Café Curtain

Probably invented in Vienna in the 19th century, café curtains have been popular ever since, and this pretty tab-topped curtain would be ideal for a miniature teashop or café. It looks best made in a striped or patterned fabric because it lacks fullness, and you can embellish it further with added trims and bows. The curtain should be about half the height of the window.

You will need

Basic Tool Kit (see page 13)

Pattern (see page 63)

Graph paper

Fine striped cotton fabric

Wooden skewer or dowelling, 3mm (⅛in) diameter, painted brown
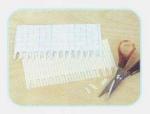
Patterned ribbon trim to match fabric

3mm (⅛in) braid to match fabric

Two round knob finials in mid brown (see page 20)

Hooks (optional)

Tip

Café curtains are also a popular alternative to net curtains for bedrooms and look very pretty in a floral print. You could make them using added tabs of ribbon instead of cut out tabs. See the Hanging Tapestry project on page 26 for instructions on how to glue tabs to the back.

1 Trace the café curtain pattern on to graph paper to ensure that the loops are accurate. Measure the width of the window and adjust the pattern so that it is 13mm (½in) wider than the window and 20mm (¾in) longer than half the height. Cut out the curtain but do not cut out the scalloped top yet. Glue up a hem of 10mm (⅜in) along the bottom edge.

2 Using dilute PVA glue, paint the top 25mm (1in) of the curtain and a line along the side edges. When the glue is completely dry, lay the template on the curtain and draw round the tabbed top edge with a sharp pencil. Use sharp scissors to cut out the tabs as accurately as possible; the dried glue will prevent fraying.

3 Lay the curtain face down and lay the skewer along the centre of the row of protruding tabs. Apply dabs of glue to the base of each tab and press the tab down over the skewer on to the glue to secure.

4 Glue the ribbon trim to the right side of the curtain and a line of braid above and below the ribbon to accent it. Trim the skewer to just longer than the width of the curtain and glue on the finials. Finally, glue the pole to the wall on either side of the window, or use hooks (see page 32).