

This window was 16 cm wide and 14 cm deep.

There was 2 cm from top of window to ceiling scotia. It is important to determine this early on in the job.

The window sill was 6.5 cm from the floor.

The curtains consist of four elements.

An Austrian Valance

A main curtain

A Side Banner

A swag

The Austrian Valance

Measure the inside width of the window. This valance will be glued to the top inside window frame.

In this case it was 13 cm wide so cut the fabric this width plus hemming allowance. Make the top hem wide enough to insert a long piece of craft wood 1mm thick. Fit after step 2.

Method of ruching the material. Step 1.

In life size, there are curtain tapes that have two parallel channels for a cord to travel through and a place between them in the middle to stitch the tape to the curtain material. Obviously there was no such tape easily to hand for me.

I made my own tape by using a 1cm wide cotton tape. I handstitched two rows of long stitches on either side and left a space in the middle to stitch to the curtain. See diagram.

When you have stitched the tapes, line them up with your hemmed piece of blind. Keep the top of the tape below your top hem so you can pull up the threads and catch the bottom of the tape onto your bottom hem. Sew on the lace

The Over-the-Top Victorian Swag curtain treatment and how to make it.



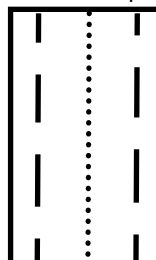
or fringe you want along the bottom hem. Stitch down the middle of the tape onto the blind. You can use a sewing machine for this. Use the same colour cotton as your base material.

It is better to sew the tape on the side edges and only pull up the one of the line of long stitches but you can just stitch your tape equally spaced across your blind and just hand stitch and gather the sides of your blind to keep the bottom line even.

Step 2. So, working on the wrong side, pull up your long stitches working the folds as best you can. You will never get lovely regimented folds in this scale as the material is too stiff but you will get a nice ruched effect. When you have the look and length you want, tie the two parallel threads together.

Step 3. Slide the craft board through the top hem allowance and glue the top of the blind to your top window framing inside the main frame.

To Make tape.



If you cut 6 lengths and do them separately it is easier. **You cannot use the tacking stitch on a sewing machine because it is still too tight.** You need to have at least 35mm long intermediate stitches and 40–60 mm long top

The Main Curtain

The size of this piece unhemmed to fit the previous window size was 20 cm wide and 23 cm long. Allow for top and bottom hems and side hems.

To make an inexpensive fringe use a piece of cotton. Do a row of stitches about 1.5 cm in from one edge. Pull the threads back to this row of stitches to make your fringe.

Sew curtain rings of the size you want along the top keeping them flexible where they meet the fabric. You want to be able to twist them into line when assembling.

This is the easy curtain!

The Side Banner

1. Use a piece of material the same as your main curtain as the base. Cut a shape 30 cm long the shape of a mans tie with the narrow measure across the top of 6cm—not including hems. Squared off 10 cm across the bottom—not including hems. Sew trim down sides and on the bottom.

The 30 cm length allows you to fold over the top in a wide hem to insert the curtain dowel and a narrow hem at the bottom. This is A.

2. Find a nice piece of lace or a feature panel that will suit. B.

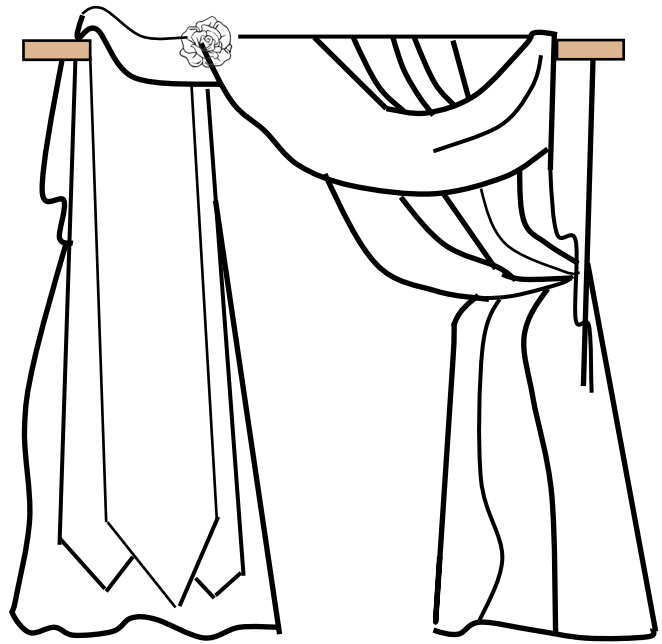
3. And two different colours of material, making one white or cream. Ribbon is good for this because then you don't have to hem any of these pieces. These are the C's.

4. Stitch these in place on the top and fold over to form the top hem as in Step 1.

The Swag. This was made of a length of silk 42 cm long and 5 cm wide which doesn't include hem allowances.

This was hemmed and a piece of trim sewn right around it. This is an entirely personal choice. Beads would also be good. Some beading was done on the ends to provide weight to the swag would hand right. It can be as complicated or as simple as you want. Soft material would drape better on reflection. The silk didn't fold as I would have liked.

Next Time: I will make the curtains more symmetrical and do the side banner hanging down the middle of the left side curtain. I would search for a finer weave material for the swag so it sat better. But happy with the result achieved.



The Side Banner

