



Shabby Chic screen with lots of potential

This pattern was taken from a 19th century bedroom screen, the red one on the right, so it is in inches.

You will need a length of pine or other wood -
3/8 " wide and 1/4" thick.

For feet you need a length of wood 3/8" x 3/8"

Brads (small stainless steel nails)

Drill bit to fit the brad.

I have found that drilling the holes to fit the brads then gluing the brads into the holes is better as nailing small pieces of wood often leads to splitting. This way the joint is glued then pinned for extra strength. If you have complete confidence in your glue, forget the drilling.

Cutting plan:

Cut two x 4 3/4" lengths for side posts

Cut two x 4" lengths for cross bars.

Out of the 3/8" square wood cut 2 feet

1 1/4" long. These need to be shaped in the middle as in Diagram 1 on page 2.

For the screen itself:

Cut two lengths of plastic coated wire 4 7/8ths long.

Cut a length of fabric 10 1/2' long by 5 1/2" wide.

Use fabric Fray Check on the sides. Turn up a 1/2" hem on both long sides and stitch. And sew another row of stitches in 1/4" from the first line of stitching. This is where the wire will thread through. You can make this frill the same or narrower, your choice.

ASSEMBLY

- 1 Sand the two top ends of the side posts to a pleasing curve. This will be visible from the side.
- 2 Mark the drill holes, in the side of the sides, at this point. From the top down the top edge of the drill hole would be 1/2", 1 1/8", 3 1/4", 3 3/4" but you may want to make yours a bit longer as with the older screen. Don't drill right through on the left post. Just deep enough to hold the rod in place when you install that. Check that the bottom holes will line up with your fabric channel for the rod. From experience it is better to sew up the fabric first.

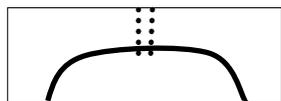
- 3 Drill a hole through each foot as shown on Diag.1

Assembly is easier on a jig. It is also easier to glue the posts and cross bars in place before inserting the brads. Line them up so when you drill through into the cross bars it will be centered.

- 4 When the posts are dry, glue them to the feet.
- 5 If you are going to pin with the brads, drill through the existing holes again, carefully, into the cross bars and up into the posts from the feet. Then glue the brads into these holes.

The original screen was pinned with very small nails.

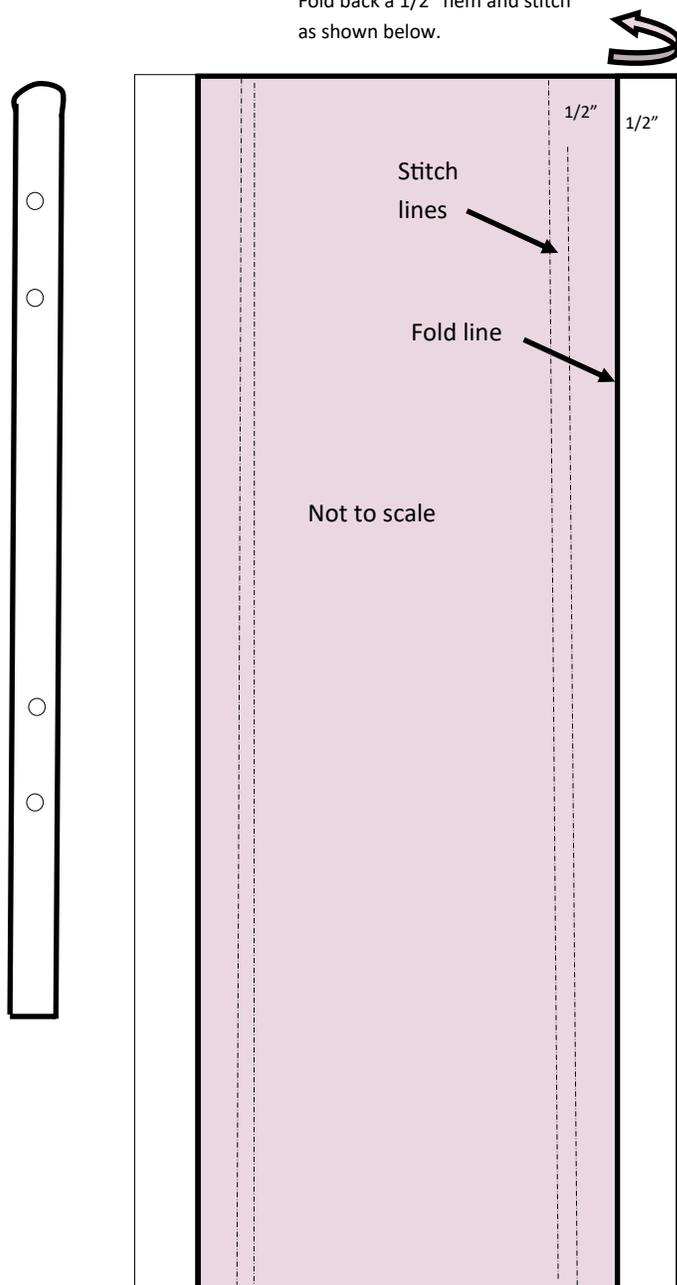
The two feet are shaped as below, and drilled through the center to take the little nail.



Diag.1

The drill hole positions are shown in actual size but these are optional. You may want to make the fabric longer.

Fold back a 1/2" hem and stitch as shown below.



When you have painted and finished your piece to your satisfaction, now is the time to include your fabric screen. Thread your fabric onto the two wires. You have to scrunch it up quite tightly.

Insert one end of wire into the hole in the LEFT post from the inside, (this is the one that is not completely drilled through) and then with a bit of adjusting with your fingers, push the other end through the post from the inside.

Do the bottom of the screen material the same way. Cover the ends of the wires on the outside of the posts with either a jewelry finding or a punch piece of card. But I found that they stayed in place without this.

Hope you enjoyed this workshop. I have other interesting ones in my magazine. Jill