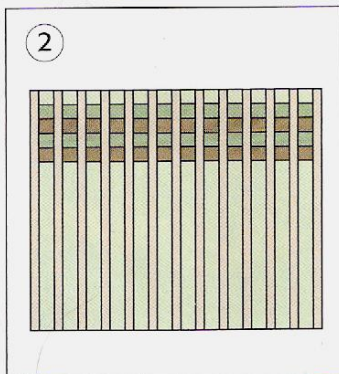
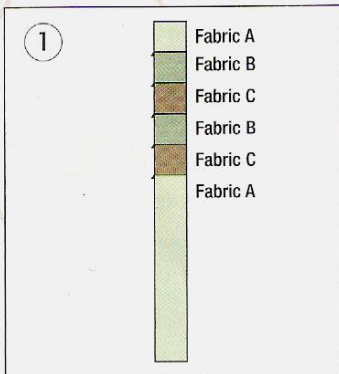


peek-a-boo PLEATS

{ by Kelly Laws, courtesy of Baby Lock }

Create a striking focal point for any room with pleated curtains. A simple piecing technique produces the dramatic peek-a-boo fabric effect.



Supplies

The featured curtain measures 42" x 62".

- Ready-made 40" x 63" curtain panel
- 2 1/3 yards of 44"-wide print fabric (fabric A)
- 1 yard each of 2 coordinating print fabrics (fabric B and C)
- All-purpose thread
- Rotary cutting supplies
- Hand sewing needle
- Removable fabric marker

Use 1/4" seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

Cut

If the curtain has a separate rod pocket, remove the pocket strip using a seam ripper. If the rod pocket is formed by the folded fabric, remove the pocket seam and draw a line 4" below and parallel to the curtain upper edge. Cut along the line and set aside the 4"-wide strip. This is the pocket strip. Remove the curtain hem.

Divide the curtain width into 13 equal segments. Using a removable fabric marker, mark each segment by drawing a lengthwise line.

Cut the curtain along each lengthwise line. On a flat work surface, align the curtain strips in the same order and

direction as they've been cut, especially if the curtain fabric has a nap or sheen. **From fabric A,** cut twenty-four 6" x the fabric width strips. From two of the fabric A strips, cut twelve 6" squares. **From fabric B and C,** cut twenty-four 6" squares each.

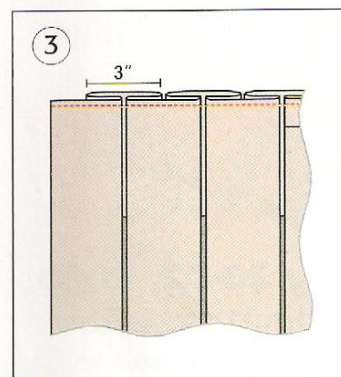
Piece

To create the first inset strip, position one fabric A and one fabric B square with right sides together. Stitch one edge. Position one fabric C square along the opposite fabric B edge with right sides together; stitch. Repeat to attach an additional fabric B and fabric C square. With right sides together, stitch one long fabric A strip short edge to the second fabric C square lower edge (1). Press the seam allowances toward the long strip. Repeat to create 11 additional inset strips.

With right sides together, position one inset strip over the first curtain strip, aligning the upper edges and one long edge. Stitch the long edge. Stitch the second curtain strip to the opposite inset strip long edge. Press open the seams. Repeat to piece the remaining curtain and inset strips (2).

Fold each inset panel with right sides together, matching the panel long edges to form a 3"-wide box pleat; press.

TIP: Piece the inset strips using a serger to stitch and finish the edges in one easy step. Use a 4-thread stitch and a 1/4" stitch width.



Baste the pleats in place along the curtain upper edge (3).
Set the machine to a zigzag stitch with a 5mm width and a 5mm length. Tack the pleats at each inset strip seam.

Finish

Measure the finished curtain width along the upper edge and trim the pocket strip width to match, if necessary. Fold each pocket strip short edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side; press. Stitch close to the folded edge.

With right sides together, position the pocket strip along the curtain upper edge; stitch.

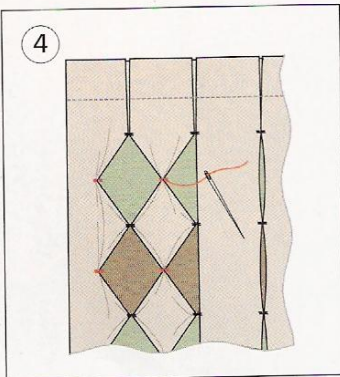
Fold the pocket strip to the curtain wrong side; press. Fold the pocket strip raw edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side; press. Stitch close to the second fold through all layers.

Evenly trim the curtain lower edge. Fold the lower edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side; press. Fold again 1" toward the wrong side; press. Stitch close to the first fold.

Pleasuring PLEATS

Follow these tips to customize your curtains.

- Rather than piecing each inset strip, save time by cutting twelve fabric strips 6" x the curtain length.
- For a quick fix and bolder look, cut the curtain panel into fewer segments.
- Instead of using a ready-made curtain, use specific measurements to create a curtain for any window. From canvas or another drapery-weight fabric, cut a rectangle and rod pocket strip to the desired dimensions. Follow the directions to piece, pleat and finish the panel.
- For a more subtle effect, use two solid fabrics in the same color range.



Thread the hand sewing needle with a double thread strand. Open each pleat between the thread tacks to reveal the inset fabric; tack in place at each panel center (4). ➤

SOURCES

Baby Lock provided the Baby Lock Espire and Enlighten machines: (800) 422-2952, babylock.com.
Marcus Fabrics carries the Natural Effects by Michele D'Amore fabric: (212) 354-8700, marcusfabrics.com.