

# Pergola Canopy Cover Assembly Instructions

## Materials Needed

- Sunbrella/Phifertex Fabric
- Galvanized Pipes
- Thread
- 3/4" or 1" Acrylic Binding
- Adhesive
- Spackling, Sand paper



Adding a fabric sunshade to your Pergola adds beauty and protection from the elements. Sailrite suggests using Sunbrella Marine Grade fabric (available in many colors and stripes) or Phifertex Mesh fabric (also available in many colors with a 70% or 90% UV blocking weave). Both fabrics are great outdoors and will last for years without fading.

Drape the fabric over galvanized pipes inserted through the pergola cross beams. We suggest using 1/2" pipe cut 3/4" shorter than the two outside rafters. Carefully drill holes in your cross beams with a drill bit. Although most of the pipe will be concealed by the fabric, pipe can be spray painted black (or any other color) for a neater appearance.

Test fit the pipes but do not secure them until the fabric canopy has been made (Figure 1). The pipes will eventually be run through sleeves sewn into the fabric canopy.

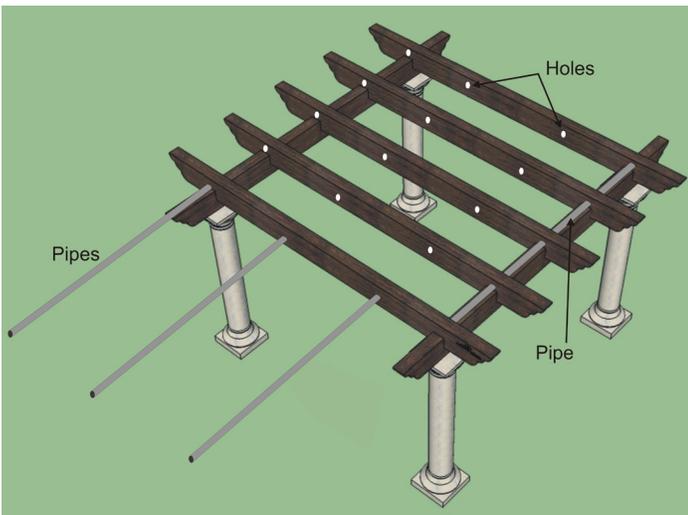


Figure 1

Measure the width between each wood rafter. These measurements will be the widths of each fabric panel (minus 1/2" - 1" so the panels do not rub against the cross beams). If using Sunbrella, cut and seal the edges with a hot knife and leave raw or finish with 3/4" or 1" Acrylic Binding (sealing the edges is not required if using binding). Binding looks the best and gives a more professional appearance. Easily install the binding using a binder attachment on your sewing machine. If using Phifertex Mesh, edges do not need to be sealed even if left raw.

The length of the fabric panels will depend on the amount of swag desired between each pipe section or span. Most pergolas look best when the fabric has a slight swag between each set of support pipes. The amount of swag is completely dependent on personal taste. Choose from 1 of the 4 formulas (in inches) below to calculate the length of cloth needed between each pipe span.

## FABRIC LENGTH (between each support pipe section)

10% Swag	=	Span x 1.026 + 3" (for sleeve allowance)
15% Swag	=	Span x 1.058 + 3" (for sleeve allowance)
20% Swag	=	Span x 1.103 + 3" (for sleeve allowance)
25% Swag	=	Span x 1.159 + 3" (for sleeve allowance)



**\*Example:**  
 15% Swag  
 of a 30" span would be  
 a swag equaling 4.5".

**Calculation:**  
 $30 \times 1.058 + 3 = 34.74$  fabric length  
 (between each support pipe section)

Add up the amount of fabric needed for each span, the amount for curtains on the ends (Figure 2), and an additional 3" (outermost sleeve allowance) for the total length of one fabric panel. Multiple that number by the number of fabric panels you need (between each set of rafters) for the total amount of fabric needed for the canopy cover. Keep in mind that you may be able to get more than one panel strip out of wider fabrics when the cross beams are closely spaced.

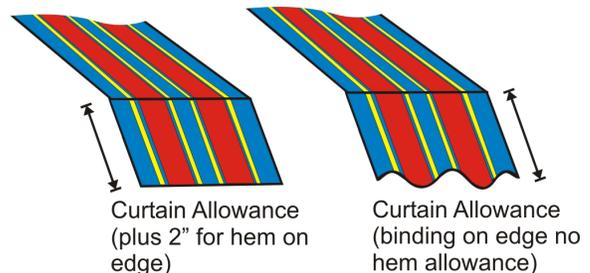


Figure 2

Fashioning a sleeve on the fabric panels to hold the pipes will help secure the fabric to the pipe and prevent the fabric from bunching and blowing around in strong winds. Mark the fabric where each pipe will lay, and then fold the fabric along its width at each point. Use a plastic spatula or electric iron (low or no heat) to create the fabric fold. Sew a row of straight stitches (longest stitch length possible) 1-1/2" in from the fold (Figure 3). Reverse your stitch at the beginning and end of the stitch row to lock in place. Create a sleeve for each pipe (Figure 4).

