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TIME TO GIVE YOUR WINDOWS THE TREATMENT THEY DESERVE Welcome to

Welcome to the first edition of Visions. It's a guide for anyone interested in decorating their windows and having a go themselves at making a curtain! We're even giving away free samples of curtain tape for you to have a go at home.

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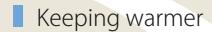
See you soon!



Ask the Window Doctor

... It's your chance to ask our expert for their advice on all aspects of window decoration.

Please email: <u>customer-care@rufflette.com</u> with your questions.



I'm looking to put some thermal curtain lining for my bedroom. The winter's been so cold in our bedroom as one entire wall is made up of windows. I'm confused because there seem to be so many different types.

Do you have any recommendations? M.Botham, Cornwall

Understandably people get confused between the various types and qualities of linings and interlinings.

Linings help your curtain hang and drape better. Blackout linings help keep the light out. What you need is Bump interlining which offers a greater level of insulation against the cold and noise. It's thicker than standard lining and is sewn between the main fabric and the lining fabric. As an extra heat saving tip, make your fabric and interlining up so it sits on the floor. Otherwise you'll have cold air flowing under the hem line.

Broken curtain!

How can I fix my curtains? The pocket cords have snapped as my lined curtain was too heavy for them. One of the pulling cords has also snapped. My curtains look an absolute mess and they cost me a fortune. What can I do?

J.Raftree, Cheshire

It looks like whoever made your curtain used a totally unsuitable heading tape for the material and made-up curtain. Either take it back to the shop and ask them to remake with a woven pocket tape. Or if you made them youself, you will need to unpick the old tape and start again using a woven pocketed heading tape. Rufflette's Regis tape is recommended for any weight of curtain.



Roman blinds

My lounge looks out onto a main road, so I want to block out the view and keep some privacy. I don't want net curtains as they are too old fashioned. Is there a stylish alternative that will still let the light through? J.Noblet, France

Simple roman blinds are very fashionable at the moment, and sheer versions offer an excellent uncluttered replacement for net curtains. If you can't find any you like, try making your own using Rufflette's transparent Roman Blind Tape - designed to make the job easy.

The tape doesn't show through sheer fabrics like voile, organza and muslin, and works best when used with Rufflette's Translucent Roman Blind Rods. The rods can be easily removed for cleaning through slots that run along the length of the tape.

Large Contemporary window

I've got a large apartment window and I'm in need of some inspiration on decorating it. Some friends are telling me I should leave it as it is. But it seems too bare. Any ideas?

M. Hilditch, Birmingham

Dressing any window with curtains or blinds adds a greater dimension to your window frame, and makes the glass panes and plain panels come to life. It can either frame your view, or disguise your view, whatever effect you want to achieve. A window dressing is as essential to a room as the furniture and pictures you put into it. As a suggestion for your window, why not combine the modern wave-style curtain with a minimalist curtain track. Instructions on how to make a wave style curtain are for Rufflette's are to be found on page 11. There's a great selection of modern suspension systems on the website www.rufflette.com.

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Practical guide

Choosing your fabric

The exciting part about choosing your fabric is putting your personal style on a window, after considering all factors such as window shapes, light in the room and your own taste. In addition here are some other practical factors you might want to take into account at the same time.





Take a metre or a swatch of your chosen fabric home to see how it reacts to the light in your room and the other furnishings.

Ask yourself the following questions:

Curtains take a lot of punishment from sunlight. Do you want the curtains to block out the light?

If so, you need a densely woven fabric or a blackout lining used in conjunction with a standard weight of fabric. If the fabric you choose is subject to fading, add a lining fabric or an additional window decoration such as a voile or roman blind.

Are there any special sewing or cleaning instructions you may need to consider?

The thread you use can be important - make sure you purchase suitable thread for use with your chosen fabric. Rufflette recommends using a well known brand or make.

2 Do you need a curtain to provide privacy during the day?

If so, consider nets and voiles which will let in light but provide privacy, or use as a secondary curtain in conjunction with heavier curtains or with blinds.

5 How often do you change your window dressings?

For attractive curtains which will remain in good condition over a period of time, purchase your fabric from a reliable outlet. You'll not only have the very best advice but also the benefit from retailer warranties.

Have you chosen an intricate heading tape such as Smocked pleat?

If so, a plain fabric will show the heading off to its best effect.



Does the fabric drape easily?

A fabric with a good handle & drape is better for decorative headings, as the tape will hold its shape of pleat more successfully. For more modern styling tapes such as Universal tempo or Solar tape, fabrics with a slightly stiffer handle across the width are a better option, as they retain their shape more successfully when in use.

