

TIP OF THE MONTH MARCH 2008

PIECING SWAGS

Piecing is never fun but what choice do you have if you need a swag that is too large for the fabric width.

To cut a piece: Go to the opposite side of the fabric from the side that needs to be pieced. Cut out a wedge larger than that you need. (This can often be at the area out from the top of the swag.) Take that piece to the side that needs it. Fold under the selvage area and find the match on the fabric print. Press it to get a crease. Pin and sew. Trim away the selvage so the seam is only about 1/4". Press the seam open. After the seam is finished lay the paper pattern on top of the swag and trim the piece area to fit the zig zag pleats.

Seams are not always hidden. If the seam is on one side only, another swag or jabot may hide it. If you have a seam on both sides (as with an upright cut) Use blackout lining so a shadow won't show through. The seams won't be noticed. If it is a solid fabric, yes the seams will show. It is a judgement call. Your choices are: Use a wider fabric, cut lengthwise, change the treatment. The designer or client should be notified.