

Plan Your Window Treatment

The pinch pleated custom drapery is the true classic of window treatments. Pleats made of fabric folds at regular intervals control fullness. The more fabric that is pleated to fill a given width of draperies, the fuller the draperies become. The fuller the draperies, the more luxurious the appearance. The instructions that follow recommend a 2½ to 1 (125%) fullness for regular fabrics and a 3 to 1 (150%) fullness for sheers. You may adjust these suggested fullnesses to fit your taste.

You will wish to line your draperies (unless you are working with a sheer or open weave). Lining will add body, protect your drapery fabric from sun damage, plus add an extra layer of insulation at your window.

You will need:

- Traverse rod
- Drapery fabric
- Lining fabric
- Cynoline
- Drapery hooks or pins
- Drapery weights
- Thread
- Steel tape measure
- 6" hem gauge

Install Drapery Traverse Rod

First, install your drapery traverse rod. This will allow you to take accurate measurements. As a general rule, traverse rod end brackets should be mounted at least 4" from the side of the window and at least 4" above the window to conceal hooks, pleats and light from the outside. You will need to extend the rod further if you wish your draperies to "stack" clear of the window. "Stackback" allowance equals ½ of window width. (Divide half of the stack allowance on each side for a two way draw.) Also keep in mind that draperies can create the illusion of larger windows, hide architectural defects, or unify unmatched windows.

When you have installed your rod, there are two basic measurements to consider: **finished width** and **finished length**.

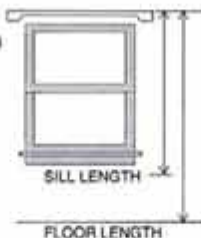
Finished Width

The finished width equals rod length plus returns plus overlap (standard returns are 2½", overlap and underlap 3½" each; therefore add 12" for a two way draw pair).



Finished Length

The finished length is the distance from the top of the drapery heading to the bottom finished edge. The drapery may hang just below the window sill or to the floor (allow ½" clearance at the floor).



NOTE: For decorative traverse rods, top measurement should be taken from underside of slide ring.



Determine the Total Width and Total Length

To determine the **total width** (fullness needed for pleating) multiply the finished width by 2½ (for medium to heavy weight fabrics) or multiply by 3 (for sheer or lightweight fabrics).

$$\text{FINISHED WIDTH} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \text{ or } 3 = \text{TOTAL WIDTH}$$

*This amount will be divided by 2 when making a pair.

Add 16" to the finished length to determine the **total or cut length**. (This 16" includes 8" for a double 4" bottom hem and 8" for heading-fabric is wrapped around cynoline twice.)

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{FINISHED LENGTH} \\ \text{HEM \& HEADING} \\ \text{ALLOWANCE} \\ \hline \text{TOTAL OR CUT LENGTH} \end{array} = \text{TOTAL OR CUT LENGTH}$$

Calculate the Amount of Fabric Needed

To find the number of widths of fabric needed, divide the **total width** by the width of the drapery fabric. (Drapery fabrics are generally 48" or 54")

$$\text{TOTAL WIDTH} \div \text{WIDTH OF FABRIC} = \text{NO. OF WIDTHS}$$

To calculate the number of yards of fabric to buy, multiply the total length by the NUMBER OF WIDTHS and divide by 36"

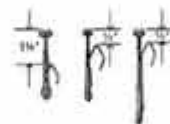
$$\text{TOTAL LENGTH} \times \text{NO. OF WIDTHS} \div 36 = \text{YARDS}$$

Allow one full pattern repeat for matching printed fabrics. It is advisable to purchase an extra 3" of fabric to allow for straightening the ends. Add extra fabric for making self-sebacks or trim.

Keep these figures close at hand. You will refer to them during construction.

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For an alternative to sewing, try Conso's Fuse-A-Trim™ adhesive tape.



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Style 61412, 3" wide. Permanent linen woven cynoline. Washable and dry cleanable.

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Hovotex™

Especially for sheer and lightweight fabrics.

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Shank slips between heading and drapery.

Style 32058. For use with 3" drapery heading. Regular traverse rod.

Style 32060. For use with 4" drapery heading. Regular traverse rod.

Style 32068. For use with 5" drapery heading. Decorative traverse rod.

Style 32085. Lightweight pin-on hook.

Style 32073. Heavy-duty pin-on hook.

Style 11044. Tab weights, 1" catch cover. Tab allows weights to be stitched in place.

Style 11103. Vinyl covered, 1" square weight ("E" weight) for drapery hems. Can be tacked in place.

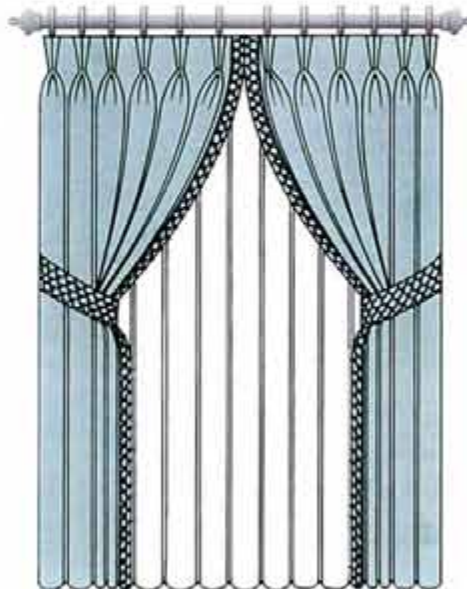
Style 12736. Weighted tape ¼" diameter. For use with sheer curtains.