Rufflette

Covent Garden





lumière

WOW TIP

Consider using a double pole system such as the Visions 19 mm range to create layers of window dressings on one system.



Cushion group: Imago teal, Prom Lime, Ambient lime, Linden Leaf teal, Erin straw golf



Renoir Leaf green tieback from the impressions range

Slip into two colour groups, composed of vibrant teal with caramel and gold or teal with chartreuse and fresh white, either of these choices in Covent Garden are superb for making a modern colour statement in any room.

environment







nature

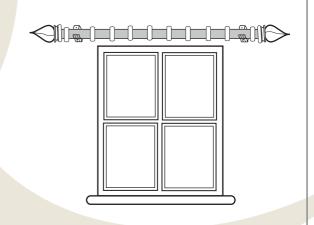


Practical guide 2

Measuring your window

To be sure of the best possible fit, take time to measure your window carefully. We suggest using a metal tape measure for accuracy. The first step is to decide whether you want your curtains to hang from a track or pole, both of which should be positioned 15cm (6 inches) above the window and extend 15-20cm (6-8 inches) either side. Fit the track or pole before taking measurements.





There are 2 simple steps to follow when measuring your window for a pole:

Measuring width

Measure the total width of the track or pole (excluding the finials) – do not measure the window unless it is wall-to-wall. Don't forget to allow for overlap – this is an additional measurement, normally 2.5cm (1 inch) that allows the hanging curtains to overlap in the middle when they are closed.

Measuring length

Before measuring the length, decide whether you want your curtains to fall to the sill, below the sill or to the floor. We suggest that:

- >> Sill length curtains finish 1.25cm (1/2 inch) above the sill.
- >> Curtains that fall below the sill finish 15cm (6 inches) below.
- >> Floor length curtains finish 1.5cm (1/2 inch) from the floor (although you can create a romantic, Bohemian look by having them longer so that they actually trail on the floor).



When measuring the curtain length you will need for your pole, think about where you need to measure from. For pencil pleat curtains measure from the eye - the small metal ring at the bottom of each curtain ring. This will prevent the pole or rings from being obscured by the curtain. Or for tab top curtains, remember to measure from the very top of the pole.



Room with a view

Curtains can be fully pulled back to maximise the openness of your room. It provides a frame for the decoration of your living area.

Privacy

Curtains offer the best privacy, preventing anyone from looking in "even blocking out shadows to those outside your home". Blinds have numerous open points in between the slats that actually decrease privacy and insulation.

Insulation

Around **20%** of heat loss in a room is through the window. Lined and interlined curtains can help reduce this by **50%**, whereas blinds only offer a meagre **10%** reduction.

Why quitains?

Curtains have several advantages over blinds when it comes to decorating your windows.

Cosiness

Many people think of blinds as "office like", sterile and cold in appearance. Curtains create a "welcome home atmosphere" to make your rooms more warm, inviting and cozy.

Damage Resistant

Blinds are much more prone to damage than curtains. Blind slats and mechanisms are easily broken and can be costly to replace.

In addition blind cords need to be secured properly from Pets and small children.





Durable

Curtains show less dirt, fingerprints, and dust accumulation than blinds. Curtains can go years without needing to dry clean them. They can be lightly vacuumed and many you can machine wash.



The classic pencil pleat



Elegant yet incredibly versatile.

The pencil pleat curtain always look right, whether your furnishings are traditional, contemporary or casual. Straight folds, gathered closely together like a row of pencils.

Whether hung on curtain poles or tracks, three or more rows of pockets let you adjust the height of the curtain to reveal or conceal your track. To ensure the best finish, always use curtain tape with woven hook pockets.



√ What you will need

- Rufflette Regis curtain heading tape
- Your chosen fabric
- Matching thread
- R40 curtain hooks
- Rufflette cord tidy (x 2 one for each curtain)
- Rufflette lead penny weights (x 4 one for the corner of each curtain)

