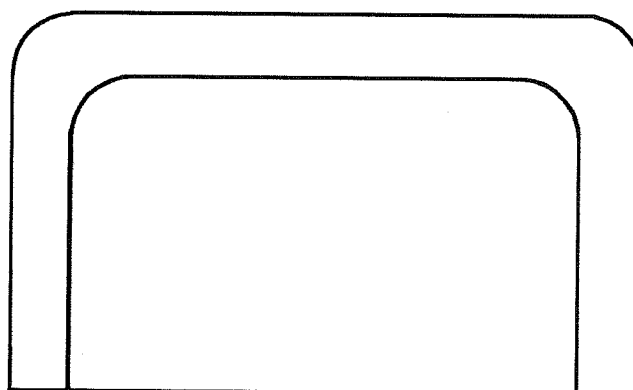
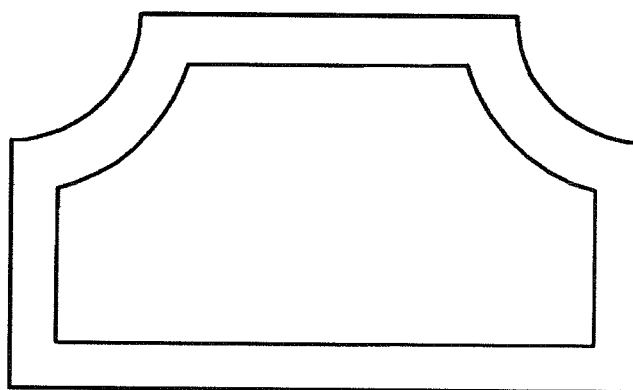
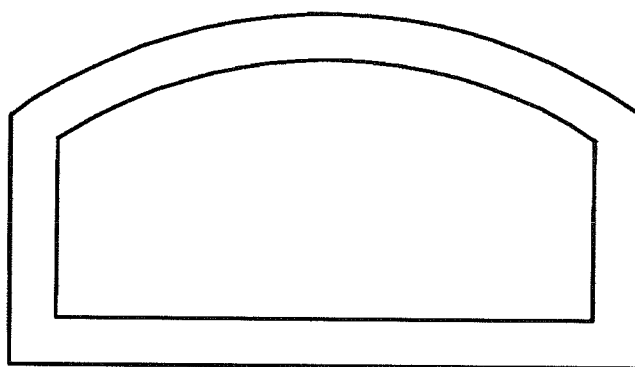
**Upholstered  
Headboards**

**UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARDS**

Like any upholstered piece, a *headboard* can add luxury and opulence to a room design. With the exceptions of more elaborate bed treatments such as coronas, half-testers and canopies (see Lesson 14), the headboard is usually a focal point in the bedroom. They can be decorative as well as comfortable when padded and covered with fabric and trims.

As is true for cornices, fabrics for headboards should be of medium weight and very stable to withstand upholstery techniques. A tightly woven fabric is best.

For custom touches, consider buttons, piping, ruching or ruffles to jazz up plain headboards and to coordinate the headboard with window fashions and other soft furnishings.



Here are just a few ideas for upholstered headboards.

## Important Considerations for Upholstered Headboards

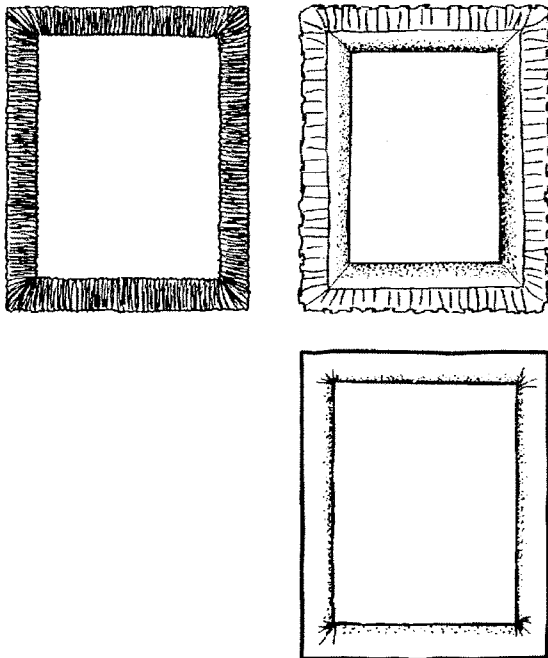
There are several things to remember when specifying fabrication of upholstered headboards. It's wise to create a template for your design and temporarily attach the template to the wall behind the bed where the headboard will be located. Stand across the room to view its appearance. The height and width should be balanced with the bed and the room as a whole. As you work with a headboard, you may think it seems larger than it actually is, because the legs and the bottom edge of the finished headboard will eventually be concealed by the mattress, box spring and the layers of bedding, including pillows. Therefore, it's even better to hang the template behind a bed that is completely made up to truly visualize the proper proportions.

Another important note is to measure the width of the bed and add 1¼" to each side to calculate the width of the finished headboard. This total of 2½" is an allowance for a dressed bed, as blankets, quilts and bedcovers will extend on either side of the mattress. Without this allowance, the finished headboard may look skimpy in width after installation.

## Other Upholstered Pieces

Once you've begun to order or create your own quality upholstered cornices and headboards, you may want to expand your product lines to include shaped benches, ottomans, cushioned footstools, window seats, storage stools, even trunks. Add special touches with unusual or complementary shapes; trims and tassels; pleating, gathers, piping, ruffles or other decorations you've used in designs throughout the room.

