Make YOUR OWN CURTAINS

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THE TREND IN ARCHITECTURE toward use of more and larger glass areas in a house has created curtain problems that did not exist a few years back. It has increased the demand for the kind of curtains that control light and increase privacy, as well as soften the effect of the interior. Also, it has been partly responsible for increasing the variety of materials and designs in curtain fabrics.

The purpose of this publication is to give help in curtain making—from buying the yardage and hardware to hanging the finished curtain. By following approved methods, the homemaker who knows sewing fundamentals can obtain professional results and be justly proud.

Suggestions are presented for making three types of glass curtains—tailored, ruffled with valance ruffle and tieback, and cafe curtains.

Construction details for draw draperies, or curtains, and side draperies are not included. See Oregon Extension Bulletin 721, Make Your Own Draperies.

SELECTION OF THE FABRIC

Windows are a part of the background of a room. For this reason fabrics selected for them must be in harmony with the total decorative plan.

For maximum satisfaction, look for these properties in a curtain fabric when you go shopping:

- Colorfast to light, laundering, or drycleaning
- Will not shrink or stretch
- High resistance to fire
- Soil resistant
- Deteriorates little with exposure to light and heat
- Fibers will not break easily when bent, as they are in folds of curtains
- Good draping quality

Material that will soften and diffuse light, yet will not close out too much light

For more details on planning and selection, see Home and Garden Bulletin No. 4, “Window Curtains—Planning and Selection” for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, 25, D.C. There is a charge of 20¢ per copy for this publication.

Perhaps you will not always find a fabric with all the qualities you desire. You may need to rate one quality higher than others. An example is the problem window above a radiator. You need a fabric that will stand up well when exposed to heat, but the best fabric for this purpose may not be the best in draping qualities. In this case, you would select the fabric with the greatest heat resistance.

YARDAGE NEEDED

What is the space to be curtained?

Do you want the curtains to cover just the window frame and a part or all of the glass? Or will they extend out onto the wall and come just to the edge of the glass? You need to decide these points, as well as the kind of hardware fixtures and rods you plan to use, before taking any measurements. Curtain hardware should be in place when you measure.

For accurate measurements, use a yardstick, or a folding ruler with good ends, or steel tape. Measure each window. Windows that look the same size may
vary enough to make a difference in yardage needed. Measure for height at both sides of a window. Ceiling, floor, or frame may not be level, and adjustments will be needed in the length of the curtain or the placement of the rod. The structural lines of a window used for taking measurements are shown in figure 1.

Width of space—Measure the space to be covered. For glass curtains that cover the entire window, this is the length of the rod from one side of the window to the other, plus any depth of return at each side (that portion of the rod or bracket that extends from the wall to the part that spans the window).

For draw curtains, it is the length-of-rod measurement plus the depth of the returns, if any, plus the length of the overlap at center, if one is used. No measurement for underlap is necessary as it is included in the length-of-rod measurement.

For ruffled curtains, figure separately the part of the rod to be covered by the body of the curtain and the part to be covered by the ruffle. Ruffles may be gathered into a space 2 to 3 inches less than their total width (figure 1).

Cottage or cafe curtains may cover one-quarter, one-half, three-fourths, or the whole window, as desired.

Length of space—To be most attractive, curtains should reach to some structural part of the wall—the sill, the lower part of the apron, or the floor. Measure from the top of the rod to the place you wish curtains to reach. Add to the rod-to-bottom measurement the amount you want the curtains to extend above the rod. Unless a cornice or separate valance is to cover the upper frame of the window, or wooden poles are used, some heading usually is needed above the curtain rods. For curtains with a casing, 1 inch may be about the right amount; for pleated curtains ½ inch may be enough.

If curtains are to be hung on rings below the rods, subtract the diameter of the ring from the total length measurement. For floor-length curtains, subtract 1 inch for clearance at the floor.

For tiered cottage or cafe curtains the top section usually overlaps the bottom curtain 2 to 3 inches.

How full should the curtain be?

The amount allowed for fullness, plus the width of the space to be curtained, adds up to the width of the finished curtain—a basic dimension in determining yardage. There is no set amount of fullness curtains must have. Make your decision according to the type of curtains you select, the material you use, and your own preference.

