

★ OFFICIAL ★
RUBY STAR
SOCIETY
PATTERN CO.

CURTAIN MAKING GUIDE

project sheet



FABRIC BY MELODY MILLER

PS RS0011

This project sheet is a little different than most! Curtains are simple but can be made in an infinite number of shapes and sizes, so we thought it most useful to describe the process for making curtains to fit your own space. Use our soft and silky 108" sateen quilt backs or our 44" wide Ruby Star Cotton prints for gorgeous standard curtains, or skip ahead to page 3 how to use Melody Miller's border print from Rise for sweet floral curtains.

STANDARD CURTAINS

DETERMINE HEIGHT

To determine how tall to cut your fabric, first determine the finished height of your curtains. This isn't the height of the window, but the overall height you'd like your curtains to be. (Tip: hang your curtains near the top of your wall, regardless of window height, to visually make your windows and room feel larger!) Full length curtains should end about 1/2" above the floor.

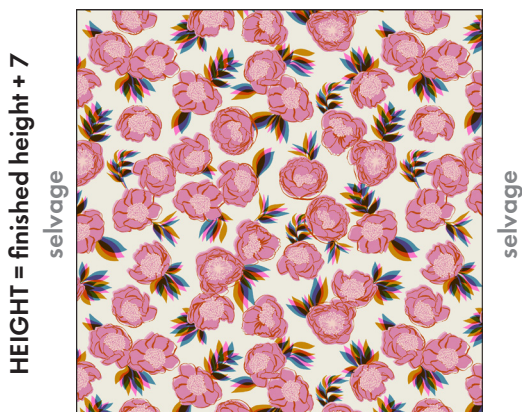
Once your finished height is determined, add 7" for total hemming allowances. So, if we want our finished curtain to be 72" tall, our curtain pieces should be cut 79" tall.

DETERMINE WIDTH

A curtain should be 1.5 to 2 times as wide as the space it is covering to have a pleasing fullness when hanging. For each curtain, first determine the amount of space it will be filling, multiply by either 1.5 or 2, then add 2" for hem allowances. Remember to account for multiple curtains if you would like more than one curtain to cover a space. Also remember to measure the full space the curtains will occupy (usually curtains cover an area wider than the window).

So for instance, let's say we're making two curtains to cover a 40" wide window. We'd like the curtains to overhang the windows by 10" on each side, so we will need 60" total of curtain coverage. Since we're doing two curtains, each curtain will need to cover 30". We'd like slightly less full curtains, so we will multiple 30" by 1.5. Then we will add 2" for hem allowances. $30 \times 1.5 + 2 = 47$, so each curtain will need to be cut 47" wide..

WIDTH = space width x 1.5 or 2, + 2



DETERMINE YARDAGE

For all nondirectional fabrics or fabrics with print direction running parallel to selvage (this is standard), first determine how many curtains you can fit across the width of the fabric. For 108" wide fabric, for instance, you could fit two curtains cut to (approximately) 54" wide.

Then determine your cutting height (79" in our example above). You will need that amount of exact yardage per number of curtains you

can fit on the fabric width. So if we are using 108" wide fabric and can fit 2 curtains across the width, to make 2 curtains we'll need 79" of yardage, to make 4 curtains we'll need 158" of yardage, etc.

Add 9" to your exact yardage number for wiggle room, then divide by 36" to get the yardage. You may have to round up a weird decimal to the nearest increment. So if you need 79" exact yardage, you would do $88" / 36 = 2.444 = 2.5$ yards.

HOW TO CUT

Managing large pieces of fabric can be difficult! We are big fans of tearing the fabric instead of cutting. The fabric will naturally tear straight along the straight lines of the thread structure.

On one selvage, snip the edge several inches in from the top cut edge (this doesn't have to be exact). Firmly and quickly, pull the fabric apart at the snip to tear the fabric across its width. Now you have a straight top edge. Measure your curtain cutting height along the selvage edge and make another snip. Tear again across the width. Now your curtain is the correct height!

For width, first trim off one selvage (you can do this visually with scissors if you have a graphic selvage, or with a ruler and rotary cutter). This edge will form one of the sides of your curtain.

Along the top torn edge, measure your width from the trimmed selvage edge. Snip the torn edge, then firmly tear down the length of your fabric. Voila! Your curtain panel is cut. Repeat if doing a second curtain.

SHORTCUTS

If you are using 108" quilt backing, first buy yardage and tear the height as described above. Then you can easily eyeball pairs of curtains by folding trimmed selvage to selvage to find the center, and tearing at the center to create two 54" wide panels. This will easily create pairs of curtains that cover space widths from about 50" to 70".

If you are using 44" Ruby Star Cotton with either a non directional print or the print running parallel to selvage (this is standard), simply use the whole width of fabric as a curtain. Per curtain, buy yardage for the height and tear as described above, trim off selvages, and you have a cut curtain. One curtain like this would cover a width about about 20" - 30", so a pair will cover about 40" - 60".

For either, resist the urge to just turn under the selvages for the sides. They should be trimmed off first as the selvages are sometimes woven tighter than the rest of the fabric, and this can affect the way the curtain hangs.

SEWING

Once you have torn each curtain to size, do the following per curtain:

On each side edge, fold and press 1/2" towards wrong side, then fold and press another 1/2". Stitch along inner folded edge to hem each side.

On top and bottom edge, fold and press 1/2" towards wrong side. Then fold an additional 3" towards the wrong side, press and pin liberally. Use a ruler to fold accurately. Alternatively, after the first 1/2" fold and press, you can use a ruler to draw a line 6" in from the pressed edge. Fold the edge in to the line to create the 3" fold.