Many items can be inexpensively upholstered—with a resulting healthy profit, if you produce quality at the right price. The more products you have to offer your clients, the more they can keep coming to you and referring you to new business.



The ultimate in custom decor—fully upholstered mirrors. Fabric may be ruched onto frame or pulled flat and finished around the edges with matching piping or ruffles.



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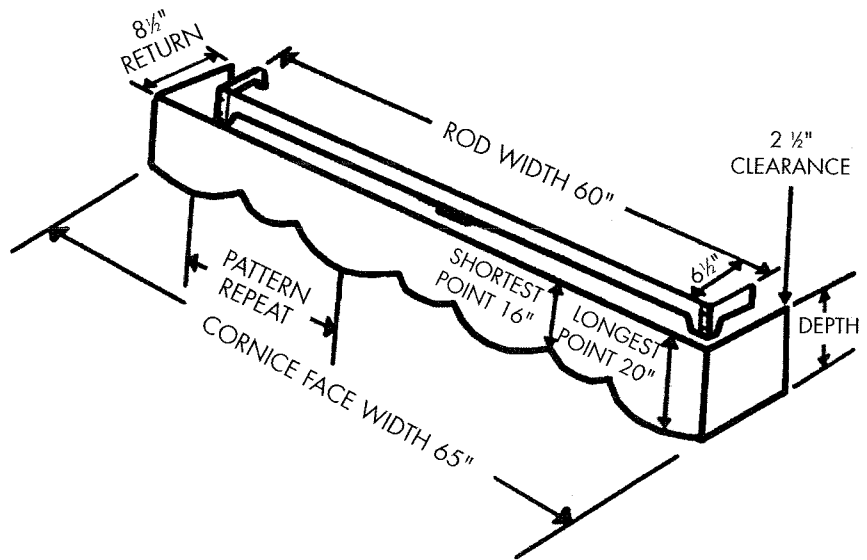
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**APPLICATION  
 EXERCISE(S)/  
 PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

Return this completed exercise to *Window Fashions* magazine with lessons 13 & 14's to receive the Manual IV final exam.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone w/area code \_\_\_\_\_  
 ID# \_\_\_\_\_

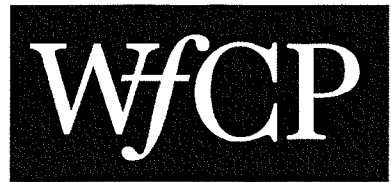
**1. Here's what you know about this practice project:**



There is a Shirred undertreatment to be mounted on a rod to be concealed by the cornice, which has a dustcap (2½ x full). The 54" width fabric selected for the project has a 12" repeat, and it will be a Shirred cornice. The cornice and rod will be mounted at the ceiling.

**2. Use the previous example to calculate the appropriate fabric amounts for:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ cornice face width
- \_\_\_\_\_ cornice return
- \_\_\_\_\_ total finished cornice width (to outside)
- \_\_\_\_\_ cut length
- \_\_\_\_\_ cut width
- \_\_\_\_\_ adjusted cut length for pattern repeat
- \_\_\_\_\_ number of cuts
- \_\_\_\_\_ total yardage



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3. If you were instead to design this same project by railroading the fabric, what would the total yardage be?

\_\_\_\_\_ total yardage

Show your calculations:

**APPLICATION  
EXERCISE(S)/  
PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

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As you can see, when you select a pattern that can be railroaded to avoid pattern matching at seams, the calculations are simpler, but the project requires more yardage. Sometimes the difference isn't as great as it is in this particular example, so you may want to do all calculations to figure the best method.



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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- allowance**—An allowed difference from an exact measurement, which takes into consideration an additional amount normally required under common circumstances.
- cantonnière**—A top treatment similar to a lambrequin, except that the “legs” only descend part of the distance of the window, not all the way to the floor.
- ceiling board**—See dustcap.
- cornice**—A type of top treatment constructed of a wood frame or mounted on a stiffener such as buckram. In some areas of the U.S. this term may also refer to a wood frame padded and covered with fabric.
- cuts or cut yardage**—A cut is a specific yardage order, smaller than a piece (or bolt) of fabric.
- dustcap**—A horizontal board at the top of a cornice which protects and conceals the hardware and components of undertreatments. With the cornice face and returns, creates an unfinished “box” at the top of the window.
- headboard**—A board or panel at the head, or wall end, of a bed. It can be upholstered and is usually coordinated with other bed treatments, window treatments and soft furnishings.
- lambrequin**—A top treatment that is constructed on a wood frame, padded and covered with fabric. In some areas of the United States, a lambrequin only refers to such a top treatment with “legs” that extend to the floor; a cornice that completely frames the window. Sometimes used interchangeably with valance or cantonnière.
- long point**—The longest point of a top treatment; the length of a top treatment should be approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total treatment length.
- pelmet**—A chiefly English term used interchangeably in the United States for valance or cornice (top treatments).
- short point**—The shortest point of a top treatment; the short point should come a minimum of 3" into the glass and cover the heading of the undertreatment.
- template**—A pattern used as a guide for accurately measuring a window opening (often used for the unusual shapes of specialty windows); given to the fabricator to assist them in producing a properly sized window treatment.
- top treatment**—Any decorative design at the top of a window. Top treatments can sometimes stand alone or be incorporated as part of a larger window treatment design. This definition includes cornices, lambrequins, valances and some standard designs such as swags.
- valance**—A horizontal top treatment constructed from fabrics; may be flat, pleated or gathered; may hang from a board or rod.