In general, curtains are more likely to be skimpy than too full. For curtains that cover a whole window, an allowance for fullness of 100 per cent of the space to be curtained is a good average. That is, the curtains are about twice as wide as the window. In some instances, with soft, sheer materials, there may be as much as 150 to 300 per cent fullness; with heavier materials there may be as little as 65 per cent.
As a rule, side curtains need more fullness than do most curtains that cover the entire window. Those that are less than twice as wide as the space to be covered (have less than 100 per cent fullness) are likely to look skimpy. If you're using a material with very little body and no lining, the curtains will look better if made very full. When draw curtains are pulled back to make side draperies there is often 500 to 600 per cent fullness for the space to be covered.

Cafe curtains are usually more attractive with 100 per cent fullness.

**How many widths of material will you need?**

To get the number of widths needed, divide the estimated finished width of the curtain by the estimated finished width of the material you are considering. (The estimated finished width of the material is its actual width minus allowances for selvages, side hems, and seams, and including any allowance for matching of design.)

If the number of widths figured is an odd number and the curtain is to be made in two panels, half of one width will go on each panel. If you do not want to use a half width in each panel, allow an extra width and use a full width instead of a half width on each panel. This additional width will change considerably the amount of fullness in your curtain. For example, if you find that 3 widths of 36-inch fabric (1¼ widths in each panel) are needed to give 100 per cent fullness, using an extra width (2 full widths in each panel) will increase the fullness to 167 per cent.

**Selvages, seams, and hems**—For tailored curtains made from plain materials a 3-inch allowance on each width is usually enough for trimming the selvage edge, and for making seams and hems. On fabrics with a pattern a greater allowance may be needed for matching.

For ruffled curtains of plain fabrics, a 2-inch allowance for selvages, seams, and hems may be enough. More may be needed for figured materials.

Ordinarily it is best to trim off selvage. If it is left on and the curtain is laundered, the selvage draws up or stretches and causes the curtain to hang unevenly. The selvage may also draw up or stretch if steam or water is used when a curtain is drycleaned.

**Width of material to buy**—The width of material to buy depends on the amount of fullness desired and the space to be covered. For example, a slight change in width due to shrinkage may result in undesirable appearance after washing. If one width of a narrow fabric barely gives the desired amount of fullness in each panel when the curtains are new, it will be better to buy a somewhat wider material. Ask about the various widths of fabric. Often the same fabric is available in more than one width. If a narrow window needs only a 36-inch fabric for the fullness you want and a wider window takes a 50-inch material for the same fullness, purchase fabric of different widths to eliminate seams.

**How much yardage should be allowed?**

To determine total yardage you need to know the length of cut (the finished length of curtain plus allowances for hems, casing and heading, seams, and shrinkage) and the number of cuts.

**Tailored curtains**—To determine the length of cut for a tailored curtain to be shirred onto a rod, add to the finished-length measurement about 3 inches for bottom hem and about 3 inches for a top hem if a heading is used. Add to this any shrinkage allowance.

If no heading is used and the curtain is hung under a cornice board or with a separate valance you may find an allowance of 1½ inches at the top enough. When a curtain is to have a French heading (groups of pinch pleats) and to be unlined, allow 3½ inches for the top hem—enough to cover and turn under the crinoline. If the curtain with a French heading is to be lined, you may allow only 1 inch for the top.

*If the material has a design,* divide the length of cut by the size of the design motif to get the number of repeats needed. For a fraction of a motif allow a full repeat on yardage for each cut. This will make it possible to begin each cut at exactly the same point in the design. Multiply the length of each cut by the number of cuts.

**Cafe curtains** (hung with rings or fabric loops). See sketches, pages 8 and 9. First determine a pleasing division of the window space. The structural elements of the window can guide you here. Keep in mind rules of good proportion in dividing the area. This means you will not usually divide the window in two equal spaces since this is not as interesting as an unequal division. If you plan a valance the depth should be determined at this time.

After you know how you wish to divide the space and the hardware is placed, measure the finished length of each panel (may be 2 or more tiers). To this length add 3 inches for a hem, 2 to 3 inches overlap on the upper panels only, then deduct the inside diameter of the hanging ring. If a fabric loop is to be used, deduct one-half the finished length of the loop. If desired, a double hem may be allowed for shrinkage.
Cottage curtains. (See sketches, pages 8 and 9.) Proceed as for cafe curtains except do not make a deduction for hanging rings or loops. Allow 2 or more inches for a casing with heading, or 1 to 1½ inches if no heading is planned.

