

FROM NEEDLEWORK NOVICES TO EXPERT SEAMSTRESSES, CRAFTERS OF ALL SEWING CAPABILITIES CAN CREATE AMANDA WALKER'S

ROMAN BLIND

For a **contemporary** finish to a room, blinds are a **sleek** way to dress a window and a cheap **alternative** to a heavy pair of curtains. They're **great** for small windows where an excess of material could look untidy, and can instantly **update** a room with a **flourish** of a **pretty print** or bright **colour**.

YOU'LL NEED

- > Fabric: face, lining
- > Wooden dowels, 6mm
- > Wooden battens, flat, 3cm wide; square, 2.5cm wide
- > Eye screws
- > Cleat and toggle
- > Roman blind cord
- > Plastic rings
- > Velcro

PLEAT CALCULATION KEY:

NO. OF PLEATS	DIVIDE BY
2	5
3	7
4	9
5	11
6	13

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

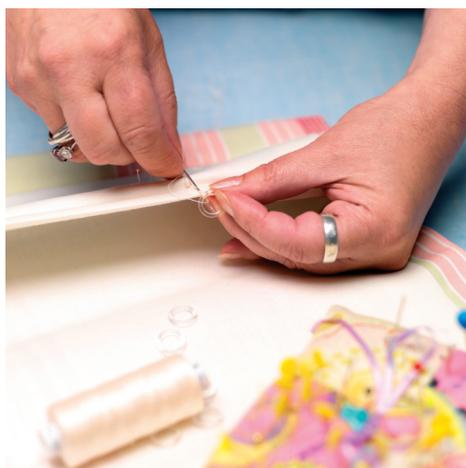
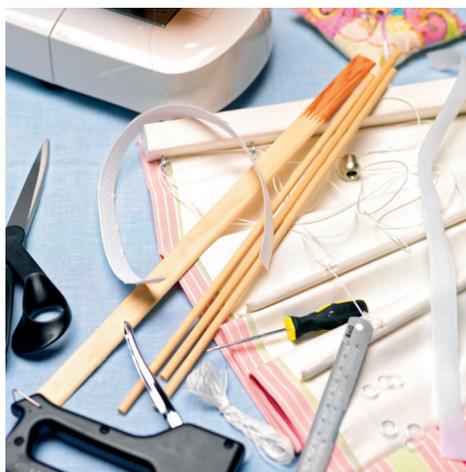
Decide whether you want your blind to fit inside or outside your window recess. Our blind has been made to fit neatly inside. To calculate dimensions for this, measure your window. Our window is 44cm wide and 88cm long. Note your measurements down.

FACE FABRIC

To calculate the size of the face fabric, take your window measurement. Add 10cm to the width and 15cm to the length. For our blind, our face fabric is 54cm wide and 103cm long. Cut out your face fabric.

HOW MANY PLEATS?

Using your original window measurements, deduct 4cm from the length.



In the case of our blind, this is 88cm minus 4cm which leaves us with 84cm. Divide this figure by an odd number; the higher the number, the more folds will be formed. Refer to our key (left) for guidance. Our blind has three folds, so we divided by 7. Eighty-four cm divided by 7 is 12cm (A). This figure is now the measurement for a half pleat, which forms the first fold of your blind (at the bottom). The next two full pleats will be double this, so 24cm (B). Add the original 4cm that you took off at the beginning back into the measurement for the top pleat. For our blind, this means that the last pleat (at the top) is 28cm (C) in length. Refer to our diagram.

ROMAN BLIND

- 1 Fold and press in 2.5cm on each side edge of the lining. Mark up 12cm (A) from the base of the lining to make the first half pleat. Mark with a ruler and pencil the 3cm pocket and then continue to mark the remaining double measurement pleats (B) in the same manner. Bring the two sides of the pleats together and stitch through to form the casing for each dowel.
- 2 Fold and press in 5cm along each side of the face fabric.
- 3 Centre the lining to the back of the face fabric, position it 7cm from the base and pin in place. Using a ladder stitch, attach the lining to the back of the face fabric.
- 4 At the base, fold and press up 3.5cm and then another 3.5cm. Hand stitch across this base channel, with hemming stitch.
- 5 Measure in approximately 10cm from each side of the blind and mark this point. Stitch a ring to the fold at the edge of each pleat. Continue stitching rings to the remaining pleats. Stab stitch underneath each of the rings at intervals of between 20cm and 25cm. Stitch through the lining to the front of the blind along the first stitching line of the pleats.
- 6 Check and mark the finished length measurement of the blind and then fold and press along this measurement at the top of the blind. Un-fold this section; position and pin

the soft side of the Velcro above the fold line and machine stitch in place across the top of the Velcro. Trim off any excess fabric underneath this, re-fold the top of the blind and then hand stitch the lower edge of the Velcro to just the lining; the raw edges will be concealed.

- 7 Cut the dowel to the casing measurement and

the bottom batten to the width of the blind. Insert dowel and batten, sealing the pocket ends and base channel. Cut the top batten 1cm shorter than the width of the blind.

- 8 Cover the batten with either lining or face fabric. Secure the Velcro to the top of the batten. Mark 10cm (or the measurement of the outside rings on the blind)

in from each end of the underside of the batten and place screw eyes; attach an extra one to the side edge that will pull up. Mount the batten onto the wall or window frame.

- 9 Secure a length of blind cord to the bottom pleat rings and thread up through the other rings. Mount the blind onto the top of the batten by joining the Velcro. Pass the cords through the screw eyes, ensuring the left side cord runs through the right side screw eye. Pull to raise the blind and form folds. Push the cord ends through toggle and knot.



IF THE BLIND IS WIDER THAN 65CM A CENTRAL RING WILL NEED TO BE ADDED

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