STEP 2

Working out your fabric & curtain tape requirements

Tape, fabric & hook guide										
Metres of tape per pair	Approx No. of hooks per pair	Maximum track coverage		Metres of fabric per pair					No of 122cm (48") widths per pair	
3.7	22	150 cm (5'0")	4.2	4.8	5.1	5.7	6.0	6.6	7.2	3
4.9	30	203 cm (6'8")	5.6	6.4	6.8	7.6	8.0	8.8	9.6	4
6.1	38	253 cm (8'3")	7.0	8.0	8.5	9.5	10.0	11.0	12.0	5
7.3	44	307 cm (10'1")	8.4	9.6	10.2	11.4	12.0	13.2	14.4	6
8.5	52	356 cm (11'8")	9.8	11.2	11.9	13.3	14.0	15.4	16.8	7
9.7	58	410 cm (13'6")	11.2	12.8	13.6	15.2	16.0	17.6	19.2	8
10.9	66	461 cm (15'1")	12.6	14.4	15.3	17.1	18.0	19.8	21.6	9
Curtain drop > 1.2m (4'0")			1.4m (4'7")	1.5m (5'0")	1.7m (5'7")	1.8m (5'11")	2.0m (6'6")	2.2m (7'2")		

This table allows for 3.5cm $(1^{1/4})$ joins and 4cm $(1^{1/2})$ side hems. Allow additionnal fabric for pattern matching.







Measuring your window - When measuring your window use a steel or wooden rule. Do not use a cloth tape as this may stretch.

Measuring point - Always measure from the hook suspension point on the track/pole. For sill or radiator length measure to 1.25cm (1/2") above the sill or radiator. For floor length measure 2.5cm (1") above the floor.



Sewing instructions

Taking the edge of the tape that will come to the centre of the track or pole (remember you will require a left and right hand curtain) pull out 4cm of each cord and knot.

Trim off surplus tape 3 cm from knots and turn under the edge for neatness.



3 At the opposite edge of tape, pull free 3-5cm of the cords for eventual pleating of the curtain. Turn under this second edge of the tape for neatness.

Turn and pess a 6mm hem at the top of the curtain. Ensure that the tape is the correct way up - yellow line at the bottom - and that the hook pockets are facing you. Machine the tape to the curtain along the turquoise sewing lines, leaving 3mm between the top of the tape and the top of the curtain.

The top and the bottom rows must be stitched in the same direction. Be careful not to sew over the cords

Sew both side edges of the tape, but remember not to sew over the free cords for pleating.







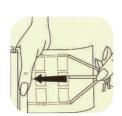


Pleating instructions

To pleat the curtain, hold the free cords in one hand or with extra wide extra wide curtains, loop them round a door handle.

Gently push the heading along the cords until all the fabric is pleated to its maximum - this performs the pleats.

Do not cut off surplus cords as they allow the curtain to be pulled flat for cleaning. Loose cords should be wound neatly out of sight on a Rufflette Cord Tidy.





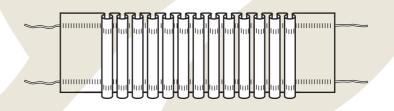
Insert one hook at each end of the tape the tape and approximately every 8cm along the curtain.

If you wish to suspend the curtains below the track or pole use the top row of pockets for the curtain hooks.

If you require the track to be covered, the bottom row should be used.



When attaching loose linings, the hook is placed firstly through the buttonhole of the lining tape then through the pocket on the heading tape and turned over in the normal manner.







It's rare for any product to last for 50 years and to still be loved by all who use it. Yet Regis curtain tape is celebrating it's golden anniversary this year making it not only the worlds finest tape but also the worlds oldest. Since 1960 the amount of Regis tape sold would stretch nearly 10 times around the world.

In an age when so many textiles are imported it's reassuring to know that Regis is still woven at Rufflette's Manchester factory

"Once I started using Regis, I couldn't go back to ordinary curtain tape"

Nowadays John Lewis specifies Regis tape for their pencil pleat curtains. "It gives a better finish than standard tape.

The woven pockets don't stretch and this in turn gives a even eye drop" said Jean Vivian who has over 24 years service with the Southampton branch.

Jeff Hallsworth, Rufflette's Development technician explains why. "From start to finish it's always been the best; woven pockets designed to last, superior warp and weft yarns, precision woven and performance tested. It surprises me that many curtain makers still put cheap tape on good fabric. Within weeks, the curtain sags and the cords might snap.