Ruffled curtains. To find the yardage needed for each cut for the body of ruffled curtains (with or without an attached ruffled valance) with a casing and heading, add to the finished-length measurement the allowances for the top and bottom hems and shrinkage, and subtract the width of the ruffle. Multiply the length of each cut by the number of cuts.

To find the length of cut needed for ruffles for the body of the curtain, add to estimated finished width of the pair of curtains twice the length of one cut for the body of the curtain, plus the amount needed for fullness. Ruffles may have from 50 to 150 per cent fullness, depending on the sheerness of the fabric.

If the ruffle is to be cut crosswise of the material, divide the length of the ruffle strip by the width of the material to find the number of strips needed. Then multiply the number of strips by the width of the strip to get the yardage needed for the ruffles. If the ruffle is cut lengthwise instead of crosswise of the material there will be fewer seams, but some slight adjustment in width and fullness of ruffles may be necessary.

To find the length of cut for a separate valance, add to the desired depth of the valance the allowance for casing and heading, bottom hem, and shrinkage; then subtract the width of the ruffle. Figure yardage for ruffles on the valance the same as for body of curtain.

For tiebacks suitable for ruffled curtains at the average single window, allow two 18-inch lengths on one ruffle cut for the body of the tiebacks and twice this length for each ruffle.

Recording measurements

For professional results there must be a coordination between figuring yardage and actual making of the curtains. Since the same calculations are needed for both operations, you should record all figures to help you in both buying and construction. A record is especially important if much time elapses between buying your material and making your curtains.

An example is given of calculations needed for tailored curtains showing factors affecting buying fabric, cutting, and making floor-length curtains for a picture window 9'1" wide and 6'10" high.

For ruffled curtains, follow steps as given for tailored curtains except deduct from width measurement the space taken up in the width by ruffles at center. See figure 1 and table 2.
TABLE 2. RUFFLED CURTAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ruffle</th>
<th>Valance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Width of ruffle and valance.</td>
<td>34&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Actual finished width of pair</td>
<td>102&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Twice the length of each cut.</td>
<td>175&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Three times length of tieback (Includes tiebacks)</td>
<td>54&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Amount of ruffling required (Add A, B, C)</td>
<td>331&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Fullness (Desired per cent of D)</td>
<td>331&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Total length of strip required (Add D and E)</td>
<td>662&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Width of material (Less selvage)</td>
<td>35&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Number of strips required (Divide F by G)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Width of strip (Including heading and hems)</td>
<td>5&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Yardage required for ruffle and valance (Multiply H by I)</td>
<td>95&quot; + 35&quot; = 130&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Yardage required per pair (Add yardage required for body of curtains and J)</td>
<td>3921&quot; or 11 yds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An example of calculations needed for a two-tier cafe curtain which will meet in the center for a window 9'1" and 7' high, is shown below.

TABLE 3. CAFE CURTAINS

(1) Finished length .............. 85"
(2) Width of material ............. 50"
(3) Size of pattern repeat (In this example we are using plain fabric) ..............

A. Length of rod .............. 110"
B. Total width to be curtained .............. 110"
C. Estimated fullness (100% of B) .............. 110"

D. Total width of curtains for window (Add B and C) .............. 220"
E. Width of material .............. 50"
F. Estimated width of selvages, seams, and side hems .............. 3"
G. Estimated finished width of material (Subtract F from E) .............. 47"
H. Number of widths per curtain (Divide D by G) .............. 4.68
I. Adjustment to full width (Add or subtract from H) .............. 68
J. Number of widths needed for curtain .............. 4
K. Actual finished width of material (Same as G) ..............
L. Actual finished width of curtains (Multiply K by J) .............. 188"
Actual per cent fullness (Subtract B from L; multiply by 100, and divide by B) .............. 71%
M. Distance from sill to top of rod .............. 85"

(Following figures based on a 2 to 3 proportion for two tiers.)
85" total finished length ÷ 5 parts = 17"
17" x 3 parts = 51" (top tier)
17" x 2 parts = 34" (bottom tier)

