

## Rowley project list: **Italian Strung Living Room Panels**

The specs for the two width wide living room panels included size 18 grommets and box pleats in the header, contrast micro welt in the leading and bottom edge, interlining, lining where one width of lining was a contrast fabric, a slight break on the floor, and Italian strung. On top of that, we also added a decorative detail of fabric covered buttons at the pleats.



### MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

#### Rowley Products

- Shroud Tube
- Grommet / Button Press
- Setting Die
- Cutting Die
- Extra Large Brass Grommets, #18
- Grommet Spacing Template
- Crimp-Button-Forms #45
- Cutting & Setting Die Set for #45
- R-TEX Sausage Bead Lead Weights
- Fringe Adhesive
- Lead Drapery Weights
- Pinsetter
- Drapery Pins on Strips for Pinsetter
- Basting / Tacking Gun
- Basting / Tacking Fasteners

#### SKU

- [ELK14/](#)
- [GL](#)
- [GL18/S](#)
- [GL18/C](#)
- [GR18/](#)
- [DYC90](#)
- [FCA45](#)
- [GLA45](#)
- [LW80](#)
- [FA10](#)
- [LW60](#)
- [PS10/D](#)
- [DPHD](#)
- [ST26](#)
- [ST28](#)

### ITALIAN STRUNG LIVING ROOM PANELS: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

This project guide covers the steps to plan and fabricate an Italian strung panel with contrast lining, grommets, pleats and contrast decorative buttons.

#### Figuring Cuts and Prepping Fabric:

- 1 Finished length + top hem + bottom hem divided by horizontal repeat, rounded up to the next repeat = cut length.
  - A.  $109'' + 6'' + 1'' = 116''$  divided by  $31.75 = 3.65$  repeats. Round up to 4 repeats,  $4 \times 31.75'' = 127''$ .

- 2 Cut 2 widths of face fabric for each panel.
- 3 Match seam and stitch widths together – do not hem.



- 4 Figure lining cuts (one decorative fabric, one lining fabric for each 2 width panel).
  - A. Finished length + top hem + bottom hem = cut length.
  - B.  $109'' + 1'' + 1'' = 111''$  cut length for contrast lining and for ivory lining.

- 5 Stitch one decorative fabric to one lining fabric – do not hem.

- 6 Figure interlining cuts, cut, seam together, serge bottom hem – 109".
  - A. No top or bottom hem allowance needed for these panels.

- 7 Figure how much micro welt is needed for leading edge and bottom hem.

- 8 Cut micro welt fabric strips, stitch together.
  - A. Cover sausage weight chain as micro welt.
  - B. Sausage weight chain helps with the folds once the panel is held up with Italian stringing.



## Making the Panel:

- 1 Figure where the top edge on the panel should be according to the fabric repeat.
- 2 Serge a 6" wide buckram strip to top edge of face fabric for each panel.



- 3** Mark where the bottom of the panel will be.
  - A.** Allow workroom allowance when figuring the bottom of panel.
  - B.** Do not cut excess off of panel yet, as you may have some take-up due to handling.
- 4** Stitch micro welt to each panel leading edge and bottom edge.
  - A.** Stop stitching, on the leading edge, at the bottom of the buckram (this is the top of the panel once the buckram is folded to the back side of the panel).



- 5** Stitch lining fabric to face fabric along leading edge and bottom edge.
  - A.** Panel return side and top edge are left open.
  - B.** Glue-baste or pin in place before stitching.



- 6** Place panel on table with wrong side of face fabric on top, trim away excess face fabric from bottom of panel. Trim selvage from leading edge of panel.
- 7** Place interlining over panel, matching seams of interlining to seams of face fabric.
- 8** Use interlocking stitch to attach interlining to face fabric, every 6" top to bottom and every 12" across the width of the panel.
  - A.** Pin top of interlining to face fabric just under the buckram (this will be the top edge of the panel).
  - B.** Leave the interlining loose at the bottom of the panel – it will hang loose inside panel.



9 Turn the panel right side out.

10 Place panel on table face side down, lining side up.



11 Pull micro cord away from the seam to get a crisp edge then press leading edge and bottom edge.

12 Remove pins from top of interlining.

13 Fold buckram over and check finished length (should be 109").



14 Fold lining to the inside of the panel, the lining should match the bottom edge of the buckram.  
A. Trim away excess lining, if any.

15 Hand-tack or use iron-on bonding tape to attach the top of the lining to the top of the panel.



## Finishing the Panel:

- 1** Pin top edge in place just to keep everything together until pleats are stitched.
- 2** Pin and finish the return side hem and bottom hem in your method of choice – I hand hemmed which was easier than moving the heavy panel to the table.
  - A.** Using a long needle and a good hand stitching thread, pass needle through fold in hem, out and pick up a few threads of lining, back into the hem fold. Pull thread and repeat.
  - B.** About every 6 stitches go through and pick up a few threads of the face fabric. This helps to keep the hemmed edge from bagging.
  - C.** If using iron-on bonding tape, pin hem at bottom edge and top edge until the bonding tape and fabric have cooled. Remove protective paper, press to bond fabric together, pinning at top and bottom edge until cooled. This helps to keep any fabric shrinkage from happening.



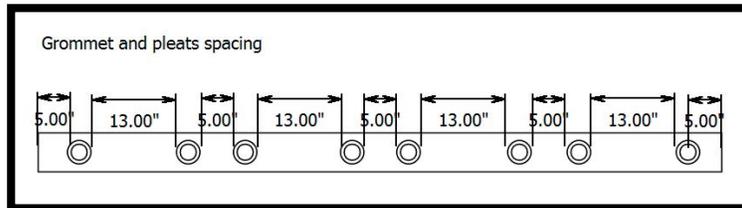
- 3** At the table, place the top of the panel along one long edge.



