

Curtains with a Pelmet

The Victorians adored elaborate window dressings with tassels, tie-backs and pelmets. Although grand pelmets went out of fashion during the 20th century, they are popular again today so this style would also be suitable for formal rooms in a modern dolls' house. This sophisticated design is easy to make and you can add more tassels and trims if you wish for a more opulent look.

You will need

Basic Tool Kit (see page 13)
Standard long curtain pattern (page 60)
and pelmet template (see page 62)
Slub silk fabric
30cm (12in) gold picot trim
2 gold-coloured beads
2 gold tassels (see page 22)
Stiff card (cardstock)

1 Cut out the curtains using the standard long curtain pattern and make according to the instructions on pages 14–17. Pull up the gathers to make each curtain about 13mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) wider than half the width of the window. Fasten off. Pin the curtains to a pinning board and shape into folds with a knitting needle, draping each into a festoon for tie-backs. Steam and stiffen.

2 Make tie-backs with the picot trim, and glue in place, holding the ends in position with a dressmaker's pin until dry. Glue a gold bead to each tie-back to suggest a decorative hook and stitch a tassel to the centre front. When dry, remove the curtains from the board. Cut a strip of card 25mm (1in) wider than the window by 10mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) and glue the gathered tops of the curtains to this.



3 Trace and cut out the pelmet from stiff card, using the craft knife to cut around the curves. Score along the lines indicated. Fold to shape and tape together with masking tape.



4 Cut a piece of fabric about 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) larger all round than the pelmet. Spread a thin layer of PVA glue over the pelmet and press on the fabric, snipping into the curves and corners and gluing the excess fabric tightly to the back.

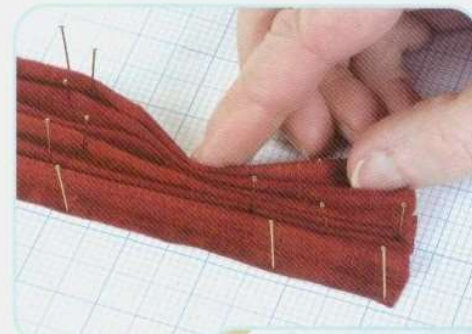


5 Glue the picot trim along the edges of the pelmet. Glue the card strip with the curtains attached to the wall above the window and glue the pelmet over this. For a faux window, make a full-length blind (see page 28) and glue this to the wall with the curtains and pelmet over the top.

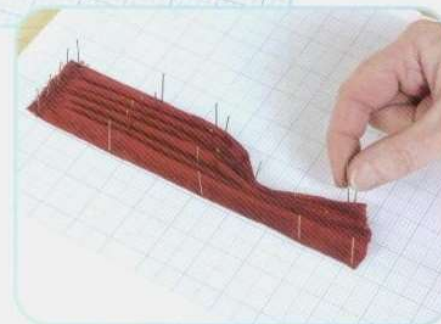
Draping for tie-backs

If your curtains are to have tie-backs, you will need to drape the curtains into the correct shape so that they appear to hang naturally from the tie-back.

1 Follow steps 1–2 of the instructions for draping a normal curtain. Steam but do not stiffen. Remove the pins from the lower part of the half of the curtain that is to be on the inside edge of the window. From a point about one-third of the way up the inner edge, push the folds up and outwards, gathering the curtain into a festoon.



2 Pin the curtain into its new shape, belling the fabric out above where the tie-back will be positioned and keeping the outside edge pinned straight. The inside bottom of the curtain will rise up a little and should be pinned in place too.



3 Repeat to drape the second curtain alongside the first so that it mirrors the first, using the graph-paper lines as a guide. Steam both curtains and stiffen with spray starch or hairspray. Tie-backs can now be sewn or glued in place around the curtains (see page 21). Card strips to hold the folds are not usually needed for the backs of curtains with tie-backs.



Careful draping of curtains for tie-backs gives them a wonderfully luxurious appearance that is just like full-sized curtains. See page 54 for

Attaching curtains to the dolls' house window

The simplest way to attach miniature curtains to the dolls' house window is to glue the curtains to a thin strip of wood or card and glue this to the wall above the window. The projects give instructions for attaching different types of curtains to dolls' house windows. Faux curtains can simply be glued to the wall of the room.