N. Measurement of top tier
1. Length of top tier (including hanging rings) .............. 51"
a. Add hem allowance .............. 3"
b. Add allowance for scallop facing .............. 4"
c. Deduct diameter of hanging ring (Add a, b, and deduct c) .............. 58"
2. Cut length of top tier .............. 57"

O. Measurement for bottom tier
1. Visible length of bottom tier .............. 34"
a. Add length concealed under top tier overlap to top of rod .............. 3"
b. Add hem allowance .............. 3"
c. Add allowance for scallop facing .............. 4"
d. Deduct diameter of hanging ring .............. 44"
2. Cut length of bottom tier (Add a, b, c, and deduct d) .............. 43"

P. Total yardage required per cut for two-tier curtains cut of plain fabric (Add N-2 and O-2) .............. 100"
Q. Yardage required for window 9'1" wide and 7' high (multiply J & P) .............. 400" or 11½ yds.
To get the curtains you have planned for, it is essential that the calculations used in figuring yardage be applied when you make your curtains.

For example, line BB in table 1 is the yardage allowed per cut. To make the cuts longer would naturally result in too little material for the last cut. To make the cuts shorter would call for an adjustment in heading or bottom hem—more likely a too short curtain. If the material has a pattern, to use less than the amount allowed per cut might make it impossible to match design motifs from cut to cut.

Also, in making the curtains, it is necessary to use the amount planned for hems and headings; otherwise curtains will not be the length planned. If side hems and seams that join widths together are varied much from the allowance there will be a change in the fullness planned.

**CURRENT TRENDS IN CURTAINS**

Due to trends in today’s architecture, draw curtains are often used, especially for large picture windows. These may be fully lined draperies, or a semi-opaque casement to soften and diffuse light in the room.

Cafe and cottage curtains have been popular for some time. This type of curtain should be used with windows that have horizontal divisions, such as double hung windows. Cafe curtains allow easy control of light, air, and privacy. Upper and lower panels may be open or closed, or one open and the other closed. They are informal in feeling and blend well with today’s informal way of living. Because side panels are divided, these curtains are easier to launder than curtains of longer lengths. They are easy to hang, take down, to wash and clean, and to sew if you make them yourself.

The only difference between cottage curtains and cafe is in the method of hanging. Cafe curtains are hung with various types of rings or by self-fabric loops, while cottage curtains are made with a casing, with or without a heading. Cafe curtains lend themselves to greater flexibility in light control since they slide more easily over the curtain hardware.

The following sketches show suggestions for cafe and cottage curtain treatments.

**Figure 2. Cafe and Cottage Curtain Treatments**
Figure 3. Heading Suggestions for Cafe Curtains

*Pinch pleat*

*Fabric loop with buttons*

*Hem trim*

*Self loops*

*Pointed heading with clips*

*Straight top, self loops*

*Pointed heading, self or contrasting loops*
MAKING THE CURTAINS

Full directions for making lined and unlined draw draperies and side draperies are given in Extension Bulletin 721, available from all Oregon Extension offices.

Presented on the next few pages are directions for making three kinds of curtains. Various adaptations and combinations can be made. For example, cottage curtains may be a combination of ruffled and tailored glass curtains. Dutch curtains are no more than two sets of tailored glass curtains. Draw curtains for a window wall can be made in sections from directions given for single-window draw curtains. Side draperies are merely an adaptation of draw curtains. The construction processes used are not in every case the only ones that will give satisfactory results. But, because the aim is to give simplified step-by-step directions, only one way is shown for doing each step.

In the directions for tailored and ruffled glass curtains, sewing machine attachments are used extensively. You can make these curtains without the attachments, but it will be easier for you and give you more satisfactory results if you use them.

No matter what type of curtain you are making, measure every cut carefully and mark it on the material before you cut into the yardage. This makes it possible to detect any flaws in the fabric and to mark each cut at the same place in the pattern of figured material.

It is rarely possible to spread out all the fabric at one time, so spread out the material for the first cut, measure, and pin mark it. Then fold each succeeding cut over the one before it.

After the material and cuts have been checked, draw a thread marking the top and bottom of each cut to use as a guide in cutting. For a perfect drape to the curtain, the cutting must be done on a crosswise thread. Some fabrics may be torn instead of cut, if tearing does not stretch or fray the edges.