Conso Fuse-A-Trim™
Style 10705
¼" width. For hemming.



How to make...

Custom Pinch Pleated Draperies



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How To Make Custom Pinch Pleated Draperies

1. Cut and Prepare Fabric Panels

It is a good idea to square end of fabric by pulling a crosswise thread before cutting. Cut drapery fabric to total length measurement. Seam widths of fabric together, with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, matching pattern. Selvages should be clipped or trimmed away if they cause seams to pucker. Press seams. Half width of fabric should be placed at the outside edge of a panel.



Lining fabric should be cut 6" shorter than the drapery fabric. Seam lining widths together.

2. Lower Hems

With drapery fabric wrong side up, turn up 4" at the lower edge, press. Fold another 4" and press again. This is a double 4" hem. Stitch a drapery weight inside hem at each seam. Pin hem close to fold. Hand sew or iron hem in place. Lining hem - turn up a double 2" hem and press. Machine stitch, or iron with Fuse-A-Trim™, hem in place.

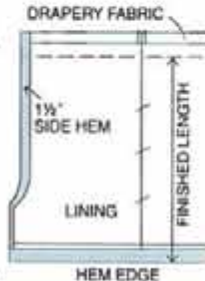


3. Side Hems

On a large flat surface lay drapery fabric wrong side up. Lay lining out, right side up on top of drapery fabric.

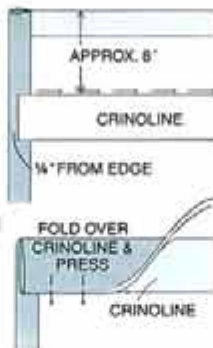
Bottom of lining hem should be 2" above bottom of drapery hem, align seams. Smooth any wrinkles and pin at seams to secure lining from slipping.

Working with lining and drapery fabric as one, turn a double $1\frac{1}{2}$ " side hem. (Fold fabric over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", press; fold once more to enclose all raw edges.) Pin side hem in place.



4. Mark Finished Length

Measure up from the lower hem of the drapery, a distance equal to the finished length. Mark with pins every 4". This line indicates the placement of the top edge of the crinoline.



Pin crinoline through all layers, or if working on a padded surface, use push pins to hold crinoline from slipping. Remove pins from finished length line.

At this point, check to see if raw edge above crinoline is even and not longer than 8" above top of crinoline. Trim even, if necessary (lining should be slightly shorter).

Turn fabric and lining at top over crinoline and press. Tuck remaining fabric back up under crinoline working carefully to smooth any folds, removing pins as you go. Press again; pin in place.

Stitch by hand or iron sides of heading and side hems at this point. Enclose a drapery weight in each side hem at the lower edge.

5. Pleating

To determine how much fabric must be taken up in pleats, measure the total width of the panel and subtract the finished width (rod width plus returns and overlaps).

$$\frac{\text{TOTAL PANEL WIDTH} - \text{FINISHED WIDTH (IN FINISHED WIDTH FOR PANEL)}}{\text{TOTAL INCHES TO BE PLEATED}}$$

Determine the number of pleats and spaces

Generally you will have 5 pleats per fabric width and 2 pleats in each half width. (Example: A panel $2\frac{1}{2}$ widths will have 12 pleats and 11 spaces plus return and overlap.)

$$\frac{\text{FABRIC WIDTH}}{\text{X 5}} = \text{NO. OF PLEATS} - 1 = \text{NO. OF SPACES}$$

Size of Pleats

Divide the total inches to be pleated by the number of pleats. This is the fabric allowance for each pleat.

$$\frac{\text{TOTAL INCHES TO BE PLEATED}}{\text{NO. OF PLEATS}} = \text{SIZE OF EACH PLEAT}$$

Size of Spaces

To determine the size of each space, divide the rod length (this is the finished width minus returns and overlap allowance) by the number of spaces.

$$\frac{\text{ROD LENGTH (OR W' ROD LENGTH FOR HANG)}}{\text{NO. OF SPACES}} = \text{SIZE OF SPACES}$$

Round off the size of the spaces to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Ideally, pleats should be approximately 6", spaces approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Adjust number of pleats and spaces to reach these sizes.

Mark Pleats and Spaces

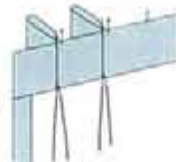
At the leading edge, measure in $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (overlap) and mark with a pin. Measure and mark first pleat, alternate marking spaces and pleats across heading. The fabric at the end should equal the return.

NOTE: Spaces between pleats should remain constant, any adjustments should fall within a pleat, position seam line at outside edge of pleat.



Make Pleats

Fold drapery heading so that pins marking pleats meet. Stitch parallel to fold, in line with pin mark. Backstitch at each end. Continue across heading. When all pleats are sewn, double check to see that panel width matches finished width required. Make adjustments if necessary.



Tack Pleats

Fold each pleat into three iron folds, press with fingers. Tack folds together by hand or by machine.



7. Install Draperies

Crease spaces between pleats forward for regular traverse rod and back for decorative rod. This will help draperies "stack" easily when drawn open. Pin a drapery hook at the back of each pleat and at ends of each panel. Press draperies and install on rod beginning at master carriers.

8. Train Draperies

After being hung, draperies need to be "trained" so their pleats and folds hang evenly. Train the folds in your draperies by stacking them open and arranging the folds evenly from top to bottom. Pull pleat folds forward and push back the folds in between. Loosely tie strips of fabric around draperies to hold in place. Leave draperies tied for at least three days, when the folds are removed the folds should be set.