Stitch along inner folded edge. At the bottom, this becomes the hem. At the top, this becomes a casing for the curtain rod.

Bonus: Topstitch 1/4" in from the top edge only for an extra polished look.

BORDER PRINT CURTAINS

Rise by Melody Miller includes a border print that runs perpendicular to the selvage, which is perfect for curtains! Because of the print direction, the yardage calculation and sewing is slightly different than the standard curtains. The height of the curtain is fixed at the fabric width, which is about 42" finished.

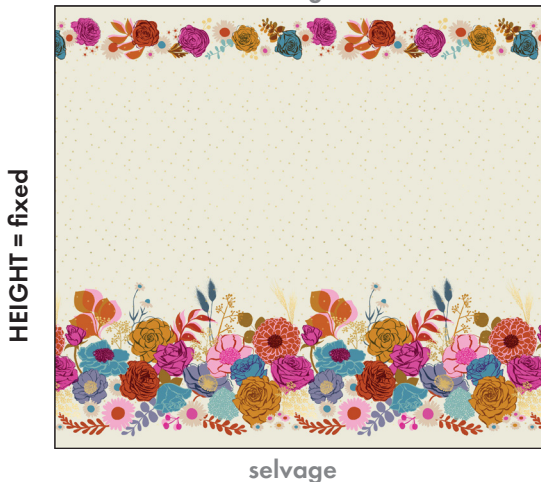
DETERMINE WIDTH

Width will be determined by the size of the area you are covering. A curtain should be about 1.5 to 2 times wider than the space it is covering for pleasing fullness when hanging.

Determine how much space your curtain is covering, multiply by 1.5 or 2, and add 2" for hem allowances. That is your curtain cut width. For instance, if you are making a curtain to cover a 30" wide space and you want it very full, you will do $30" \times 2 + 2$ which is 62". You will need a 62" piece of yardage for the curtain.

$$\text{WIDTH} = \text{space width} \times 1.5 \text{ or } 2, + 2$$

selvage



DETERMINE YARDAGE

Add up all the cut widths for the curtains you are making, then add 9" for wobble room, and divide by 36". So if you are making three curtains that are all a cut width of 62", $3 \times 62 + 9 = 195$, divided by 36 rounds up to 5.5 yds. You will need 5.5 yds of the Rise Border Print.

HOW TO CUT

We are big fans of tearing the fabric instead of cutting. The fabric will naturally tear straight along the straight lines of the thread structure.

On one selvage, snip the edge several inches in from the cut edge (this doesn't have to be exact). Firmly and quickly, pull the fabric apart at the snip to tear the fabric across its width. Measure your curtain width along the selvage edge and make another snip. Tear again across the width. Now your curtain is the correct width!

Trim off the selvage edges visually with scissors or a rotary cutter, trimming just enough to remove the selvage design and/or pinholes.

ADDITIONAL FABRIC

To preserve the design of the border print on the front of the curtain, we will use facings at the top and bottom to hem. Choose a facing

fabric that is similar in background color to the border print.

To cut facing, cut 4" strips across the width of the fabric in quantity to cover the top and bottom edges of all curtains. If your curtains are wider than the width of the fabric, simply piece multiple strips together along short edges and trim down to match the curtain width. Yardage required for 44" wide facing fabric can be determined with the following equation: all curtain widths combined, times 2, divided by 40, round up to nearest whole number, multiply by 4, divide by 36, round up to next yardage increment.

For example: $62" \text{ total curtain width} \times 2 = 124$, divided by 40 = 3.1, next whole number is 4, times 4 is 16, divided by 36 is .4444, next yardage increment is .5 yard.

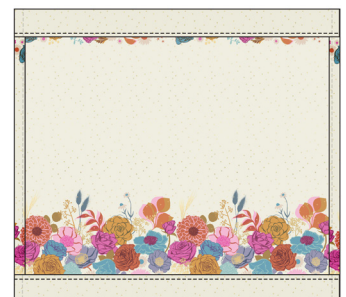
SEWING

On top and bottom edge, piece a facing strip to curtain right sides together with a $\frac{1}{4}"$ seam allowance. Press seams open.

On each side edge, fold and press $\frac{1}{2}"$ towards wrong side, then fold and press another $\frac{1}{2}"$. Stitch along inner folded edge to hem each side. (Hem entire edge, including facings.)

On top and bottom edge, fold and press raw edge of facing $\frac{1}{2}"$ to wrong side. Fold facing to wrong side of curtain along facing seam, pressing flat. Pin and stitch along inner folded edge of facing. This creates a casing along the top edge for a curtain rod and a hem along the bottom edge.

Bonus: Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}"$ in from the top edge only for an extra polished look.



CURTAIN MAKING GUIDE

Rise by Melody Miller includes five 108" cotton sateen colorways and three colorways of a beautiful border print, all perfect for making your own curtains! Inside are instructions for making curtains in a size customized for your space (that's where you'll find guidelines for how much yardage to get). Use the fabrics below or any of our other Ruby Star Cottons - the sky's the limit when it comes to print choice! Instructions included for Standard Curtains (front cover) and Border Print Curtains (right.)

FABRIC SUGGESTIONS



RS11165-11



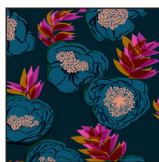
RS11165-12



RS11165-13



RS11168-11



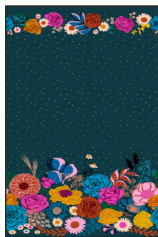
RS11168-12



RS0014-11M



RS0014-12M



RS0014-14M



★ RUBY STAR
SOCIETY ★

moda
FABRICS + SUPPLIES

PS RS0011



Copyright 2020 Ruby Star Society. Copying or otherwise redistributing is strictly prohibited. For personal use only.