Cut off all selvages on the fabric. If the fabric ravelers easily, remove selvages just before hemming, and after the plain seams have been made. Clipping at intervals will prevent long ravelings.

Tailored Glass Curtains

Given below are the steps in construction for the floor-length glass curtains shown in figure 4.

Hems—Cut off selvages. Then, to prevent the sheer fabric from fraying in laundering, hem the four sides of each width on the sewing machine using the 1/16-or 1/8-inch hemmer attachment.

Measure and fold the side hems (see measuring plan for allowance) to the wrong side, baste, and press. Machine stitch the hem to the wrong side, making the needle go through the same holes as in the small hems. By matching the two rows of stitching this way, you avoid the bulky line that otherwise results when one row of machine stitching is made over another row.

Enclose the shrinkage allowance in the bottom hem. To do this, measure the allowance for shrinkage at the bottom of each panel. Fold it to the wrong side, press, and baste. Then turn up the remainder of the hem allowance (⅛ inch of total hem allowance was used in the narrow hem). Press and baste hem in position. Machine stitch the hem, using a medium-long stitch with a slightly loosened tension so it may be easily removed to lengthen the curtains.

Sew the ends of the hem together by hand to prevent the shrinkage allowance from showing. Start at the top of the hem on the wrong side and work from right to left. Use a small slipstitch.

Headings—Measure and fold to wrong side the allowance for heading and casing. Press. Baste and machine stitch over the row of machine stitching on the small hem. To form the casing, make a row of machine stitching across the curtain about 1 inch below the top fold.

Ruffled Curtains

Following are the steps in construction for the ruffled curtains shown in figure 5.

Hems—Cut off selvages; then to prevent the sheer fabric from fraying in laundering, hem the outside edge of each panel on the sewing machine, using the 1/8-or 1/16-inch hemmer attachment. Measure side hem attachment. Measure side hem on outside edge of each panel, then turn, press or baste, and stitch the hem.
Ruffles—Sew strips of ruffling together in a narrow seam (about ¼ inch) and press open. Hem both sides of ruffles with the 1/8-or 1/16-inch hemmer attachment. Clip each seam at the hem, fold raw seam edges in, and bring the folded edges together. Sew by taking small over-and-over stitches, just catching the folded edge of the seam as shown in figure 6. (The zigzagger attachment may be used here.)

To attach the ruffles to the body of the curtain use a ruffler attachment, following the instructions for the attachment for the sewing machine being used. Set and test it for the amount of fullness desired, using the curtain fabric. Reset the ruffler for plain stitching. Place the raw edge of the long side of one panel wrong side up under the lower guide; insert the ruffle, right side up over the curtain between the two blades and into the heading guide farthest to the right. Plain stitch the ruffle strip about 8 inches at the top. Adjust the attachment for the desired amount of fullness as previously determined. Stitch the rest of the ruffle strip to the curtain, increasing fullness at corners.

When sewing the ruffle to the other panel, first hem the end of the ruffle strip. Then, starting with hemmed edge of the body of the curtain wrong side up, gather the ruffling across the end and down the side to within 8 inches of the raw edge of the curtain. Reset the ruffler and plain stitch the rest of the way. The plain-stitched portion of the strip is used to prevent a bulky appearance where the ruffle is shirred on the rod.

Turn the ruffle on both panels so that the ruffle heading laps over the curtain, and top stitch ¼ inch from the first stitching, enclosing the raw edges of the curtain. (See figure 7.)

Casing and heading—Turn the allowance for the casing and heading to the wrong side on the line that will be the finished top. Press. Turn under the raw edges (about ¼ inch) and stitch along the folded edge. Also stitch 1 inch below top of fold (figure 8) to make the casing.

Valance ruffle—Hem one end of the valance ruffle with hemmer attachment. Gather and attach ruffle as follows: Place the top of the curtain right side up under the lower blade from the left side, with the stitching at the bottom of the casing in line with the needle. Place the valance ruffle, right side up, atop the curtain between the two blades and into the heading guide at the right. Stitch. Hem the other end of the valance ruffle. Top stitch ¼ inch above the first stitching line. (See figure 9.)
Shrinkage tuck—Make a tuck of the shrinkage allowance. Measure, press, and baste the tuck on the wrong side just below the casing. Machine stitch, using a long stitch and loose tension. (See figure 10.)

