

A Tradition: “Creative Living”



With your host, Sheryl Borden!

5900 Series
Sewing & Fashion - Section II

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Sewing & Fashion

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Due to the size of this section, it has been separated into two sections in order for it to be downloaded more quickly. For instance, “Quilting: The Basics” is in Section I on page 3, whereas “Making Perfect Pleats & Welt Cords” is in Section II on page 11.

MAKING PERFECT PLEATS & WELT CORDS

Pam Damour is “The Decorating Diva,” and she conducts classes and workshops on a wide variety of topics. She also has DVDs for sale on her website at: www.pamdamour.com. When she appeared on “Creative Living,” she demonstrated making perfect pleats and welt cording, which can be found in the following DVDs.



107 Terrific Toppers \$25

Whenever a decorator uses a board to mount our window treatments, what do we think? Expensive? Difficult to make? Difficult to install? In actuality, board mounted treatments are none of these. They are easy, economical and a cinch to

install! Join the decorating diva to make three classic styles of board mounted top treatments. You will learn different types of board valances:

- Box pleated
- Gathered
- Scalloped

Learn how to design your valance, draft an original pattern, calculate yardage, and use templates. After your valance is ready, you will learn how to prepare the mounting board, mount the topper, and install! You will be amazed how easy and fast your top treatments will go together, and you'll never need another pattern again!

108 Designer Draperies \$25

The drapery panel is back with a vengeance! They're elegant and graceful.

Custom decorator workrooms produce more draperies than any other treatment. They function beautifully, insulate wonderfully, and fold perfectly. And until now, people thought they were just too hard to make. Join the decorating diva as you learn:



- Understanding Pinch Pleated Draperies
- Cutting the fabric & lining
- Sewing the draperies: Hemming; Hemming the lining; Side hems
- Marking of the pleats; Sewing of the pleats; Pleating the pleats

And pleated draperies come in all shapes and forms. Other types of pleats:

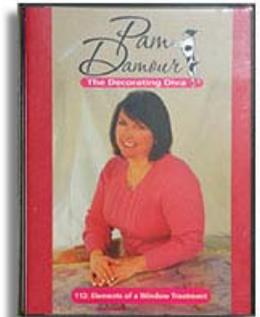
- Goblet
- Country
- Euro
- Tuxedo
- Box
- Button
- Center tacked

112 Elements of a Window Treatment \$25

This DVD shows what I have identified as the 12 most commonly used elements, and how to use them. In addition, I have developed my own template system using these elements.

You will learn:

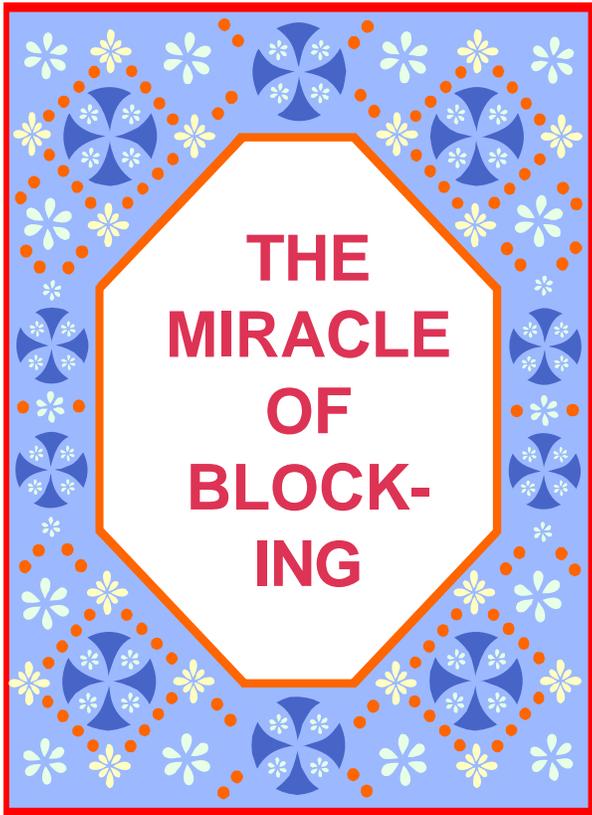
- How to identify the best fabrics to use for each design
- How to get many different looks from the same elements
- How to size a top treatment to fit your window
- The three types of top treatments
- Matching patterns



Bonus techniques:

- How and why to interline
- Making a pleated ruffle trim
- Making and applying micro welt
- Micro welt with flat piping

