

Basic London Shade

London shades are a staple in the window treatment business whether used as a stationary shade / valance or as a fully functioning shade. Explore steps for fabricating a London shade with tips for dressing when the shade is raised and lowered.

Materials & Supplies

Rowley Products

Cambridge Napped Sateen Lining	<u>LNW49/</u>
Professional Shears/Scissors	<u>CU22</u>
John James Hand Sewing Needles	<u>TP118</u>
A&E Upholstery Thread	<u>TU6K/</u>
Water Erasable Fabric Marking Pen	<u>PM25</u>
Straight Edge Ruler, 72"	<u>MR26</u>
Sure-Shade Encased Lift Cord Tape	<u>ELC14/</u>
Glass Head Straight Pins	<u>TP49</u>
Metal Sew-On Rings	<u>ST16</u>
Cord Adjuster Orb	<u>RW19</u>
Solid Steel Rods	<u>BR6/</u>
Fabric Tubing for 3/8" Steel Rods	<u>RSR5/</u>
Fringe Adhesive	<u>FA30</u>
R-TEX Micro Welt Cord	<u>WC85</u>
Split Rings	<u>ST13</u>



Basic London Shade: Step-By-Step Instructions

Our project covers the steps to make a basic London shade finishing at 30" W x 36" L.

For your specific shade, you will need to do the math to include permanent folds at the bottom – the final number is up to you. You will need to add fabric for the apron, bottom hems and for mounting to get to the cut length and add side hems to get to your cut width. Traditional London shades have two pleats that fall toward the outside 1/5th of the face with a contrast pleat fabric. They also have attached returns for a total of five pieces to make the front. Most London shade linings are banded on the sides and bottom so no lining shows when the shade is raised and are pillow-cased to the front.

Doing the Math:

- 1 Do the math for your shade:
 - A. How long will your apron be and will it show?
 - B. How many permanent folds do you want in the bottom?
 - C. How are you mounting?
 - D. How wide is the finished shade?
 - E. How wide will your side hems be?
 - F. What lift material are you going to use? (We recommend lift tape).
- 2 Figure out your cut length (CL) and cut width (CW) for your project.
 - A. Our shade finished at 30" wide x 36" long with two permanent folds at the bottom.
 - B. You will have a total of three face pieces and 2 pleat pieces as well as one lining piece that will be banded with face fabric on three sides.

Preparing the Face:

- 1 Plan your math for the face proportions. Generally the pleats are about $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total width inset from the edges but can vary from 5" to 10" depending on the finished width of the face.
 - A. Our shade finished at 30" W so my pleats fell 6" in from each end.
 - B. Our center face piece finished 18" and was cut 19" wide.
 - C. Our two returns measured 6" for the face + $3\frac{1}{2}$ " for the return for a total cut width of $10\frac{1}{2}$ ".
 - D. Our cut lengths were $55\frac{1}{2}$ " (2" mount + 48" for shade including my two permanent bottom folds + 4" for apron + $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowance).
- 2 Cut center piece, two side/return pieces and two pleat pieces.



- 3 Cut and make enough micro welt cord to run the length of the shade four times.
- 4 Glue-baste welt to two long edges of center piece. Let dry.
- 5 Glue-baste pleat fabric long side on top of welt, right sides together. Let dry.

- 6 Open pleat fabric so it is right side up. Glue-baste second row of welt to long side. Let dry.



- 7 Glue-baste side piece to welt seam. Let dry.
- 8 At the machine, sew all seams.
- 9 Press all seams so seam allowances fall to the inside of the pleats.



Preparing the Banded Lining:

- 1 Lay lining on table, face up.
- 2 Place prepared shade front on lining, face down.
- 3 Trim lining to size.
- 4 Fold shade front into center to clear sides and bottom of lining.



- 5 Cut the three bands:
- A. Bottom band will be height of apron + $\frac{1}{2}$ " x shade front width.
 - B. Side bands will be depth of return + $\frac{1}{2}$ " x shade front length.

6 Fold over $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each long side and press well.

7 Place bands on lining.

8 Glue-baste to secure to lining.

9 At the machine, fold open bands and machine sew on fold lines.



10 Clip out corners.

11 Turn right sides out and press well.



Making the Pleats:

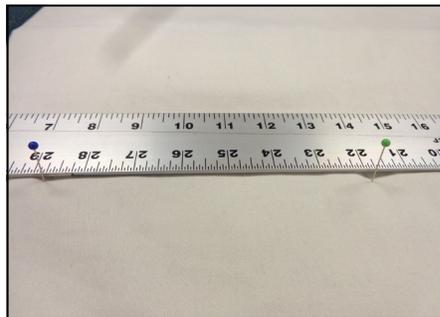
- 1 On the face side, measure for center of each pleat.
- 2 Mark center running up the length of the shade with pins, pinning through all layers.
- 3 Fold in pleats (your welts should be touching).

