

How to Make Roman Shades

Roman shades, with their clean lines and classic look, are popular window treatments. These shades are great because they are both decorative and fully functional, providing privacy when you want it and light when you don't. Learn how to make your own, stylish roman shades.

MATERIALS LIST:

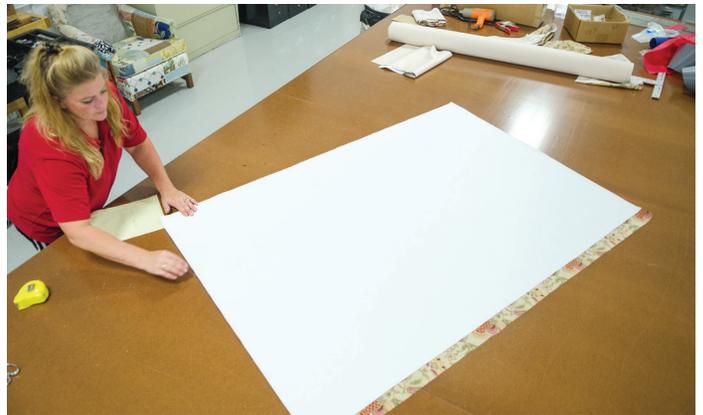
- Decorative Fabric (we used #669975)
- Drapery Lining Fabric #120185, #120164 #100302
- Thread
- Iron-On Roman Rib Tape #104858
- Plastic Ribs #104987
- Bottom Rod #104989
- 1" Hook & Loop Velcro #467100, #471100
- Sew on Rings #104469
- Cord Lock #104857, #104468
- 5/64" Leechline #21207
- Plastic Lift Cord Condenser #104470
- Cord Tassel #106673
- Screw Eyes
- Screws
- 1" x 2" Wood Board



STEP 1. Measure the height and width of your window. If you want space on either side of the shade, determine how much room you want to have and subtract that from your width. These will be your finished shade dimensions.



STEP 2. Pattern your fabric. For the decorative fabric, measure a length equal to your desired finished length plus 8" and a width equal to the finished width plus 3". Pattern the drapery lining so the length is equal to the cut length of the decorative fabric and the width is the finished width minus 1". (Figure 1)



STEP 3. Lay out the decorative fabric with the right side facing up. Lay the drapery lining on top of it with the right side facing down. Line up the drapery lining's edges with the edges of the decorative fabric on 3 sides. The decorative fabric should be wider than the lining. Pin the lining to the decorative fabric along one long side.



STEP 4. Sew a row of stitches 1/2" away from the raw edge of the fabric down the side of the fabric you just pinned.

STEP 5. Turn the panel around and line up the opposite side of the lining to the edge of the drapery fabric so the two fabric edges are flush. Don't worry that the widths aren't the same. Sew a row of stitches 1/2" away from the raw edge to secure.

STEP 6. Center the lining fabric on the back of the decorative fabric while flattening the assembly. With the lining properly arranged, sew closed the bottom edge of the fabric, stitching 1/2" away from the raw edge.



STEP 7. Turn the assembly right side out and lay it out with the lining facing up. At the bottom (the closed end) of the shade, fold the fabric up approximately 3 inches and pin in place.



STEP 8. Carefully iron the crease along the bottom edge. Sew a row of stitches close to the raw edge. This bottom hem will hold the weighted rod. Sew up the sides of the fold about 1", leaving an opening for the rod to be inserted.

STEP 9. To create the panels, determine how high you want each fabric stack to be (12" is a fairly standard stack height). To find your divider number (D), take the stack height minus four. Then, divide your finished length by D. The quotient, rounded to the nearest odd, whole number, is your number of segments (E). To find the height of the main segments, take the finished length and subtract 3. Divide the solution by E. Finally, to calculate the height of the lowest segment, take the height of the main segments and add 1.5.