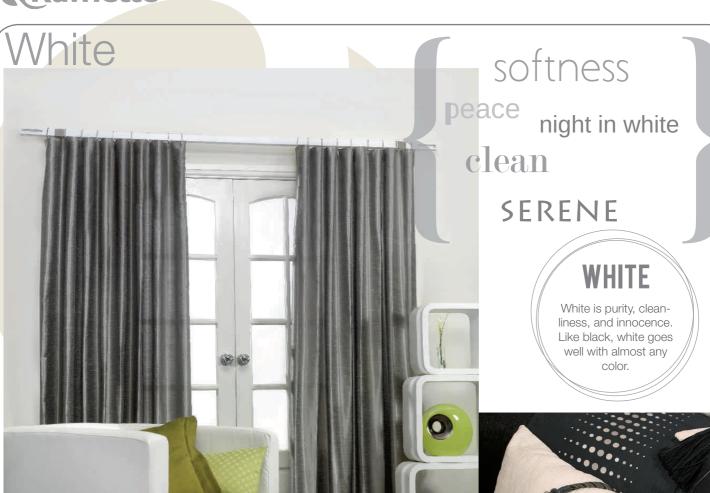
To celebrate this landmark anniversary, Rufflette have once again improved the quality. Explains Jeff "We've made the pleating even easier and improved the pleat retention. It'll make your curtains look more luxurious than ever".

ORDER NOW YOUR FREE SAMPLE

To get your free sample of Regis curtain tape either send off the coupon below to: Regis Promotion, Rufflette Ltd, Sharston Rd Manchester M22 4TH or email us at customer-care@rufflette.com.

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Cushion group: Imago teal, Prom Lime, Ambient lime, Linden Leaf teal, Erin straw golf

The first of all single colors is white ... We shall set down white for the representative of light, without which no color can be seen; yellow for the earth; green for water; blue for air; red for fire; and black for total darkness.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Renoir Leaf green tieback from the impressions range



5 great reasons to visit www.rufflette.com

Find inspiration from our range of gorgeous soft furnishing fabrics

Download our practical guides to curtain and blind making

Find out how Rufflette became known throughout the world

Find an answer to your window problems on our FAQ page

Discover a fabulous range of products to decorate your window

now just click...



Contemporary wave style

Soft waves create a smart but simple finish that turns traditional curtains into a striking contemporary design element. Combined with a modern suspension rail allowing the curtains to glide along the floor so they'll look neat open or closed.





What you will need

- Rufflette Universal Tempo curtain heading tape
- Your chosen fabric
- Matching thread
- R40 curtain hooks
- Rufflette cord tidy (x 2 one for each curtain)
- Rufflette lead penny weights (x 4 one for the corner of each curtain)

Working out fabric requirements

>> 1

To calculate the number of fabric widths required, multiply the total width of the track by the fullness of Tempo tape 1.8. Then divide by the width of your chosen fabric - 137cm (54"). Round up to the nearest full number.

>> 2

Multiply the curtain length by the number of fabric widths, adding the following allowances to each fabric width:

- i. 20cm (8") per fabric width for hems and heading.
- ii. 2.5cm (1") approximately, per fabric width for shrinkage.

>> 3

Allow additional fabric for pattern matching the general rule is one full pattern repeat per fabric width. For example, curtains requiring 4 fabric widths need additional fabric for 3 pattern repeats.

e.g

Width track/pole: 183cm (72") Width of chosen fabric: 137cm (54")

 $183 \times 1.8 = 329.4$ then 137/54" = 2.4 widths so 2.4 widths of fabric for each curtain.

Drop: 85"

Multiply curtain length by number of fabic widths.

85" x 2.4 = 204"

Add 16" per hem and 5" per fabric width for shrinkage = 225"

Therefore total fabric required = 5.72 metres

(Don't forget to add on any extra fabric for pattern repeats if required)

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Measuring your window - When measuring your window use a steel or wooden rule. Do not use a cloth tape as this may stretch.

Measuring point - Always measure from the hook suspension point on the track/pole. For sill or radiator length measure to 1.25cm (1/2") above the sill or radiator. For floor length measure 2.5cm (1") above the floor.



STEP 3

Working out tape requirements

Multiply the width of the track/pole by the fullness

i.e. 1.8 for Universal Tempo.

e.g

Width of track/pole: 183cm (72")
Multiply by 1.8: 1.8 x 183cm (72")
Add an extra 5cm with Universal Tempo
Total tape required: 3.35m (132")

Remember to add on required amount of tape if using a track with an overlap arm.



Sewing instructions

Ensure the tape is the correct way up – the row of pockets at the top facing you. Pleats will be formed where the drawcords show below the pockets.

Take the edge of the tape that will come to the centre of the track or pole (remember you will require a left and right handed curtain). A small dot on the top and bottom edges of the tape indicates where you should start – at this point free the drawcords out from the channel. Double knot the drawcords and trim the tape 1cm (1/2") to the right of the drawcords for the right handed curtain and the left of the drawcords for the left handed curtain, avoiding cutting through the pocket above.

