Tab Top Curtain Panel

Prepared by Joanna Armour (www.stardustshoes.blogspot.com) For personal use only.

The general rule for curtains is that the panels should measure 1-1/2 times the width of the window. If using the measurements in this pattern, your window should measure no more than 29" wide; if you will be making 2 panels, then no more than 58" wide.

Some people are hesitant to use pieced fabric in window treatments, concerned that the seams will show when the sun shines through them. There's an easy solution: lining. Lining with blackout fabric is an economical, easy way to protect your fabric from sun damage, provide the curtains with a nice drape, and hide those pesky seams. An added bonus is that your kids may actually let you sleep in longer in the morning! ☺

Materials Needed for One Panel:

- ½ yard of fabric for the tabs
- 2 yards of coordinating fabric for the panel
- blackout fabric for the lining
- a rotary cutter and straight edge (to ensure straight cutting and squared corners— necessary for making sure your curtain hangs straight.)
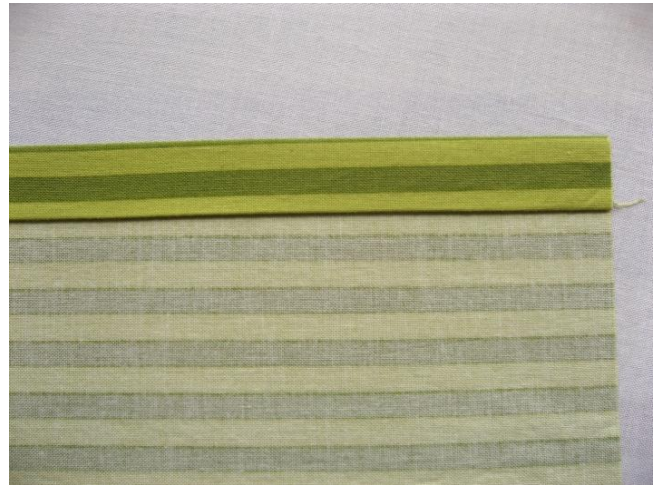

Make the Panel:

Create the panel by piecing the fabric to the desired size. (When piecing, sew with right sides together, using a ½" seam allowance. Iron the seam toward the darker fabric.) The panel shown above uses two coordinating pieces of 45" wide fabric. Each piece is one yard long. They have been sewn along the 45" width side. The bottom piece has been trimmed to fit the window size.
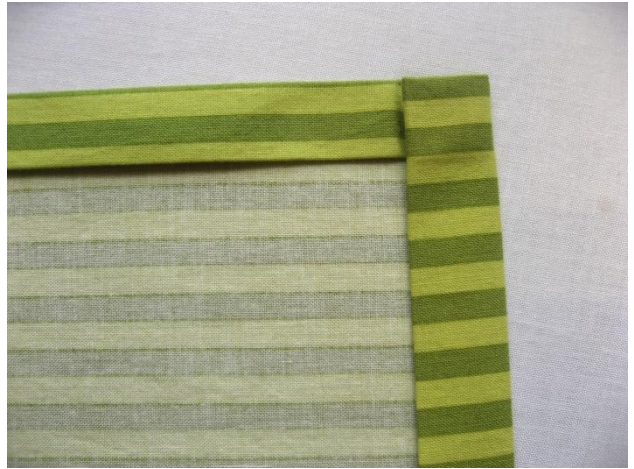
At this point, leave the top of the panel alone. We'll get to it later.
Finish the sides and bottom of the panel by folding the fabric toward the wrong side ½". Iron flat.
Fold in ½" again and iron flat.

Create Mitered Corners:

Iron the corners flat as pictured. Use steam.

Unfold the corners so that seams show. You will see four lines. Find the innermost intersection (circled).

Use that point as your guide for folding down the corner. The point should be the center of the triangle.

Refold the corners at the creases. Trim the excess fabric from inside the miter.

The miter should be neat and tidy. Stitch it in place by hand.

If you plan to line the panel, DO NOT sew the hems down yet.

Create the Tabs:

Cut a strip of fabric 5" wide from selvedge to selvedge. Fold it in half lengthwise with right sides facing and sew it into a long tube.

Turn it right side out and sew it flat so that the seam is in the center.

