



Top treatments are those window treatments that are used either alone at the "top" of the window, or over another treatment such as draperies or side panel curtains.

Top treatments can be made on boards, put on rods, or hung on rings from a decorative rod. They are grouped into three different categories: swag & jabots (which we discussed above), valances, and cornices / lambrequins.

Swags and Jabots are a perfect complement for a formal or semi-formal setting, such as a living room or dining room. These treatments are generally mounted on boards (with staples or velcro); they can also be attached to decorative poles (wood or metal) with staples or velcro.

Just remember: it is best to make them proportionate to the window-using a steel tape to get an idea of length is the best thing. To cover the distance at the bottom when multiple swags are on a board-pelmets can be used. These are fabric pieces that look almost like a short necktie, and they are generally about the same length as the drop on the swags.

Valances come in many different styles – they can be shaped, scalloped, pointed...the list goes on. Shirred up on a rod, or stapled / velcroed to a board - a valance can make a statement from simple to elegant.

Additions such as covered buttons, fringe and various trims can give a unique "custom look" to an otherwise ordinary window treatment. Some different kinds of valances are shown in our gallery: box pleated, pennant, swag and shirr-ons are some of the more popular. Remember to always use a steel measuring tape for accuracy.

Abellaquen Home patterns has some great valance styles for those folks who are home seamstresses and you can find some starting ideas in our gallery.

Cornices and lambrequins are fabric covered board frames that mount on "angle irons-L brackets" either as a stand alone treatment, or as a cover for draperies, curtains, shades, or some other window dressing.

Again, as with most top treatments, they can go from the most informal "country barn look" to elegant – whatever the setting, a cornice can add a finished touch to the overall look of a room(s).

A lot of times, you will see cornices with a cording around the bottom to finish them off. This can either be "self-cord" (matches the face fabric) or a contrast fabric or even pre-made rope cord. Tassel trims are also used, but these are usually reserved for the elegant look referenced above.

Remember – in most cases, add an additional width of at two inches to board treatments, particularly over draperies, so that there will be a proper fit. Also keep in mind that clearance to the inside face must be allowed so that working drapery panels can traverse back and forth. And always use a steel tape for accuracy – remember "measure twice, cut once"