



Making a Lambrequin With Swags and Cascades

By Rosa P. Harvan
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A new client of mine needed window coverings for her dining room. After looking through a series of idea books, she came across the pictures of lambrequins with swags and cascades. “What are these?” she asked. I explained to her that lambrequins are essentially cornices with long legs to cover some or all of the sides of a window.

As soon as I knew that she loved that look, I made a scale drawing of the treatment to show her what it would look like on her window, which had inside-mounted wood blinds. The window was 51x59 inches, so I drew the lambrequin 60x48 inches (to give the swag and cascades room without crowding the sides of the window), with the cascades extending 30 inches below the bottom of the lambrequin.

The client loved the treatment and I got the job! Here’s how I did it (and how you can, too).

Step 1 Make your pattern. My husband John is my lambrequin maker. He made half of the drawing for the window treatments on construction paper. After a few adjustments the template was ready for the plywood. After cutting the wood with half of the design, he flipped the template over to make a mirror image on the other side.



Step 2 After your board is cut, line the plywood with batting and staple all sides in place. Next, pin the lining over the batting and repeat the stapling for all sides. Place the railroaded fabric over the previous two layers and staple in the same way — top, sides and bottom. (Note: The white you see on the bottom edge is the lining from the next step that I brought partway to the front.)



Step 3 Cover the back side of the lambrequin with lining, gluing and stapling it in place.



Step 4 Glue ¼-inch welt cord on the inside shaped part of the lambrequin.



Step 5 Cut a 3-inch strip of fabric on the bias, and then use cardboard tack strip to staple it over the welt cord.



Step 6 Turn the fabric toward the back and glue it over the lining.



Step 7 Glue gimp over the raw edges of the fabric for a clean look.



Step 8 Fabricate your swags to fit the shape of the lambrequin. I draped a bead chain to find my size. I interlined both the swags and cascades, then lined the swags with a poly/cotton lining, and self-lined the cascades with the “wrong” side of the reversible face fabric. I also sewed waistbands onto both ends of the swags, and then loop tape to the waistbands.

Next, figure out how you’ll attach the treatments to the lambrequin for easy installation. I decided to use hook and loop tape. Start by mounting a piece of lining-covered 1x2-inch lumber to the inside top part of the lambrequin (about 2 inches from the front of the 1x6-inch dust board) with 1½-inch angle irons. Staple the hook tape to the front part of the wood to match the finished size of the two tops of the swags, which, in my case, was 20 inches, or about one-third of the overall finished width.



Step 9 Staple more hook tape to the sides of the lambrequin to accommodate the other ends of the swags.



Step 10 Attach your cascades. I used the finished width of the cascades' top edges to figure out the width of the wood that I needed to attach them to, which turned out to be 12 inches. I stapled hook tape to the face of the lined wood, and stitched loop tape to the back top edge of the cascades' waistbands. Please note the two 1½-inch angle irons attached to the pine boards — these boards will mount directly to the wall behind the lambrequin.



Step 11 Add any final embellishments. I placed a medallion at the center top of the lambrequin by drilling a hole and inserting a custom-made screw for the 3-inch iron medallion. I secured it to the back with a nut. ✂



Sewing is in **Rosa Harvan's** DNA. She was born in Ventimiglia (Palermo), Italy, and has several tailors and seamstresses in her family tree. She moved to the United States in 1969 when she was 17, and started her business in 1988 in Paxton, Massachusetts. Her business, Window Coverings and Slipcovers by Rosa, is located in Litchfield Park, Arizona, and caters to both wholesale and retail clients. In addition to handcrafted soft furnishings, she offers cellular shades, wood blinds, shutters, motorization, roller shades, fabric and trims.



Rosa is a member of the Professional Association Window Coverings, a group in Phoenix, Arizona; WFCP; and International Furnishings and Design Association. Her work has been published in *Desert Living* (2007) and in *Window Fashion Vision* (2009), and has appeared on *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* in 2007. You can find out more about her on her website, <http://draperiesandslipcoversbyrosa.com>.