Measurements

A: Width

B: Length

C: Stack Height Desired (often 12")*

Divider (D)

Stack Height Desired - 4 = D

Segments Required (E)

Length ÷ D = E

Height of Main Segments (F)

(Length - 3) ÷ E = F

Height of Lowest Segment (G)

F + 1.5 = G



STEP 10. Determine where your dowels should be placed. Starting at the bottom hemmed edge, measure up to the height of the lowest segment and make a mark. Then measure up from your mark the height of the main segment and make another mark. Continue this until you have marked out all of your segments.



STEP 11. Fold the assembly in half lengthwise and use the marks you made to mark the opposite side of the fabric in the same location.



STEP 12. Take the Iron-On Roman Rib Tape and cut it to size. The tape should be long enough to just overlap the decorative fabric on each side.



STEP 13. Line up the tape with the marks you made on either side of the shade and iron it in place.

Tip: Prewash cotton fabrics before cutting patterns to prevent shrinking while ironing.



STEP 14. To finish the top, measure the length of your shade starting at the bottom. Make a mark on the shade when you reach your desired finished length. Strike a line. If you have excess fabric, cut off the excess about 1/2" above the marked line.



STEP 15. Create a 1/2-inch single hem at the top of the shade. On top of the hem, sew on a strip of 1" loop Velcro.

***To make your shade safety compliant,** the lift rings must be no farther apart than 4". To accomplish this, the stack height should be 6". This will, however, result in less visible fabric when the shade is fully open.



STEP 16. Next, attach the lift rings. Starting at the bottom rib tape, hand-sew rings across every other rib pocket. The rings should be spaced roughly 15" apart from each other.



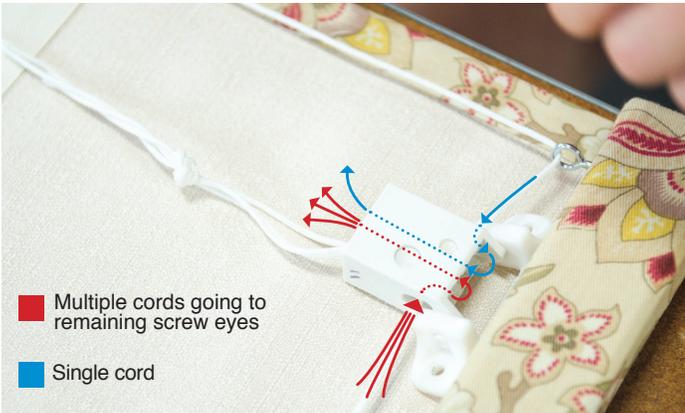
STEP 17. To create a headrail for your shade, cut a piece of 1" x 2" board to the width of your finished shade. Then upholster the board using scrap fabric from the shade, either the decorative fabric or the lining. Staple a strip of 1" hook Velcro to the side of the board that will face into the room. Be sure the top of the Velcro is flush with the top of the board.



STEP 18. Velcro the board to the top of the curtain. Mark on the board the location of the rings across the width of the shade. Attach a screw eye at each of those locations.



STEP 21. Install one plastic rib into the rib tape and mark the needed length. Use scissors to cut off the excess. Repeat for each rib. Insert the bottom weight rod in the pocket at the bottom of the shade. Use a hacksaw to cut the weight rod if needed. If ribs or the weight need to be longer, use a splice to connect two pieces.



STEP 19. Feed your leechline cords through the cord lock (as shown above). Install the cord lock directly into the headrail on either the right or the left side, depending on where you want the lift cord (small hole facing out). Position it as close to the outside screw eye as possible. Then feed the cords through the eyes. Making sure each screw eye has a cord hanging down from it.



STEP 22. Install a cord condenser and a wooden tassel to the cords if desired. Always be sure to secure your cords to a cleat on the wall when not in use for safety.

STEP 23. Install your blinds in your window and enjoy your handiwork!



STEP 20. Velcro the board to the shade and feed the cord through the lift rings on the back of the shade. Only tie the cord to the last ring.



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