

# Alternative Ripplefold Methods

- **Grommet Panel**
  - Traversing panel
  - 10 grommets per width
  - Minimal stack
  - 150% fullness
  - Option: “S” Hook with Grommet
    - Traversing panel
    - Used for stage curtains
    - 300% fullness
  
- **Tabs sewn to curtain**
  - “Back Tab” by Jill Stanbro, *SEW What Magazine*, June, 2005 (see article on p. 2 for more information)
  - Traversing panel
  - Example shows 2-1/2” tabs, 6” spaces
  - Topstitching to hold tabs at top and bottom, breaks forward
  - 296% fullness
  - 4” Buckram
  
- **Back Tack**
  - Traversing panel
  - 4” space; 1” pleat to back
  - 1 width = 36” coverage with return and overlap
  - 125% fullness
  - 4” space breaks to the front
  - 4” Buckram
  - Option: Back Tack with Twill Tape
    - Twill tape stitched to bottom portion of back tack, horizontally across width
  
- **Single Back Box Pleat**
  - 2” pleat; 5” spacing Option: 3” pleat; 5” spacing
  - Traversing panel
  - Machine stitch pleats from back
  - Stitch down pleats from front in ditch
  - 154% fullness
  - 4” Buckram
  
- **2 drapery pins put into 1 ring**
  - Stationary panels only
  - Rings placed every 6” “pleat”; 4” space
  - Secure bottom edge of buckram, stitch or iron bond
  - 287% fullness
  - 4” Buckram

## Back Tab Valance

By Jill Stanbro

*Editor's Note: This is the second article in a series of articles on treatments made by CHF School instructors and shown at the Fashion Show during the CHF Educational Conference and Trade Show in Greenville, SC, in February 2005.*

I actually think this valance should be called a backward tab valance, as everything seems backward in making it. The tabs go on the back of the valance, instead of on the top edge where they would normally be placed. What you traditionally think of as the spaces in a valance are actually the "pleats."

This method is not restricted to valances. It can also be used at the top of panels. Three-times fullness is required and a little pre-planning is needed if you are using more than one width. Seam placement needs to be at the edge of a tab. If using a stripe or plaid, the horizontal repeats need to be taken into consideration for pleating on the pattern. For instance, the fabric I used for this sample is a stripe. The area that I wanted to use for the tabs is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and the area for the "pleats" is  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". Normally, I would use 3" in the tabs and 6" in the pleats, so I had to adjust the number of tabs according to these figures.

The rod face width is made up of the amount of fabric taken up with tabs. In this instance, the rod face width is



Illustration 1

$22\frac{1}{2}$ ". My tabs are  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " each, so I will need nine tabs for the spaces and two tabs for the returns. Just as in regular pinch pleated valances, there is one more pleat than space. Therefore, 10 pleats are needed, each being  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". The returns are  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " each. I like to leave the

ends open until finishing the valance, so I allow  $\frac{1}{2}$ " extra at each side. The 9 tabs (spaces) add up to  $22\frac{1}{2}$ ", plus the 10 pleats at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " each, add another 55". The two returns and the extra fabric to turn in on each end adds up to 8". The total face fabric width needed is  $85\frac{1}{2}$ ". Using 54"- wide fabric, two widths are needed to complete this job.

Cut and sew the two widths together, mark the pleats, the spaces, the return areas, and the extra fabric to turn in at the ends. The seam needs to fall at the edge of a tab, so it may be easier to start at the seam and work out from there in both directions. Next, cut off the excess fabric width.

The length of the fabric depends on the method you use. To the finished length, add enough for the seams at the bottom and the top or extra fabric if you just wish to turn the fabric to the inside at the top.

Assemble the valance or panel in whatever manner you would normally use. If curving or scalloping the bottom edge, I would suggest self-lining or using a contrast fabric for the lining. Unless the fabric is very heavy, I would also recommend using interlining. Turn the ends in at the correct finished width and close. Apply trim to the bottom edge, if desired.

One of the best, most cost-conscious features of this style is that it can be installed on a regular curtain rod. Normally the finished height of the tabs is 3". Although a shorter tab would still fit the curtain rod, you need at least 3" for the valance to form the nice rolled pleat look. If making a panel, rather than a valance, make the tabs at least 4" to 5" tall. For  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by 3" tall tabs, I cut the 11 pieces 6" by 6". Folding the fabric in half lengthwise with the right sides together, the next steps are to sew the seam, turn, press with the seam in the center back, and turn the top and the bottom to the inside so that the tabs are 3" tall. There is no need to close these ends as they will be closed when



Illustration 2

top-stitched to the valance. I generally make the tabs from the valance lining fabric, but I made them from the face fabric for this example so that you would be better able to see them. See illustration 1.

Starting from one end at the top edge of the valance, mark off the return and then a pleat and a space (tab), repeating and working across the valance to the other return. On the backside, place a tab between the marks where they belong, including one on each return even with the top of the valance. Pin at the top and the bottom of each tab to hold firmly in place. Using a matching thread, sew across the entire valance about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge and again 3" from the top edge, being sure to catch the edges of the tabs.

Voila! Your project is finished! It just needs to be installed on a rod. See illustration 2. I love the fact that this simple and easy variation of a tab valance can look so elegant, while hanging on a regular curtain rod. The first time I used this method was to create stationary panels with attached valances. The decorator needed something elegant that she could fit in a small space without using a fancy rod. This idea more than filled the bill.



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## Resources

<https://www.forestdh.com/>

<https://www.rowleycompany.com/>

<https://csfrl.org/>

Facebook Group: Workroom Industry Network

Facebook Group: Soft Furnishings and Upholstery Workroom Page

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