



BE A CURTAIN QUEEN – Curtain Panels

The Gathered Panel Header – Lesson Seven

Measuring

Spread the panel with attached lining on a flat surface and smooth the layers out evenly. It's easier to place things smoothly with the lining side facing up.

Measure from the bottom edge up to your finished length and mark with pins about every 10 to 12 inches across the width of the panel.

You might choose to use the floor or a table. I measured my panels on a cutting table, pinning at 36-inch increments, with the final section being the required distance to achieve the finished length measurement. Placing pins at every yard helps hold lining and front fabric together well, and I recommend placing pins throughout the body of your treatment if using the floor.

Transfer finished length pins to the front fabric side of the panel. From the finished length pin line, trim the raw edge to the cut measurement minus the added ease measurement.

Measurement Options

1. ***The simple gather.*** To make a simple rod pocket for gathering over a rod, your finished length measurement should be the distance from the top of your rod to the bottom edge of the hem (to the floor, sill, or whatever - the ending point for your panel's bottom edge). In the gathered header computations section of the yardage worksheet, you added the return (back side) of rod pocket plus $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam allowance.

To form the rod pocket, press the cut edge under at $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (which is the seam allowance in the computation stage). Press the panel header under (to the lining side) at the finished edge pin line. Your finished rod pocket should be double the size of your rod depth. (For example, a one-inch rod gets a two-inch rod pocket.) Stitch along the line of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch turned edge, creating the rod pocket.



2. ***The Ruffled Gathered Header.*** In this case, your finished length measurement should be the top edge of your ruffle. The distance added for the back side of the ruffle, the back side of the rod pocket, and the ½-inch turned edge is added before cutting. (Notice this is covered on the yardage requirement computation sheet.

Trim panel length to the cut measurement minus the extra amount added for ease. Press edge under ½ inch. Press the header to the back side at the finished length pin line. Pin the ½-inch fold line across the width of the panel – and stitch. Measure up from that stitch line the distance of your rod pocket. Either pin that measurement line or stitch the line by marking the ruffle depth measurement line with painter’s tape on the sewing machine plate.

3. ***The Waterfall Header.*** You actually make a very long ruffled header. It works the same way as the ruffled header, except you flop the ruffle to the front of the rod pocket after threading it onto your rod rather than standing it straight up for the shorter ruffle.
4. ***The French Pouf Header.*** This treatment is made with an 8-inch ruffle. After threading the rod pocket over the rod and resting rod into bracket cups, separate the front side from the back side of the ruffled header. This creates the pouf effect. Voila!