

Quilters Corner

518 West State Street

Ithaca, New York 14850

Authorized PFAFF & Baby Lock sewing machine dealer

607-266-0850

www.e-quilterscorner.com



Free Tutorial: 2 Hour Laminated Shower Curtain



Before you begin you need to take some measurements and write them down so you know how much cotton laminate fabric to buy. A standard bathtub size shower curtain measures approximately 72" x 72". You will need 2 lengths of fabric. Approximately 2 1/6 yards = one length, but please see "How Much Fabric" notes below. A stall shower curtain measures 54" x 78". You can get away with one length of fabric for a shower stall.

How Much Fabric:

Just to be sure, measure from the top of your shower curtain bar down to the middle of the tub sides or to the floor. Write down that number: ____". Add 6 1/2" to this number (4 1/2" where the grommets will go at the top, 1" for above the grommet and 1" for the bottom hem). Record that total here: ____". Purchase two lengths of this number of inches for a tub style shower curtain and one length for a stall.

Supplies:

- 50 wt. cotton thread to match the laminate fabric
- Teflon sewing machine foot
- 12 grommets for a full size shower curtain or 8 grommets for a stall
- Pressing cloth--see "Pressing" note below
- Microtex needle size 80/12
- Washout marking pen
- Snips for cutting threads
- Small scissors for cutting away the fabric for the grommets
- Wonder clips (straight pins may leave holes in the laminate)
- 4" wide strip of Shirt Tailor Interfacing by the width of the shower curtain

Notes for Working with Laminate:

Pressing: You can press a nice crease in the laminate using a pressing cloth--a dish towel without nap, a cotton fabric napkin or a 1/2 yd of muslin will all work well. Do not iron directly onto the laminate-it will melt and you will be very sad.

Pinning: Pins will leave holes in the laminate; use Wonder Clips or pin very carefully within the seam allowance.

Raw Edges: Laminate will not fray. Just turn under the raw edge. No need to finish edges or turn under a raw edge twice.

Needle: Laminate is tougher to sew on, so use a Microtex needle size 80/12.

Thread: Use your normal 50 wt. cotton thread for this project.

Sewing Foot: Teflon foot is recommended. If you don't have one and you feel a lot of drag while trying to sew on the laminate, place a narrow strip of tissue paper under your presser foot and on top of the fabric. You can tear it away later.

Stitch Length: Increase your stitch length to 3.0-3.5.

Seam Allowance: 1/2"

Marking: A washout marker or pencil that does not smear is recommended. Test them out in a corner of the fabric before you start this project.

Directions:

1. If making a curtain for a full tub shower, sew the two lengths of your pieces together, being careful that the print is going in the same direction on both pieces.
2. Turn under 1/2" -1" of both vertical sides, press and top stitch.



Turned under vertical sides.

3. Turn under 4 1/2" along the top edge, press.
4. Place the Shirt Tailor Interfacing snug against the fold and press using a pressing cloth. You can have multiple pieces of the interfacing, just butt them next to each other. No need to sew them together.

5. Top stitch the top edge down to cover the interfacing.



Top edge turned under and stitched down. Vertical sides stitched as well.

6. Open the package(s) of grommets. There are 2 pieces for each grommet, a front and a back. Notice the top or front of the grommets have rings inside and resemble a rubber seal. The backs of the grommets have small raised marks where they snap together. You should also have a grommet template.



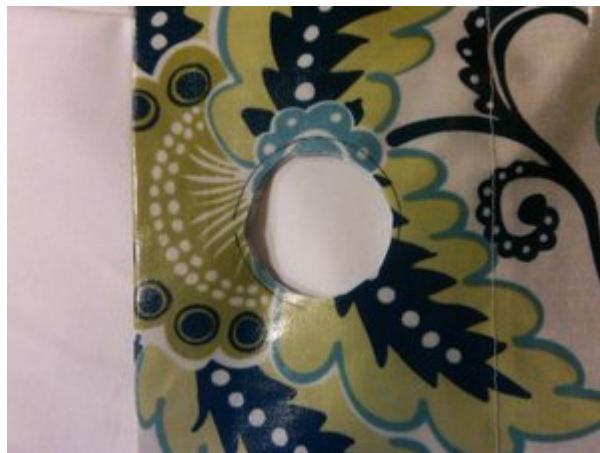
Grommet package contents.

7. Find the center of the top of the shower curtain and mark it. You will need 4-6 grommets positioned relatively evenly to the right and to the left of the center mark. Give yourself 1" to 1 1/2" from each side before placing the first grommet. You also want them to be the same distance from the top folded edge--about an inch. Use a ruler for accuracy. Position the grommets along the top fold spacing them evenly, and mark the center and the top edge of each grommet. Doing one half and then the other half makes it easier. Take your time. You don't want to have to patch a big hole from a misplaced grommet.



Position the grommets along the top edge and mark.

8. Position the template over the center marks you made and trace the position. Cut out the centers, leaving a 1/4" -1/8" seam allowance. Please do not cut directly on the marked line. I find that it is always too big.



Grommet placement marked & center cut out.

9. Place the front of the grommet into the hole. It should fit snug, but not pull or bunch the fabric. If that does happen, trim away a bit more of the fabric inside of the marked line. When it looks nice and smooth, snap on the back piece. It is so cool how easy grommets are to install!



Positioning a grommet in the hole.

10. Thread the grommets through the shower bar and check the hem. Measure, turn under and top stitch.



Thread the grommets through the curtain bar.



Check the hem length.

11. Admire your work. Doesn't your bathroom look great?