This how-to sewing instruction is courtesy of Susan Woodcock, professional educator and owner of Custom Workroom Technical Center, a hands-on training facility for home décor sewing professionals. Learn more at www.WorkroomTech.com

Buckram-Fold, Lined & Interlined Roman Shade

A new Roman shade method by Susan Woodcock

This Roman shade uses buckram, instead of ribs or rods, to provide stability and structure to the shade folds. Translucent buckram is used in combination with lining and interlining to prevent shadowing. Interlining is also needed to prevent the translucent, fusible buckram from adhering to the back of the face fabric. A light test with the face fabric is recommended to determine if the buckram will show through.

Materials and supplies:

Face fabric suitable for Roman shades such as cotton and cotton blend home décor fabrics

Lining and interlining (sample used Hanes Classic Sateen and Heavy Flannel in white)

3 inch döfix fusible translucent buckram

Sew on rings, shade lift cord and ladder tape.

Basic sewing tools and rulers

High quality steam iron such as Reliable Velocity 200IR

Weight bar (based on lift system used)

Roman shade lift system that accepts cords

Yardage:

For shades up to 45 inches wide:

Finished Length of Shade + 8" = _____ divided by 36" = _____ yards

For shades over 45 inches wide, you will need to seam fabrics together:

Finished width of shade + 8" = _____ divided by _____ width of the fabric = _____ number of cuts*

Finished Length of Shade + 8" = _____ times the number of cuts* = _____ divided by 36" = _____ yards

When using fabric with a pattern motif, allow enough to match the pattern on each shade in the room, and when seaming fabrics together for larger windows.

Cutting:

Cut face fabric finished width + 8 inches x finished length + 8 Inches
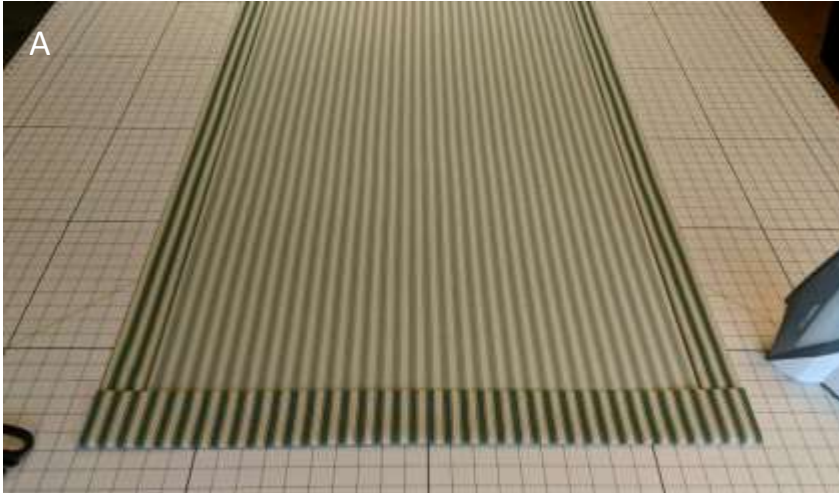
Cut the lining and interlining the finished width wide x the finished length + 2 inches

Cut pieces of 3 inch fusible transparent buckram finished width minus ½-inch. You will need one piece for each section between the rings.

Note: The size of buckram used should be half of the ring spacing or less. For example; 3 inch buckram is used for 6 inch spacing, and 4 inch buckram can be used for 8 inch ring spacing. If ring spacing is 7 inches, use 3 inch buckram. Pre-plan how many pieces of buckram by figuring your rings spacing on a template.
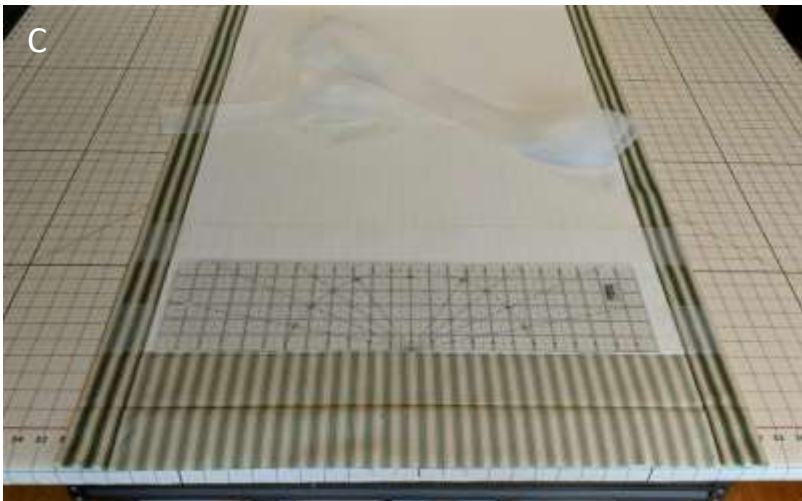
Fabrication Step-by-Step:

1. Place main fabric, face down on the worktable. Fold over 4 inches on each side, measuring to check that the width is accurate. Fold cut edge under to create 2 inch doubled side hems. Press the side hems.
2. At the bottom, fold over 6 inches and fold the cut edge under and press to create a 3 inch doubled bottom hem. (A)

3. Cover the back of the face fabric with interlining trimmed to fit the width and length. Press over the interlining so it is flat and smooth.
4. Starting at the bottom, place one piece of translucent buckram even with the crease pressed in at the bottom finished length, at the bottom of the interlining. Do not fold it into the hem. The double fold bottom hem will be unfolded below the buckram. (B)

B

5. Measure from the top edge of the first piece of buckram 3 inches, and place the second piece of buckram, evenly spaced. Stab pins into each end to hold the buckram pieces in place. Repeat for the rest of the pieces of buckram spacing 3 inches apart. (C-D)
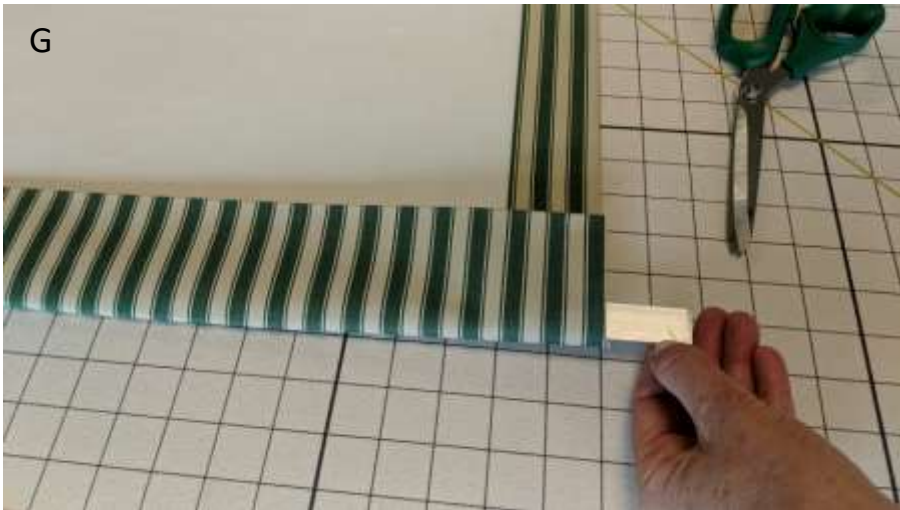

C

D

6. Cover the back of the shade with lining, but leave the pins along the outside edges to hold the buckram in place. Working from the center, press and steam the lining to fuse the buckram between the lining and interlining. Continue over the entire back. As you get to the outside edges, remove the pins, unfold the side hems and tuck the buckram and lining under the side and bottom hems and continue pressing all the way to the outer edges. (E - F)

E

7. Insert a weight bar into the bottom hem. Finish the bottom and side hems by hand stitching, or using an adhesive tape or fabric glue. (G – H) Finishing hems with a blind hemming machine is not recommended for this project.

8. Mark the ring spacing at the top edge of each piece of buckram. (The bottom rings are sewn to include the hem). Ring spacing will be 2 ½ inches from each side, and 10 inches or less apart horizontally in the center. For this sample, four columns of rings were needed. Hand stitch rings at each mark, using a thread that matches the front. Sew through the lining, translucent buckram and interlining, making a small stab-stitch to the front, catching the face fabric. (I)
9. Attach the shade to the headrail system. You can use any shade headrail lift system that accepts cords whether it's a track or tube with a clutch, spring, or motor.
10. Thread cord through the rings using cord shroud, following manufacturer's instructions. (J) Attach required cord safety warning tags and product labels.

J

Susan Woodcock owns Home Dec Gal, a how-to sewing resource and custom workroom in Western North Carolina, and is a Bluprint (formerly Craftsy) instructor, home décor sewing educator and international speaker. Susan's publishing credits include *Singer® Sewing Custom Curtains, Shades and Top Treatments* (Creative Publishing Intl., 2016) and *First Time Window Treatments, The Absolute Beginners Guide* (Creative Publishing, Intl., 2019). Together with her husband, Rodger Walker, Susan co-produces the Custom Workroom Conference, an annual educational event and trade show. In 2017, Susan and Rodger founded Custom Workroom Technical Center or "Workroom Tech", a hands-on training facility dedicated to the workroom industry. She credits her mother with teaching her to sew and inspiring her career of creativity.