Festoon Blind

Also known as Austrian blinds, festoon blinds have been popular since Georgian times and are not difficult to make in miniature with the help of the pinning board. The project shows how to make a blind that is partly raised to give the full effect of the festoons. This type of blind could be used with a pelmet and draped curtains for an elaborate Victorian-style window.

You will need

Basic Tool Kit (see page 13)

Fine cotton fabric

Cardboard or wood strip, 6mm (¼in) wide and as long as the width of the window

2mm (³/₃₂in) wide soutache braid in a contrasting colour

1 Measure the window and cut out the fabric in a rectangle, 5cm (2in) longer than the height of the window and twice the width. Fray-check all the edges (see page 15). Sew a single vertical line of gathering stitches in the centre of the blind and two more, each 3mm (⅛in) from each side. Sew a line of gathering stitches 3mm (⅛in) from the top edge, and another 1.5mm (¹/₁₆in) below this.

2 Pull the pairs of horizontal threads to gather the top of the blind to the width of the window (see page 17), arranging the gathers evenly. Pin this top edge to the pinning board and then pin and drape the upper half of the blind into folds (see page 18).

3 Pull up the vertical gathering threads at the bottom of the blind to gather the bottom half of the blind, leaving the pinned upper half ungathered. Coax the fabric into festoons with a scalloped bottom edge and pin to the board down each line of gathers, keeping the sides vertical. Steam and spray as usual.

4 Remove from the board when dry and glue the top edge of the blind to the strip of wood or card. Glue a line of braid to the scalloped bottom edge of the blind and a bow of braid to the bottom centre. Attach a card strip to the lower part of the blind to hold the gathers in place. Glue the blind to the window.