Fig 1



3 At the opposite edge of the tape, pull out 3-5cm (1-2) of cords for eventual pleating of the curtain. Use the point of your scissors to pick them free from the channels of tape for neatness.

Turn and press a 6mm (1/4") hem at the top of your fabric. Fold the tape back to the small dot indicators (see fig 2) and lay the tape on top of the hem you have just made (above the pockets) leaving 3mm (1/8") between the top of the tape and the top of the curtain. The top and bottom rows must be stitched in the same direction. Be careful not to sew over the cords. Sew both side edges of the tape, but do not sew over the free cords for pleating.

Fig 2



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Pleating instructions

It is very important to pleat up the curtain correctly and to avoid puckering between the pleats. Put your hand behind the strip that the cords are in, and position your thumb in front of the strip. Pull the cords to form the first pleat, being careful not to overpleat the tape. There should be a group of approximately four pleats in the strip. Move onto the next set of pleats and repeat. Return to the first set, as these will no longer be pleated. Advance and return along the whole curtain until all the pleats are in place.

Do not cut off the surplus cords as they allow the curtain to be pulled flat for cleaning. Loose cords should be wound neatly out of sight on a Rufflette Cord Tidy (see fig 3).

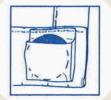


Things to REMEMBER

To achieve the perfect wave style pleat, tie one end of the cords to a door handle and use your free hands to pleat the cords evenly and regularly.

Insert the hooks into the track or ring. To ensure curtains drape well, sew Rufflette lead penny weights into each bottom corner of the curtain hems. With a small square of fabric, sew a pocket leaving an open flap on the top edge. When hemming, sew in the pocket along the flap, leaving the top edge open to insert and remove the penny weight (see fig 4).







Translucent Tempo on a large balcony window

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Top 10 urtain Making Tips

How to give your curtains the professional touch!

Use a good quality heading tape with woven pockets. Cheap curtain tape is a false economy. The pockets will sag making the top of the curtain uneven and revealing an unsightly row of hooks. The cords may even snap meaning the entire curtain tape will have to be replaced.

Make full ength curtains. And that includes windows where radiators or elements have been fixed underneath.

Sill-length curtains look rather odd and much less lavish. Opt for full length as much as possible.



Insert lead weights into the hems of your curtains. One in either corner and two where fabric panels have been joined. They are invisible inside your hems and help the curtain hang correctly.

Lining curtains is highly recommended! We all want to get quick value for money results. And most of us think lining isn't necessary, is too difficult to handle, or takes too much time and money. All of this is untrue. If you want professional curtains that last many years, lining is worth the extra effort.

Don't cut off the extra cord once the curtain tape has been pleated. Tie the loose ends around a plastic cord-tidy so you can let the pleats out when you clean the curtains.

Use tiebacks, either to match the fabric or one of the many striking designs available nowadays. Not only will they make most full length curtains hang better, they'll provide you with a design feature in their own right.

Spend as much time as possible choosing and achieving a perfect curtain heading. It's the most eye-catching part of your curtains.

All stand the test of time. Install a great hanging system. If the rod or pole is on show, then make it stunning with eye-catching finials. If you want it too be unobtrusive and out of view, make sure it's good quality and sturdy enough to support your curtain design for many years.

If you don't want to be changing your window decoration every few months, go for a classic fabric - silk, damask or linen. All stand the test of time.

Press your seams and stitches as you work. The heat sets the stitches in the fabric, and pressing seams and hems makes fabric lie flat for easier measuring and a professional finish.

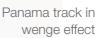


ACCESSORIES finishing touches

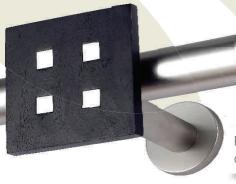




Tiffany cloud tieback







Bolero noir decorative magnet



Jupiter ring in anthracite

Complementing your curtain with tiebacks or performing small design cameos with something unique is all about adding your own personal style. Sometimes it's the smaller things that make the biggest difference.



Elena brown tieback



Blenheim silver mist holdback



Fleur smoky grey



Jupiter ring in anthracite



Operetta





antique

WOW TIP

Using a curtain lining can add warmth and cosiness to a room by reducing draughts and creates a greater degree of insulation against noise and cold air. Another key benefit is that lining your curtains prolongs the colour and integrity of the fabric.





Richly coloured, large-scale designs that blend claret, grape and burgundy together with champagne highlights, Operetta makes an impressive theatrical statement of colour in the home.

Rossetti spice tieback from impressions range

Chatsworth finial (in antique Bronze) from Grandeur Range







theatrical