Tieback—Fold a 3- by 18-inch strip lengthwise down the center. Seam across one end and along the raw edges. Turn and press. Turn in open end and sew with small stitches through folded edges. Insert the tieback from the right side into the lower guide and under the low blade, and insert the ruffle from the left side into the heading guide and between the two blades. Stitch. Hem the other end of the ruffle. Top stitch / inch above first stitching as on the curtain. Sew rings at each end.

Cafe Curtains
Following are the steps in construction for unlined cafe curtains shown in figure 11.

Side hems—Cut off selvages. Measure and turn hems to wrong side of fabric. (Refer to measuring plan for width.) Press or baste in place, and stitch. Do not turn bottom hem at this time.

Scalloped heading—Across the top width of the fabric, turn back \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch to the wrong side of the fabric, and edge stitch. Now turn 4 inches back onto the right side of the fabric to form your facing allowance. (See figure 12.) Pin in place.

Fold the top into 5 or 6 equal parts. The number of parts will depend on total width allowed for curtain. Mark divisions with pins. Cut a piece of cardboard 4 inches deep, and as wide as the distance between pins. Define the depth of the scallop as shown in figure 13. Cut off not more than \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch straight across the sharp point on each end of the scallop. With a longer piece of cardboard, mark off several scallops using your adjusted pattern as a guide. Pin facing allowance carefully so edges exactly match, and fabric will not slip. Lay the cardboard marker directly over the facing, trace the outline on the fabric until all scallops are marked. (See figure 14.) Allow \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch at the top of each scallop for seams.
Stitch along scallop mark. Cut ¼ inch above scallops, and trim seam as shown in figure 15, making one edge shorter on the facing side. Slash seam along the inside curve. Turn facing to wrong side and pin it so edges exactly match. Press. NOTE: For very shallow scallops use a narrower facing.

For box pleats, you will find it easier to apply a separate facing after your pleats are laid, but if you plan pinch pleats turn back 3 to 4 inches of your fabric for a facing before cutting out the scallops. (See figure 12.) The following steps are for boxed pleats.

Fold your fabric into equal divisions of not less than 8 inches (5 inches for scallop and 3 inches as a minimum allowance for pleats). This will be a rough estimate of material needed for one scallop and one pleat.

Leaving the fabric folded, place a pin in the exact center of the first two divisions. Using a minimum allowance of 1½ inches from one outside fold (must be folded side, rather than hemmed side) place another pin. From this pin, measure the distance to the center pin of the first division. (See figure 16.) This gives you the exact number of inches to be measured from both sides of the center division pin (total scallop width). The space left at each side of fold is one-half the pleat space as shown in figure 17.

Unfold fabric, and measure exact scallop and pleat width. Cut a cardboard pattern for one scallop and pleat as shown in figure 18. Starting 1 to 1½ inches from hemmed edge, test out pattern to make sure scallops will start and end the same distance from each
side. Adjust and cut a corrected pattern if necessary. For greater accuracy, mark off several scallops and pleat spaces on a longer piece of cardboard.

![Cardboard](image)

**Figure 18.**

Lay your cardboard pattern directly over the fabric, starting a scallop 1 to 1 1/2 inches from the hemmed edge (no pleat space allowed at hemmed edges). Mark with chalk and cut as shown in figure 19.

![Pleat space](image)

**Figure 19.**

Make a single or double box pleat, depending on weight of the fabric and amount of fabric left for pleating. (See figure 20.) Finish with a separate facing.

![Figure 20.](image)

A facing may be omitted and the scallops finished with bias tape to form both a binding and the loop as shown in figure 21.

![Figure 21.](image)

**CURTAIN HARDWARE**

Good curtain hardware is a wise investment. High-quality rods, or poles and fixtures, will outlast many pairs of curtains and give constant satisfaction. Inferior curtain hardware can destroy the effect of perfectly made curtains and be an annoyance each time the curtains are put up or taken down.

The main purpose of curtain hardware is to make the curtains easily adjustable to the window. Usually this can be done with simple, substantial curtain rods. Straight flat or round rods are suitable for glass curtains and draperies for most windows. Shaped rods may be purchased for special windows—such as curved rods for arched windows, or rods with angles for bay windows. Traverse rods for draw curtains may be bought ready-to-install, or assembled at home.

