

# *The ENGLISH PANEL Method*

*By Susan Woodcock*

*This style of panel fabrication is historically based and is appreciated for the hand sewing techniques and soft, luxurious finish. In today's modern workroom the fabricator may choose to use some of the techniques shown in combination with their usual panel making methods.*

## **Materials and Supplies**

- Face Fabric
- Interlining (flannel or bump)
- Lining
- Thread and Hand Sewing Needles
- Pins
- Drapery Weights
- Drapery Pins
- Scissors

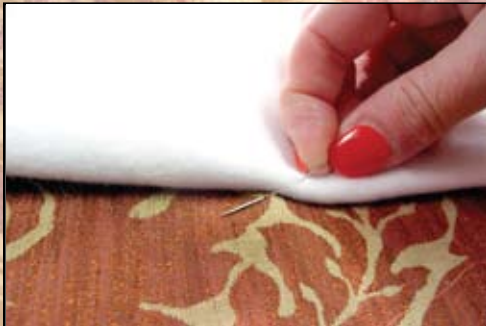


*Fabric provided by Kasmir and Hardware by Finestra Decorative Hardware*



### Step One

Place the fabric facedown on the worktable, smoothing out evenly. Trim away selvages if needed. Cover with interlining, smoothing out over the face fabric. Turn back one-third of the interlining lengthwise evenly along the panel.



### Step Two

Secure the face fabric to the interlining by hand stitching or interlocking along the fold using a small stitch into the face fabric; knot the thread loosely and continue down the panel length spacing stitches about 5-6 inches apart. Do not pull the thread tight between stitches. Start and finish about 8 inches from top and bottom.



### Step Three

After one side is complete, smooth the interlining back over the face fabric and repeat for the other side. If making a panel of more than one width, interlock along the seam.



### Step Four

Now for the side hems: Turn fabric over 2 inches along one side including the interlining in the fold. Trim away any excess interlining. (If the face fabric is unstable, interlock the face fabric to the interlining along the fold. This is an optional step.)



### Step Five

Secure the edge with a long, running pyramid stitch catching the interlining but not the face. Repeat for the opposite side.



### Step Six

Turn the fabric over 5 inches along the bottom including the interlining in the fold. Stab pins or clamp along the bottom edge to keep the panel square on the worktable. Trim away the interlining to 4 inches and tuck the fabric over the edge of the interlining. (The face fabric is not doubled in the hem.) Pin along the top of the hem leaving the last 8 inches unpinned on each side.



### Step Seven

Create a mitered corner by turning over the bottom hem at a 45-degree angle making it even with the bottom edge. Use a pin stabbed in the corner to hold the edge square. Trim away the excess interlining.



### Step Eight

Add a drapery weight at the corner securing with a tacking gun or by hand sewing. Continue turning over the hem, keeping the mitered edge neat. Pin in place.



### Step Nine

Hand sew the hem using an even running stitch that catches the interlining but not the face fabric. Sew around the mitered edges and across the bottom.



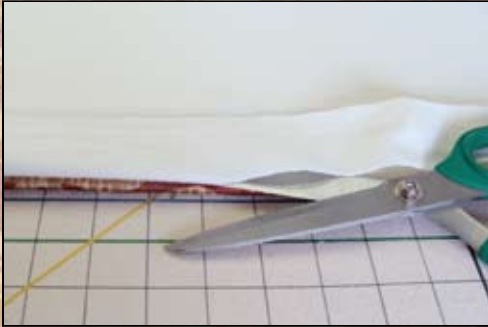
### Step Ten

Prepare the lining by sewing a 3-inch double hem in the bottom. Place the hemmed lining faceup evenly over the interlined panel. Line up the hems so that the lining is 1 inch shorter than the finished hem of the panel. Turn back one-third of the lining lengthwise and interlock the lining to the interlining using the same method as shown in Step Two. Repeat for the other side of the lining.



### Step Eleven

At the bottom hem, end the stitching by adding a French tack, which is made by chaining a few stitches together between the lining and the panel hem. This allows for a little movement between the layers.



### Step Twelve

Trim the lining even with the panel edges.



### Step Thirteen

Turn under the edges of the lining leaving 1 inch of face fabric exposed down the side edge of the panel. Pin in place and hand stitch neatly to the panel. (Stitch into the interlining layers but not through to the front.) Stitch across the lining at the bottom hem about 1 inch to keep any raw edges from showing.



### Step Fourteen

Measure from the finished bottom to the correct finished length at the top. Allow for 8 inches extra face fabric, 4 inches extra interlining and cut the lining even with the finished length. Turn over the fabric creating a double 4-inch fold including interlining. Buckram can be added by folding it into the heading. Pin well and hand stitch to secure.\*



### Step Fifteen

Sew in pleats, stitching down 4 inches from the top edge. (For bump interlining allow at least 6 inches of fullness in each pleat.) Hand tack pleats at the bottom to form a goblet pleat or at the bottom and top to form a French pleat. Add drapery pins and the panel is ready to install. ✚

\* A low-bulk heading can be created by allowing 4 inches of face fabric and trimming the lining and the interlining even with the finished length. Turn down the face fabric over the interlining, including a piece of buckram and then turn the lining over leaving a 1-inch reveal of face fabric.