Pam Damour
The Decorating Diva
www.pamdamour.com



According to quilter, Jean Gilles Dean, blocking a quilt is the final “magic” touch. Here are her instructions:

- Blocking can be done on the floor, an ironing surface, foam core or large insulation board
- Measure across the middle of the quilt and from corner to corner to get measurements.
- Mark measurements on the surface to be used for blocking. Be sure to check the measurement from corner to corner. Use a permanent marker or tape to do the marking.
- You may want to wet the quilt in the washer before blocking.
- Place quilt or block on the surface and pin it in place. Secure with large pins. T pins are good for this. You may need to tug a bit to get some areas to fit the measurement.
- If the quilt or block is not already damp, mist with water.
- Leave to dry.

Other hints:

- If you do not want to wet the whole quilt, you may use steam by holding the iron just above the quilt and giving a blast of steam. You may even put the iron on your quilt and steam that way.
- If your quilt is very distorted you may want to steam and give a tug on your quilt.
- Blocking can be done on strips, blocks, the completed top and the completed quilt.
- When pinning the piece to the blocking surface, check out lines that are supposed to be straight and pin those straight.
- It is amazing what you can do with blocking.

Lines can be made straight.

Fullness can be removed.

Fabric can be stretched.

Quilt can be made flat.

**COURTESY: Jean Gilles Dean
Quilter**



Create a T-Shirt Memory Quilt



Turn your t-shirts or any other treasured fabric into a beautiful custom quilted throw. The Ticche & Bea T-shirt Memory Quilt is a wonderful use for old sports or event t-shirts,

fraternity/sorority or college t-shirts, and even old concert t-shirts. It's the perfect gift for friends and family. We're proud of our "green" quilt that allows you to recycle your favorite fabrics into a quilt you'll enjoy for years to come.

How does it work? Order the custom t-shirt memory quilt sewing package today & we'll send you a template to cut out your material. Return the mailing envelope included with your treasured materials to us and in three to four weeks, you'll have your Ticche and Bea T-Shirt Memory Quilt. To order, go to www.ticcheandbea.com and click on T-Shirt Memory Quilt.

Features

- The Ticche and Bea Memory Quilt Custom Edition is 60" x 60" and is bordered and backed in luscious minky fabric. If you've never felt this poly chenille treasure, trust us, you'll want to dive right in.
- The custom package includes a cutting template and directions, straight pins, a gift certificate for the sewing, a gift card for the recipient, and a mailing envelope to send it all back to us. The custom edition should be your choice if you do not have sewing experience. Our talented seamstresses will craft your new quilt with expert care.



Design-a-Doll

Smart Kids Sew!

Design-A-Doll, the latest product in the Ticche & Bea family, will teach your child to sew. Children will love choosing the doll's hairdo, its facial features, and will enjoy learning how to make an a-line dress and a pair of pants. The best part? The kit comes with an 80 minute DVD, showing exactly how to create the doll, step by step.

Features - The Design-A-Doll kit includes:

- an 18" muslin doll in a top, leggings, and ballet flats
- 4 facial transfers
- 60 yards of yarn: blonde, red, brown
- dress, pants, and headband patterns
- 2 fabric fat quarters
- ribbon
- elastic
- tacky glue
- needles & pins
- scissors
- thread
- seam ripper
- measuring tape
- thimble
- buttons
- naming certificate
- kid-friendly directions
- 80 minute, step-by-step DVD (with chapters for easy viewing)

COURTESY: Mary Mertens
Ticche & Bea
www.ticcheandbea.com



SEW ME THE MONEY

There is nothing more rewarding than working at a job you completely enjoy. However, that enjoyment could quickly turn to disappointment if your business is not profitable. In Janet's article, she discussed three types of sewing businesses: custom sewing, manufacturing your own designs and teaching sewing. This article concentrates on custom sewing. Before you decide to start a sewing business --honestly answer the following questions:

- How will your business impact your family and your lifestyle?
- Is your spouse supportive of this business idea?
- Do you have adequate space in your home to accommodate your business?
- Do you need to rent a facility?
- How much money is needed to start this venture?
- Can your family finances handle the start-up period?

Educate and Investigate.

Interview at least three people who have businesses similar to the one you want to start. They can help shed light on what to do and sometimes -- more importantly -- what not to do.

Enroll in some business classes. Your community college is an excellent resource. In these classes you may find successful small business owners who are willing to share their experiences and teach you how to avoid costly mistakes.

Stay on top of current trends. Subscribe to magazines and newsletters that pertain to your business—both written for the consumer and the trade.