For buying rods and fixtures, the width measurement of the space to be covered is needed. The three places to take this measurement are shown in figure 1, page 4. Use the measurement that corresponds to the type of curtains you are making. Curtains also may be hung from the ceiling on tracks. In that case, measure the length the track is to extend.

If a cornice is used, it may be possible to screw the rod brackets to the ends of the cornice. The cornice must be durable enough, however, to hold both rod and curtain. Lined draw curtains for a wide window, for instance, may be so heavy that it would be more satisfactory to attach the cord to the window frame.

Following are illustrations of the main kinds of curtain hardware with helpful information about each.
CURTAIN RODS, POLES, AND FIXTURES

ROUND RODS

Single

Solid brass rod. Brackets with sockets or with returns and sockets.

Double

Solid brass rods. Brackets with returns and sockets.

FLAT RODS

Single with returns

Straight steel rod with three or more sections that slide into each other. Short end sections with returns. Brackets with prongs.

Oval rod — successor to solid round rod; bracket with return.

Single without returns

Straight steel rod in three sections. Short end sections have no returns. Brackets with prongs.

Separated sections

Straight steel rod in several sections. Separate end sections with returns. Brackets with prongs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purposes</th>
<th>Characteristics you may like</th>
<th>Characteristics you may not like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| For curtains with casing, curtains with French heading, draw curtains. | Usually rigid.  
   May be painted if desired, if used for hanging side draperies only.  
   May be attached to wooden or steel window frame, or to end of cornice. | Length not adjustable.  
   May sag if used over wide space with insufficient support. |
| For cafe curtains.                                                     | May be attached to wooden or steel window frames.                                            |                                                                                                  |
| For glass curtains with side draperies or draw curtains.               | Same as above.                                                                               | Same as above                                                                                    |
| For curtains with casings or with French headings.                    | Rigid if well selected, particularly if cut with long section the width of the window.      | Rods with short extension sections or rods of lightweight steel may not be rigid enough to keep curtains from sagging. |
| For curtains with shirred work and cafe headings.                     | Strong, does not sag; available in a choice of ivory, satin brass, dull black.               | Length may not be adjustable; usually cut to measure.                                            |
| For sash curtains and curtains on casement windows that open in.       | Rod holds curtain close to window pane.                                                       | Not suitable for some medium weight fabrics that look bulky when shirred close to sash.          |
| For curtains at bay windows.                                           | Simplifies hanging; curtains that turn a corner.  
   Rigid.                                                             | Uncurtained spaces between rod sections.                                                       |
**FLAT RODS** (cont.)

**Single curved**
Straight steel rod curved at the end. Brackets with prongs.

**Double**
Two straight steel rods, each in three parts. End sections with returns. Brackets with prongs.

**Double-end**
Three straight steel rods, one rod in three or more sections, two partial rods in two sections. Short end sections with returns. Brackets with prongs.

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**TRACKS**

**Traverse track assembly**
Single solid brass rod, brackets with sockets, pulleys, overlap fixture, and cord.

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**I-Beam traverse track**
Straight steel rod with returns, support plate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purposes</th>
<th>Characteristics you may like</th>
<th>Characteristics you may not like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To give an arched effect to glass curtains.</td>
<td>Can be used to make fabric conform to shape of curved window and to give a formal effect in a room.</td>
<td>Has limited use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For glass curtains with side draperies.</td>
<td>Rigid if well selected. Adjustable. Part of outer rod that shows between draperies may be painted color of curtain or to harmonize with draperies.</td>
<td>Rods not rigid if poor quality. Portion of rod uncovered between draperies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For glass curtains with side draperies.</td>
<td>No uncovered rod between drapery panels. Rigid if well selected.</td>
<td>Rod rickety if poor quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For draw curtains.</td>
<td>Less costly than assembled track, particularly if brass rod is already in place.</td>
<td>Rod may not be rigid if used over wide space to hang heavy curtain. Separate parts may be difficult to obtain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For draw curtains.</td>
<td>Very strong. May be used with heavy curtains. Simple; operates smoothly. Track flexible; can be curved to fit corner windows.</td>
<td>Length not adjustable. Can be cut shorter but cannot be made longer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TRACKS** (cont.)