Cut the strip into 8" pieces to make 5 tabs. Fold the pieces in half (with the seam hidden on the inside) and pin them in even intervals along the top right side of the panel. Machine baste them in place.
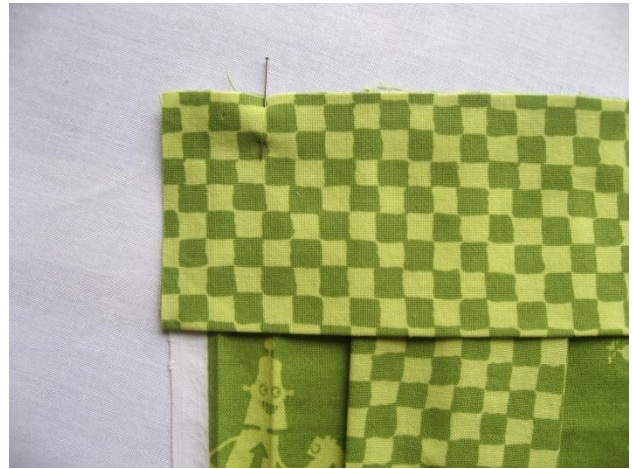
Attach the Facing:

To create the facing, cut a 5" width of fabric from selvedge to selvedge. This piece should be equal to the width of the curtain panel.

Fold the fabric in half with wrong sides facing to make a long strip. Iron.

Temporarily unfold the edges of the panel fabric.

Place the facing on the top of the curtain panel (also on top of the tabs), with raw edges at the top. Line up the sides as well and pin in place.

Sew them together along the top. Iron the seams open. Fold and iron the edges ½" and ½" again following the creases of the panel.

Fold the facing down on the wrong side of the panel, and iron flat.

Insert the Lining:

Measure the panel and cut the lining to the exact dimensions of the panel. Use a straightedge and rotary cutter to ensure square corners and straight cuts. An "off" lining will make your panel hang crooked.
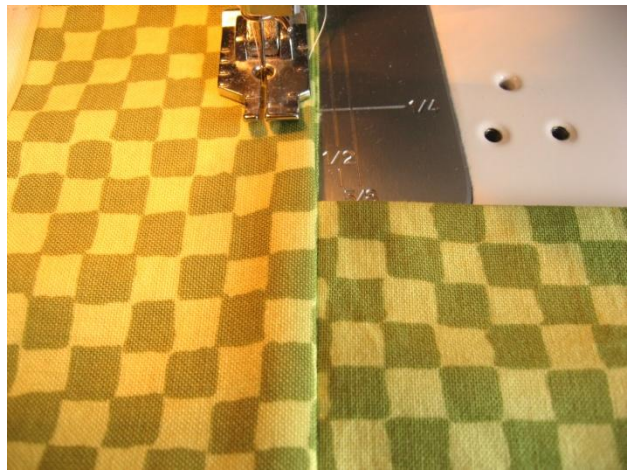
The lining will be attached along the top and sides. Black out fabric won't unravel, so it isn't necessary to hem it along the bottom edge, but if you want to, now is the time to do so. Hem it by folding it toward the wrong side ¾" and once again ¾". Sew it down.

Open up the facing along the top of the panel, and using the seam as your guide, line up the top edge of the lining with the seam as shown.
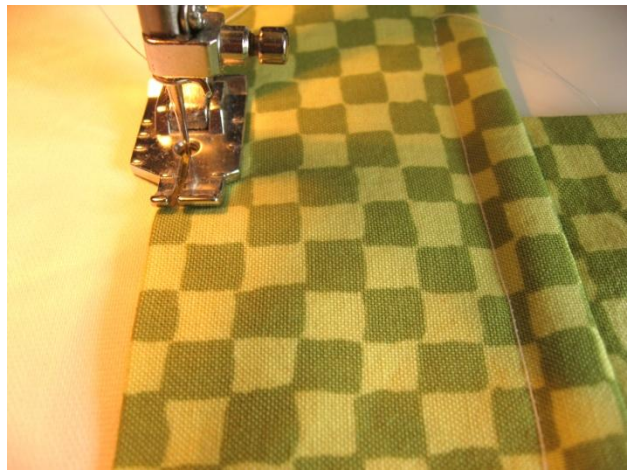
Fold the facing down, and pin all the layers in place.

Topstitch along the top of the facing to secure the lining.

Stitch along the bottom of the facing piece as well.

Tuck the sides of the lining into the sides of the panel. You may have to trim the lining a bit if it is interfering with the neat edge of the panel. As you pin, hold the panel up to make sure that it is hanging straight. Sew it along the sides and the bottom.♦