Join associations that relate to your type of business. Networking is key to starting a small business and is the most affordable form of marketing. It can be as simple as joining the local chamber of commerce. There are many benefits to becoming a member of this type of group.

Once you have investigated the pros and cons of owning and operating a sewing business, decide which one is best suited to your personality and lifestyle.

Naming your company is similar to naming your baby. Select a unique name, one that tells the world how special your business is. Is the name already in use? You don't want your name to be confused with another business in your area. Your business name needs to be simple, easy to remember and tell the customer exactly what type of service or product you provide. Try to keep your business name to no more than three words.

Research your local and state laws to determine if you need to register your business name. When you file your name, a search will be conducted to determine if that name has been registered. You may register DBA (doing business as) your own legal name but if that name is already registered, be prepared with a second or third choice.

Track the Money.

Open a business checking account. This account will establish your company as a bona fide business and is necessary to obtain a business loan or line of credit. Your business records should be completely separate from your personal finances. Special accounting software is available for easy bookkeeping. These programs can create a budget, develop reports (like accounts payable and accounts receivable) and make it easy to balance your books. After your business is established, you may need to hire a bookkeeper. A bookkeeper can pay the bills, balance the books and provide regular status reports on your business finances. A bookkeeper is different than an accountant. A professional tax accountant, preferably a CPA, is also needed for your business success. The CPA you select should be familiar with, and/or specialize in, small businesses in your area. An experienced accountant can offer money-saving

advice and determine whether you should work as a sole proprietor, a corporation or an LLC.

Avoid partnerships if at all possible! They have a 95% failure rate.

Business cards can officially “announce” your business to neighbors and friends (all of which are potential customers). They will be your first way to network the launch of your business and bring you customers. You’ll need business cards for prospective customers as well as associates when you attend community functions, association meetings and trade shows. Here are some simple guidelines:

1. Your Company name should appear first and most prominently on the card.
2. Use only one additional line to define your product or service.
3. Your name, company address, phone, fax, email and web address should be in easy to read fonts. Keep the information on the card to a minimum so you can use a larger text. Don’t get too fancy with fonts.
4. If you want to use a logo make sure it visually tells the viewer what your business is all about.

Custom Sewing and Alterations

A custom sewing business requires a very low initial investment. No additional tools or equipment are required beyond what a standard sewing room already contains. This type of business could be up and running within a week. This method is satisfactory if you just want to get paid for your time. However, if you want to make a profit, more homework is required.

Become proficient at drafting or altering patterns. Take a class from a qualified expert and make several drafts for different body types.

Decide what type of sewing to specialize in (i. e. evening wear, hard-to fit women) and become an expert in that area. Whatever you specialize in, market to customers who have the income to afford your services. For example, for a custom bridal and/or evening wear sewing business, make your services known in better fabric stores. Many customers who want custom clothing will inquire at such a store. This is the customer you want; she is looking for a quality garment and is willing to pay the necessary fee. Some custom clothing businesses thrive with only a handful of these repeat customers.

Keep complete records of your customers, their measurements, what you made for them, how much they paid, their mailing addresses. etc. Then keep in touch with them... send a birthday card, or a casual email newsletter. This will remind them that you’re still in the business of custom sewing.

Business Smarts

When greeting a customer wear a garment that you have made. Be prepared with a list of prices for all of your labor costs. Include how much you charge per hour to shop with or for the customer, basic drafting or alteration fees, fitting fees and details like zippers and hems. The customer will have more confidence in you as a professional when they see you use such a list.

Create a contract that explains all the details of what services are being provided. Essential points to include are the completion date, the total cost, number of fittings, missed appointment policy, required deposit, and that the final payment is necessary before the garment leaves the studio! Both you and the customer sign the contract.

**COURTESY: Janet Pray
Islander Sewing Systems**
www.islandersewing.com





*Floriani...
The Name That Means Beautiful Embroidery!*



Faux Hand Look Applique

If you like the look of hand applique but don't like hand work, this is the technique for you. We will experiment with four different stabilizers so you can find the one that gives you the best results and is the easiest to work with.

You will need:

- Water soluble topping stabilizer
- No show mesh fusible stabilizer
- Wet & Gone fusible stabilizer
- Stitch & wash fusible tearaway stabilizer
- Pieces of fabric in sizes suitable for your applique
- Fine tip Sharpie marker, sewing thread to match fabric, basic sewing supplies, straight pins, pinking sheers (optional), applique pattern

Here's how:

- Draw the applique design on the non-fusible side of the stabilizer if using any of the fusible ones listed above; if using the water soluble topping, it doesn't matter which side you draw on.
- Place the stabilizer on the right side of the fabric. Use pins to hold the stabilizer in place if necessary. Shorten the stitch length to 1.8 and stitch on the drawn line.
- Trim away the excess fabric leaving a scant quarter inch or even eighth inch seam allowance.