**Flat rod traverse track**

Steel rod, concealed cord, adjustable brackets.

**WOODEN POLES**

Wooden pole, wooden or brass rings, and wooden bracket or cornice with sockets.

**FIXTURES**

**Swag**

Plastic pleater with *steel* bracket attached.

**Cartridge pleat**

Flat steel rod with loops for pleats, bracket holder with *S*-shaped swinging arm bracket.

**Drapery pleater**

Steel fixture with steel clips and "fingers," brackets attached to fixture.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For draw curtains.</td>
<td>Rod can be painted if desired. May be cut to fit width of window.</td>
<td>May sag at wide window if not well-supported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side draperies, draw curtains.</td>
<td>Pole can be painted color of window frame, or color to harmonize with draperies.</td>
<td>Has limited use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For swag valances or full-length curtains.</td>
<td>Spaces folds of material evenly. Curtain may be left unpleated and can be spread out for cleaning.</td>
<td>Arranging curtains each time they are hung is time-consuming. If used at wide window, curtains are likely to sag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For side draperies.</td>
<td>No rod visible between panels. Pleats need not be sewed in, so curtain can be spread out flat for laundering or cleaning. Cartridge-shaped pleats attractive.</td>
<td>Covers only a limited space. Fabric must be measured accurately and pinned carefully each time curtains are hung. Rod has no support on ends; frequent adjustment necessary to keep curtains from sagging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For side draperies.</td>
<td>No rod visible between panels. Pleats need not be sewed in; curtain can be spread out flat for laundering or cleaning.</td>
<td>Covers only a limited space. Fabric must be adjusted each time curtains are hung. If spring clips and “fingers” wear, fabric will sag. Frequent adjustment of curtains necessary. Medium- and heavy-weight fabric likely to sag.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIXTURES (cont.)

Six-way

Steel flat-rod with returns, adjustable swinging arm bracket.

Flexible rodding

Roding of flexible steel can be cut to any length.

Rings 1.

Brass, steel, or plastic; shaped for round or flat rods.

Rings 2.

Brass or plastic; sew-on or pinch-grip type. Shaped for round or flat rods.

Drapery pins and hooks

Brass or steel; pinned or sewed to curtain.

Weights

Steel; uncovered or covered with fabric. May be obtained in different sizes. Small uncovered ones may be obtained by yard for sheer fabrics.

THREADING A TRAVERSE TRACK ASSEMBLY

Thread cord through one side of double pulley A. Knot in center ring B. Thread through single pulley D. Knot in center ring C. Thread through other side of double pulley A. Cut the cord that was last knotted at C a foot longer than the other and attach a weight to each end. Single rings between each pulley and end of rod are not threaded.
<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For side draperies.</td>
<td>No rod between panels.</td>
<td>Rods tilt easily. Adjustment screws do not keep rods level for heavy curtains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May be adjusted to hang curtains over wall or window.</td>
<td>No support for ends of rods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May be adjusted to hang curtains close to wall or several inches away.</td>
<td>Frequent adjustment of curtains necessary. Difficult to keep securely attached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May be swung open for cleaning window—or against wall to prevent curtains from blowing when window is open.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bends freely in every direction.</td>
<td>Installation is time-consuming; each small section must be nailed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For hanging curtains with French heading inside arches or casings, on outward curves, on curved bay, inside cornices and corner bays.</td>
<td>Rings slide easily on rod so it is easy to adjust curtains on the rod.</td>
<td>If curtains are heavy, rings drag on rod. Some plastic rings do not move easily on painted rods unless rods have been painted with metal paint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For hanging curtains with French headings.</td>
<td>Functional and decorative.</td>
<td>Sew-on type rings must be removed for laundering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For hanging curtains with cafe headings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For hanging side draperies or draw curtains with French headings.</td>
<td>Sometimes slight differences in curtain length can be adjusted by changing position of pins.</td>
<td>Some pin points not sharp enough to pass easily through curtain heading, especially if heavy crinoline is used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long hooks and pins help hold heading straight.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For holding straight lightweight fabrics and heavier draperies hung on unusually tall windows.</td>
<td>Helps maintain desired drape to curtain.</td>
<td>Medium and large round weights require covering; are sometimes bulky and difficult to press over, and difficult to attach neatly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>