

Pleating and hanging the curtains

First work out how much material you will need. Be generous in the width e.g. at least 1½ times the width so when the curtains are drawn there is enough material to allow fullness when the two touch in the middle. (See Drawing page 3.)

- After hemming the edge allow 7cm to the first pleat. The first ring goes on the very end and the next on the first pleat.
- Each pleat uses 8cm of material
- Allow for 3cm after the last pleat in curtain in the centre of the window. This makes the curtains over lap better when they are pulled.
- Allowing 11.5cm between the pleats made the curtains hang nicely. You will have to adjust this measurement a little depending on the length of your window.
- Don't forget to allow room for the curtains to be pulled back off the windows. A 160cm wide window would require about 20cm each side so the total width of the two curtains when drawn would be 20cm.



1. Hem the top, bottom and edges of the curtain. At the top only fold the hem over once so it does not get too bulky when pleating.



2. Mark the pleat measurements on the back of the curtain allowing 7cm to the first pleat from the side.



3. Pin the pleat keeping the pins to the side out of the way of the sewing machine foot.



4. The pleat held in position by the pins.



5. Mark with a pin the depth of the pleat 5cm.



6. The pleat sewn. Make sure it has caught the inside pleat fold.



7. Pleats finished ready for the rings to be sewn on



8. Sew the rings on to the back of each pleat. I used key rings bought from a hardware store.



9. Curtain complete and hung. Note the position of the first ring on the right side of the curtain. It is positioned so that it is fixed to the end of the curtain rail. If you are making the rail as well then allow length in the rail for the ring between the hook and the rail end stop.



Drawing 1: Pleating pattern