You might even want to trim the seam allowance with pinking sheers to automatically notch the edges.

- Make a slash in the center of the stabilizer large enough to enable you to turn the fabric right side out. Press the edges to smooth them out. Trim away the center of the stabilizer and leave it only around the edge of the applique. This will keep the center of the applique soft and more like traditional hand applique. Because you have used a fusible applique, you will now be able to temporarily fuse the applique down to the base to hold it in place until it has been stitched.
- Now that you have the applique temporarily fused to the base fabric, stitch it in place either by hand or by machine with invisible thread using a blind hem stitch or a small blanket stitch. It will be virtually invisible.
- If you have used Water soluble stabilizer, Wet & Gone or Stlitch & Wash, when you wash the piece, the stabilizers will disappear. If you use the No show mesh the stabilizer will remain forever but is very soft and really doesn't add any weight and won't be noticeable. So make a sample with each one of these stabilizers and see which one works best for you.

COURTESY: Patsy Shields
RNK Distributing - Floriani Stabilizers
www.rnkistributing.com

Fast and Colorful Children's Quilt

This can be a great project to get rid of odds and ends in your scrap stash. The project can be either bright and colorful, or it makes a precious baby pad when made with pastel prints, or a senior lap quilt using plaids and/or floral prints.

Supplies needed:

- Bright juvenile prints and solids
- Quilt Batting
- Bright thread for joining sections
- 1 piece of cardboard for making a pattern
- Tailors chalk for marking rounded edges

Make a template for the curve on the ends of the sections of this quilt by tracing a half circle on cardboard and cutting it out. For 9 inch strips I draw around a dinner plate. For 6 inch strips I draw around a smaller plate. Cut your fabric strips and batting either into 6 inch or 9 inch strips by 44 inches long.

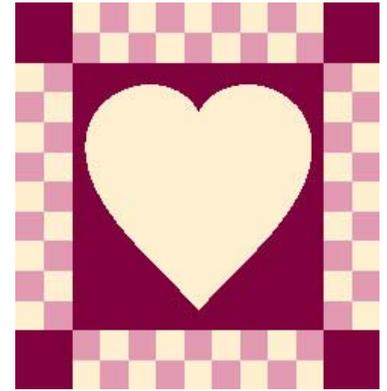
For each section, layer a piece of quilt batting and two pieces of fabric (laid on top of batting right sides together). Trace around your cardboard template to curve the ends. Stitch around all layers leaving an open space just larger than the width of your hand on

one side for turning. Trim excess fabric from curved ends and snip toward the curve stitching to make a nice curve when turning.

Turn each section right sides out (batting in the center) and press. Tuck in the raw edges of the opening as you press. You may either stitch the openings shut or just pin them closed to be caught when joining sections.

Using a bright, colorful thread, choose a wide (7mm-9mm) decorative stitch that has equal number of stitches on each side of the center to join sections. Pin two sections together at a time (not the whole quilt at once) alternating the directions of the pins. If your machine has a dual feed system, engage it. If not, you may wish to use a roller foot or just position pins close together to keep the fabric from slipping as you sew.

Stitch your sections together, lining up the center of your foot with the place the two sections meet to have equal stitching on each section. You can join as many or as few sections as your wish. This makes a wonderful "nap quilt" for pre-schoolers and little folks.



Fast and Easy Collar Application

This is a technique you can use any time you have a collar opening with a facing. You will find it quick and clean and much faster than the traditional application found on most patterns.

Cut your fabric as specified on your pattern but also cut a bias strip about 1 1/4 inch wide and the length of the neck opening (all the way around not just the back piece). Fold this piece in half long ways and press.

When pinning the collar in place pin all raw edges of the collar to the raw edge of the neck opening, fold facings along designated fold lines and pin over the collar. Now center the folded bias strip over the neck opening and pin match-

ing raw edges as well. I trim and fold the raw edges (ends) of the bias so it only goes about 1 inch over the facing pieces. Stitch the entire neck edge down.

Trim and clip the seam allowance you just sewed. Fold the bias strip over the seam allowance and sew along the bottom edge to encase the neck seam. This stitching will be under the collar itself and will never show.

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