

*Want a custom window valance but can't afford the hefty price tag? Make your own! This DIY window valance was easy to make and turned out better than I imagined. It's requires very little sewing and only cost me \$15!*



## **HOW TO MAKE THE EASIEST DIY WINDOW VALANCE**

**Here are the supplies you'll need:**

- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Curtain fabric
- Lining fabric
- Ribbon
- [Tape measure](#)
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Iron (optional)
- Curtain rod for hanging

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<http://theteacherswife.com/2018/04/easiest-diy-window-valance>

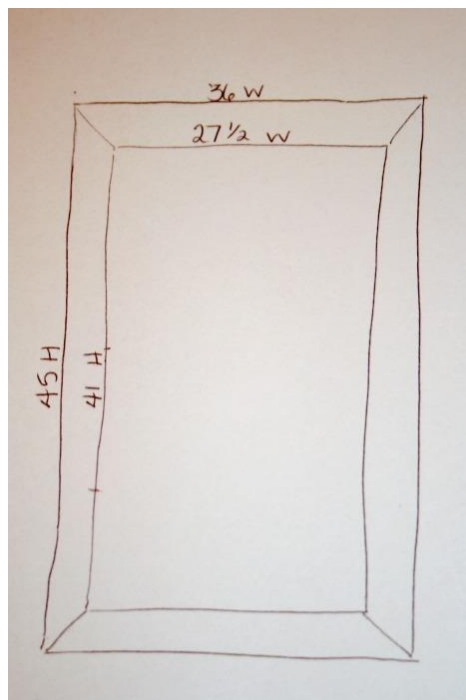
## Here's how I did it:

### 1. Measure your window and draw it out on paper.

In my opinion, the most important part of sewing curtains is to plan it out properly on paper!

I wanted my curtain to cover the entire width of the window and trim, from outside casing to outside casing (36 inches).

Since this curtain would eventually be tied-up, I didn't need it to be entire height of the window. I went with 3/4 the length of the window (about 34 inches).



### 2. Determine how much fabric you need.

To determine this, add up the curtain measurements PLUS seam allowances (about for 1/2 in. seams on all sides) PLUS rod allowances (this will vary based on your rod but my curtain needed to wrap around the rod 2 in. on each side of the window) PLUS a rod pocket allowance (this will also vary based on the thickness of your rod but I left 2 in. at the top for mine).

Here's my math as an example:

|  |
|--|
| Width = curtain width (36 in.) + left seam (1/2 in.) + right seam (1/2 in.) + left rod allowance (2 in.) + right rod allowance (2 in.) |
| Width = 41 inches wide   |
| Length = curtain length (34 in.) + top seam (1/2 in.) + bottom seam (1/2 in.) + rod pocket allowance (2 in.)                           |
| Length = 37 inches long  |

As you can see, I needed 41 inches by 37 inches.

If you're new to sewing, remember that you'll purchase your fabrics by the yard.

### **3. Prepare your fabrics for sewing**

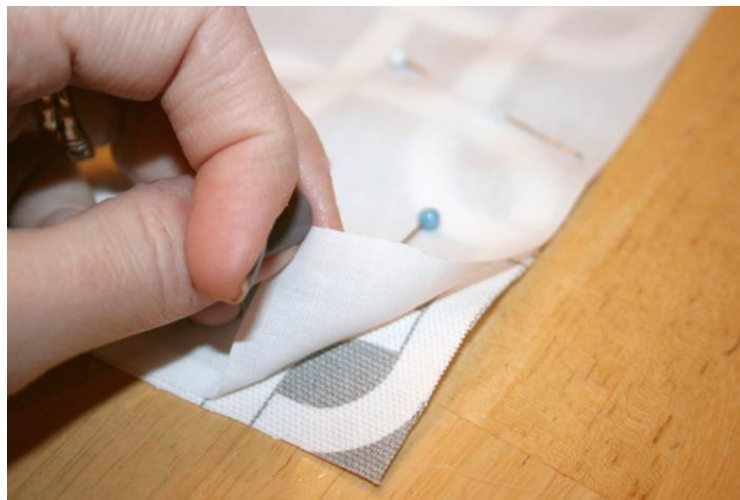
Cut your fabric to the exact measurements you determined.

Pin the fabrics together so they won't shift while sewing.

Lay the fabric "right" side up (trust me on this!), lay lining directly on top, and pin it all around the left, right, and bottom edges.



*(Note: Whether or not you line your curtain is a personal preference. If using any fabric other than white, I like to line my curtains. I don't want bright colors or patterns to be seen from the exterior of my house).*



### **4. It's sew time!**

Sew the three side of the curtain, leaving the top open. Since I only allowed 1/2 in. for each seam, I sewed my straight line 1/2 in. away from the edge of the fabric.

Flip the fabric so the “right” side was facing out.



Press the seams so the edges lay crisp and flat (this is optional). This step gives it a more "finished" look, in my opinion.



Then, sew the top up. Fold the rough edges under about 1/2 in. to create the seam, press it so it lays flat, and stitch straight across the top as close to the edge as you can.

##### **5. Create the rod pocket.**

I used a simple metal curtain rod since it would be covered up in the rod pocket. The height of your rod pocket will depend on the thickness of your rod.

Fold the top of my curtain over about 2 in. to create the rod pocket. I stitched right over top of the seam so that I didn't create another line of stitching.

My rod fit in okay, but it was a little tighter than I would have liked. Make sure you leave enough room for your particular rod to fit through nicely.



## 6. Add ribbons.

Measure the ribbons to the length of your curtain. Fold the edges over on each end and stitch them so they won't fray.

Sewed the ribbon over the top of the curtain, so that it hung behind and in front. This way, the ribbon could tie together under the piece of fabric. Sew your line along your rod pocket stitch line.

I decided to attach my ribbons so that they divided the curtain into thirds across the width. I've seen some pictures where they spread the ribbons further apart, but that's totally your preference.



## 7. Mount your curtain on the window

Hang your brackets and then slide your curtain rod through the rod pocket. Cinch up the fabric and tie the ribbons underneath. I've seen some people tie beautiful bows, but I left mine plain (for now at least). I may play with it later, but I love the clean and simple look!



I'm so, so thrilled with how this sewing project turned out. This tie-up window valance is a great project if you aren't very confident with a sewing machine but still want to try and make your own custom window treatment. The sewing and materials are very minimal!



I added up all the materials and this tie-up window valance only cost me about \$15. It was worth the time it took me to figure out my machine (it was given to me but I'd never sewn with it) and I really achieved the custom look I wanted.