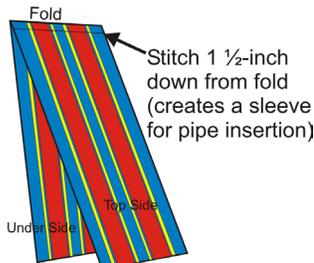


Figure 3

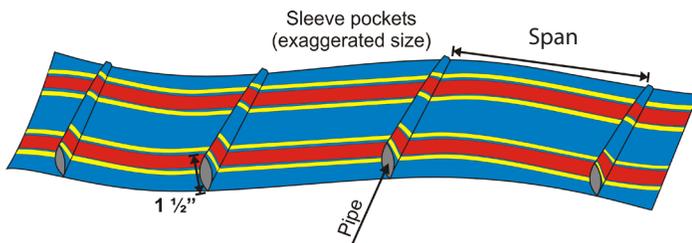


Figure 4

Finish the ends of each fabric panel with 3/4" or 1" Acrylic Binding (looks great on both Sunbrella and Phifertex Mesh fabrics). A scalloped edge is easy to make and can add a nice touch. Fashion a scalloped edge by first making a pattern with cardboard and tracing it on the fabric with a marking pencil. Cut the fabric out along the pencil lines and sew the binding tape along the curved edges. If you do not want to use binding tape for the short edges, we suggest making a double hem (Figure 5).\*

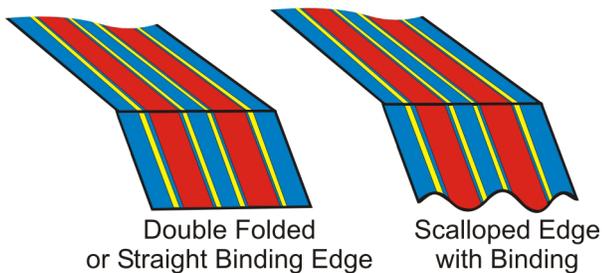


Figure 5

\*Optional Step: If you are concerned about the fabric panel's overhanging (curtain) ends flipping up in the wind and resting on top of the canopy, install a cloth-to-surface snap or two to hold the curtain down to the main beam.

With the help of two or more people, insert the fabric support pipes into the first hole of the rafter beam. Before pushing it all the way through, feed the pipe through the first fabric sleeve of the fabric panel. Repeat with all support pipes and until the fabric panel is installed along the first rafter (Figure 6).

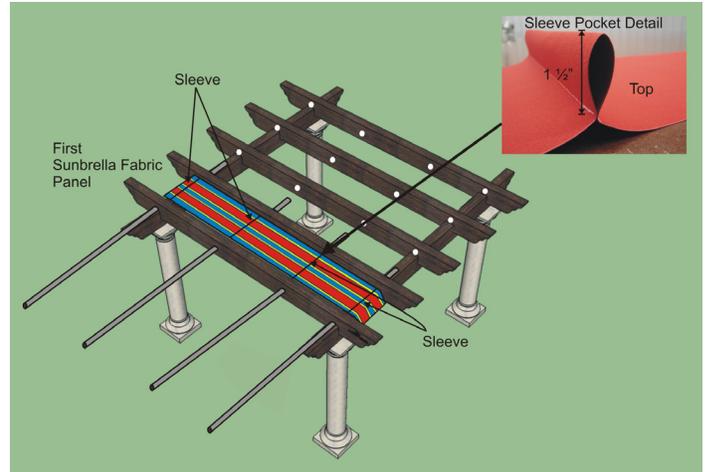


Figure 6

Leave an equal distance from the face of the rafter on each end (bury the pipes 1/4" or more in the two outer edges of the first and last rafter beam). Repeat until all the fabric panels are installed between all the rafters.

Step back and inspect the look and fit of the fabric panels. Modifications can be made by removing the pipes and re-sewing the fabric panels if needed. When satisfied with the appearance, use adhesive to secure all the pipes on the outer holes. Fill with spackling or other filler, allow to dry, and sand until smooth. Touch up the spackling with a color that matches the decking.



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