



# **BE A CURTAIN QUEEN – Curtain Panels**

## **Instructions for Sewing the Bottom Hem – Lesson Six**

### Preparing the Bottom Hem-line:

For the bottom hem of the panel, fold the bottom edge to the back side of the fabric at eight inches – and press. Lift that flap and fold the raw edge into the pressed fold. Now you have a double four-inch pressed hem!

Now it's time for hemming. I highly recommend hemming by hand with sewing needle and thread. It's a great night-time project while talking with family or watching TV.

### How to Hand Sew a Hem

1. Knot your thread. Beginning at one end of your panel, draw your thread through the folded hem flap.
2. Draw thread through the front fabric just beside the folded edge (at the four-inch hem-line) by taking two to three threads of the fabric with your needle. As you bring needle up from the front fabric "bite", run needle through the pressed hem edge by at least a couple of threads.
3. Repeat step #2 every 3/16<sup>th</sup> to half-inch as you stitch across your panel hem-line.
4. As you run out of thread on your needle, secure the thread end by stitching over your final stitch three or four times. Trim thread, and thread needle again. Knot thread, and begin sewing where you left off.
5. When you come to the end, knot off your thread by stitching over your final stitch three or four time. Cut the thread, and you're finished!



## Types of Stitches

- Whip stitch: hold thread to the right of the hem-line and needle as you sew.
- Chain stitch: hold thread to the left (with left thumb) of the hem-line as you stitch.

## General Notes

- As you stitch, draw thread each time you connect hem-line and front fabric to a point of being taught but not tight. Stitching too tightly causes puckering on the panel front.
- A little extra security: every 6-10 inches, stitch double or triple at the point where you've drawn thread through the hem-line. This secures the row of stitching further. If the panel hem gets pulled, it won't pull out the entire row of stitching – just to the next secured hem-line double threaded spot.
- Press hems after stitching – by hand or machine.

## The Lining Hem

For linings, you can sew a two-inch double hem or a three-inch double hem. The three-inch hem looks more lush and expensive, but for more casual panels, the two-inch is fine.

- Just as with panels, any seams adjoining widths should be pressed before hemming. When pressing the lining seam, the direction of the selvage doesn't matter at all.
- Machine-stitch the lining hem-line at 1/8 of an inch from the pressed two-inch or three-inch edge.