

Rowley how-to guide: **Center Pleat Panel**

Making a center pleat panel is an easy way to add drama to a stationary window treatment. It allows for a dab of color that can perk up a room quickly. This style adds fullness within the one, center pleat rather than across the entire panel.

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

Rowley Products

Hanes Classic Napped Lining
 Hanes Drapery Interlining
 R-TEX Micro Welt Cord - $\frac{1}{32}$ "
 Fringe Adhesive
 R-TEX Polyester Permanent
 Buckram - 4" Iron On
 R-TEX Lead Weights, Square
 Crimp-Button-Forms - #36
 #36 Cutting & Setting Die Set – Light
 Grommet / Button Press
 A&E Upholstery Thread
 John James Hand Sewing Needles
 Drapery Pins - Bulk Only
 Glass Head Straight Pins

SKU

[LN48/](#)
[LN10](#)
[WC85](#)
[FA10](#)

[BXA34](#)
[LW45](#)
[FCA36](#)
[GLA36](#)
[GL](#)
[TU6K/](#)
[TP108](#)
[DP53](#)
[TP49](#)



CENTER PLEAT PANEL: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

This project guide covers the steps to fabricate a center pleat panel using contrast pleat fabric, micro welt cord detail with the pattern matching across the width of the panel.

Measuring and Cutting the Panel and Pleat:

Each side panel will be made up of a return panel, a pleat and a leading edge panel with covered welt cord between the pleat sides. You will need to cut multiples for multiple panels.

- 1** To find the width for cuts, measure half the finished width of the fabricated panel and divide by two. Panel "A" will be the return side and panel "B" will be the leading edge side.
 - A.** To panel "A", add for your return measurement, for a double fold $1\frac{1}{2}$ " side hem and $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the seam allowance.
 - B.** To panel "B", add for your double $1\frac{1}{2}$ " side hem and $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the seam allowance.

- 2 To find the length for the cuts, take your finished length, add 8" for the bottom hem and 4" for the top header.
 - A. Depending on your chosen fabric, you may need to figure additional yardage due to pattern matches, drops and cuts needed.
 - B. If you are using a pattern that needs to match side to side, take that into consideration when figuring yardage needed.

Figuring our yardage:

- 1 Our face fabric had a 25" Vertical Pattern Repeat and a 23" Horizontal Pattern Repeat. The overall pattern was a half-drop, was embroidered up to the selvages and had an obvious warp and weft line to the background weave.
- 2 My finished length was 119.5" for a cut length of 131.5" (119 + 4 + 8).
- 3 131.5" divided by the pattern repeat (23") = 6 pattern repeats (rounded up).
- 4 $6 \times 23" = 138" =$ the new cut length for each panel piece.
- 5 $138" \times 2$ (because I could only get two cuts per width) = 276" + 1 pattern repeat (23") = 299" divided by 36 = 8.03 yards. Because I do not know where the factory will start the cut, I am adding one more pattern repeat to the mix for a total of 9 yards ordered.
- 6 Fabric needed for the pleat was two cuts at 131.5" x 17". Both pleats came out of the same yardage for a total of 3 ¾ yards ordered.
- 7 Welt fabric was ordered at 1 ½ yard and all welt was cut on the bias.

Making the Cuts:

- 1 From your measurements, make the two panel cuts per treatment side and the pleat cut(s).
 - A. You will need a right and a left return side as well as a right and left leading edge side and two pleats.
- 2 Cut and cover enough micro-welt cord to run the cut length of the panels x 4.
- 3 Cut lining to finished length - 1" + 6" (bottom hem). Close hem.
- 4 Cut interlining to finished length - 2". Serge bottom hem.



Putting the Face Pieces Together:

- 1 Lay all four face pieces face side up on the work table, with the welt side nearest you.
- 2 Glue-baste welt to long, pleat sides on all four panels.
- 3 Once the glue is dry, sew welt to panels.
- 4 Glue-baste the pleat fabric to the welt seam.
- 5 Sew pleat fabric, following the seam from the welt.



- 6 Lay the assembled panel face down on the table.
- 7 Turn up and iron in the bottom hem – finish using your preferred method.



- 8** Turn under and iron in the top header but do not close.
A. Cut away any excess interlining and lining that goes beyond the finished length.

- 9** Lay in interlining and lining.



- 10** Fold over a double 1 ½" side hem on all sides – close using your preferred method.



- 11** At the top header, add a double layer of buckram (or one layer folded in half lengthwise) and complete the header using your preferred method.



Finishing the Panel:

- 1 Flip the finished panel so it rests face side up on the work table.
- 2 Carefully fold in the center pleat, measuring to be sure the pleat is centered.
- 3 Pin well, pinning in the ditch of the welt cord.
- 4 Flip the sides back to reveal the folded area (you should see lining) and iron well to set a crease. Do the same to the other side of the pleat.



Adding Decorative Detail:

- 1 Cover the number of buttons needed for your project.
- 2 Measure and mark for button placement.
- 3 Sew in buttons, sewing through all layers of material, securing buttons well.
 - A. Use a heavy weight thread.



For Installation:

- 1 Add a drapery pin for each ring planned.
- 2 Fold the returns under.
- 3 Lay a right panel on top of a left panel, right sides together and bag as flat-folded.