4 Press well.



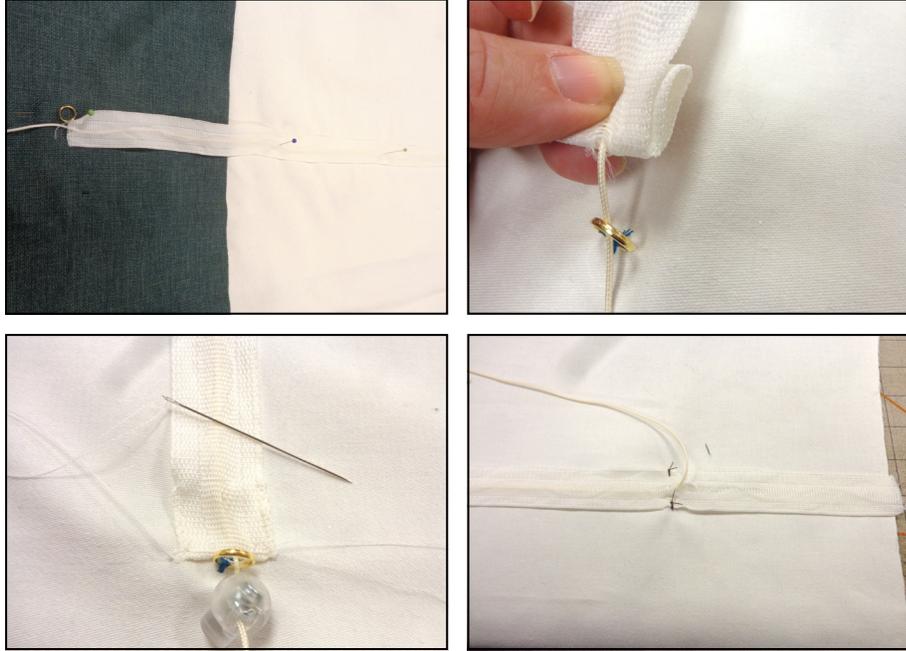
Adding the Lift Material:

- 1 Unfold the pleats and flip the entire shade over.
- 2 Measure up 3 1/2" and sew on a shade ring – do this for each pleat.
- 3 Measure up the center of each pleat every 8" past the ring. Mark.
- 4 Sew on shade rings to the first two marks (a total of three rings per pleat).



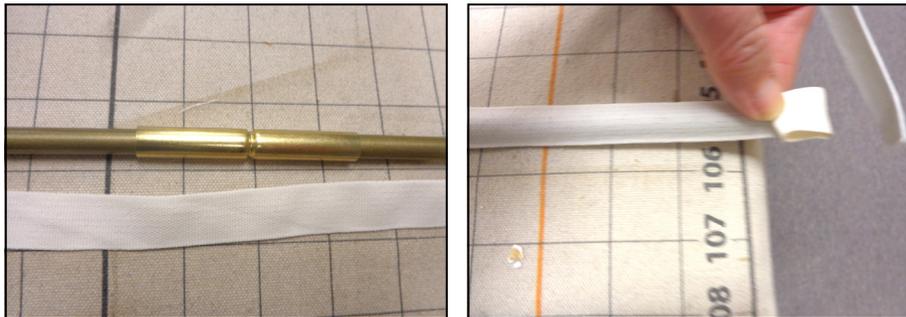
- 5 Lay lift material over marks and pin to marks.
- 6 At the bottom (the third ring) pull cord from shroud and fold shroud under a few times to hide the raw edges.

- 7 Sew shroud to shade, sewing through all layers.
- 8 Run cord through the third ring and then through an orb.
- 9 Sew all tack points of the lift material running up the shade.
- 10 At the top tack point, pull out the cord and run the empty shroud up the back of the shade.



Finishing the Shade:

- 1 Cut a weight bar FW - 1".
- 2 Cut a length of weight bar tube cover to FW + 2".
- 3 Slide weight bar into cover.
- 4 Fold over ends and hand close.
- 5 Sew covered weight bar to shade at the bottom rings.
- 6 Attach the three bottom rings together using a Split Ring.



Mounting the Shade:

- 1 Measure and mark for finished length.
- 2 Iron at FL to set a crease.
- 3 Cover the dust board with legs with lining – you need the top and two legs to support this shade.
- 4 Fold in pleats and staple shade to dust board, folding in the pleats and bending returns into the side fabric.



- 5 Finish top of dust board as desired.
- 6 Attach to lift system and string.