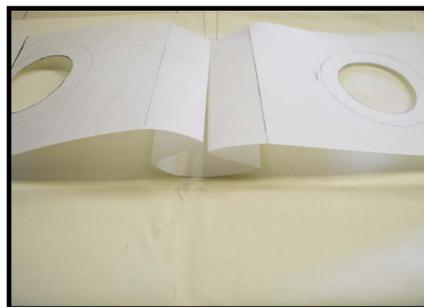
## Figuring Pleating and Grommet Spacing:

- 1** The front spaces are pleated on these panels so these spaces are larger than usual.
  - A.** Use 6" buckram as the grommet / pleating / spacing template to match the 6" buckram in the panel.
  - B.** Use the Rowley grommet spacing template to mark for the placement from the top of the panel on the buckram template.
  - C.** Trace around the outside of the actual grommet back to mark the ACTUAL grommet size on the buckram template.
  - D.** On the template, make a mark "F" for front, "G" for grommet, and "B" for back.
  - E.** The "F" spaces are larger to accommodate or the pleats and the "B" spaces are smaller due to not having a pleat.
  - F.** Although the grommets OD measured 3.75", allow 4" as workroom allowance.

- G.** After deducting 6" for the lead edge allowance and 4" return allowance, there was 91" between the first and last grommet.
- H.** I played around with several grommet / spaces scenarios and ended up with 13" as the front spaces, and 5" for the back spaces.
- I.** The 13" were figured as follows: 3" on the back side of the pleat, 3" for the pleat fold on either side of the back pleat to equal 9". I allowed 2" from the each side of the pleat to the grommet on either side of the pleat for a total of 13".



- 2** Cut grommet holes in buckram template.
- 3** Mark grommets and pleats at the top edge.
  - A.** Place template on back side of panel matching top of template to top of panel.
  - B.** Mark placement of grommets (Be sure to flip the template when marking the second panel so that you have a PAIR, not two left or right panels!).
  - C.** Mark pleat placement on buckram template.
    - i.** Fold the template in half to find the center back of the front space "F".
    - ii.** From this center point, mark 2 1/4" to each side of the center point. This 4 1/2" becomes the back of the pleat. Mark 2 1/4" out from each of the first lines. You should have a total of 9". Fold the two outermost marks into the center fold to create your box pleat.



- iii.** Transfer marks to lining side of panel using pins.



- D. Mark pleat placement at bottom edge for easier fan folding of panel.
- E. If possible, fan-fold the panel. (Match pins a top of panel and bottom of panel for the pleats. Measure distance from fold of pleat to the center of the next two grommets (13") and place a pin at the bottom of the panel 13" in from fold. This will help with the fan folding.
- F. **Note** – since the grommets are not cut and set yet, it is important to be sure the grommet marks are aligning one over the other as you are fan folding.
  - i. The fan folding is done from the back side of the panel so that I was able to pin the pleats into place.



- G. Wrap the fan folded panels with fabric straps – this will help to control the HEAVY panels while sewing in the pleats.
- H. Use chalk liner or erasable fabric marker to mark pleat stitch lines 6" long, the length of the buckram.
- I. Stitch pleats in panels (Place blue tape the correct distance from the needle to help stitch the pleats in the HEAVY panels straight!).



**4** Cut grommet holes and set grommets.

- A. The panels are still fan folded and banded.



- 5 Press the pleats flat by centering the seam over the pleat which is on the back of the panel. Press a pinch pleat on the back side of the panel rather than stitching in the ditch.
  - A. Use a tag gun to pinch the pleat on the back of the panel at the bottom of the buckram.



## Italian Stringing:

- 1 On an empty fabric tube, mark window width (rod width).
- 2 Mark finished panel width (30").
- 3 Place panel on tube.
- 4 With the panel on the table, pull up panel to get desired look for Italian stringing.



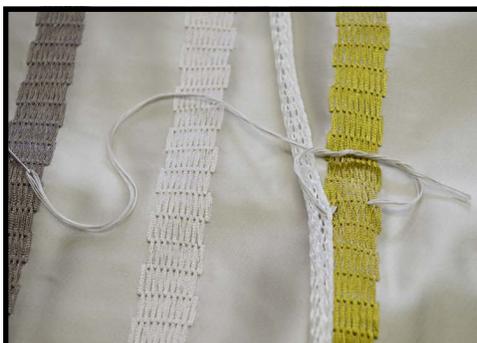
- 5 Place a pin at the point the panel is to be pulled back from.
- 6 Measure from the top of the panel to the pin. This will be the point for the first ring (tack placement for the shroud tube).
- 7 To allow for the lining to show on the front side, put a pin 3" in from the lead edge and down 15" from the top of the panel.
- 8 Hang panel with the back side facing out.



- 9 Use a weighted chain to find the low point and top point on the panel. Allowing the weighted chain to have a gentle curve will create a panel with a full belly.
- 10 Place a safety pin through fabric, interlining and lining at each intersection of the chain and the back side of the panel. Run a cord through the safety pins and pull up from the highest point to test the look of the Italian stringing.



- 11 Measure each of the pin placements to transfer marks to the second panel.
- 12 Sew a ring to the lead edge of panel.
  - A. I like to use several colors of thread to blend the thread colors to the colors in the face fabric.
- 13 Attach the shroud tube to the panel just above the ring.
- 14 Thread the cord from shroud tube through the ring. Attach an ORB to this cord and tie a knot.
- 15 Attach shroud tube to back side of panel, catching lining, interlining and face fabric at each of the pin placements.



## Adding Decorative Detail:

- 1 Make fabric covered buttons.
- 2 Sew buttons to the front of the pleats.

