

# DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

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Serving the Custom Home Furnishings Industry since 1993

# DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

a publication of the  
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DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL is a bimonthly trade publication specifically for those who sell, design or create custom window treatments, upholstery, slipcovers and related services. Contributions from readers are welcomed. We look for articles that teach new techniques, inspire readers to tackle new projects and inform readers of current trends in fabrication and design.

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## From the Editor-in-Chief



This issue takes you across the globe from California, up to Canada, across to Germany and back to the Eastern and Midwest USA. D&D Pro writers come from everywhere and the knowledge they share is so important to the growth of your business.

Judi Turner travels to the Heimtextil trade show in Germany and we get a sneak peek inside the industry's largest trade show in the world. Susan Schurz shares her special techniques when making an English panel. Kate Kissell walks us through a bathroom makeover. Read Bonnie Haugh's story about the Granger Homestead project and her re-creation of one of the bedrooms.

Meet Joanna Braxton and see the wonderful work she provides for her customers. Be in awe over the workroom floorplan shown in Karen McClucas' article along with the organization of her tools and materials. Our favorite forum wizard, Merlyn Corcoran shares just a few of her favorite blog sites. It's no wonder she always knows the right resource for our Network Members. She certainly has found many inspirational sites on the web.

I share a basic technique on covering a mounting board, and Linda Whitaker shows how to attach a board with magnets to a metal window or door. Ann K. Johnson continues in this issue with pattern matching - drop match style. It's not as hard as you think.

Laurie Medford teaches us how to re-purpose an ottoman with a new semi-attached cushion, and Elizabeth Gerdes recovers a lampshade. It's fun learning new ways to use what we have to give it a fresh new look.

To wrap up this issue, learn the latest news from Jenna Abbott on Roman shade cord safety, get your business side sparked by using Facebook with Debbie Green and implement new marketing and strategy tips with Sarah Devaney-O'Neil.

*Margie Nance*



We'd like to put you on our map!  
Submit your article ideas to [Michele@chfschool.com](mailto:Michele@chfschool.com).

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# Table of Contents

Volume 2010 Issue 1

## *Learn*

- 6. *English Panel* - S. Schurz
- 16. *Installing with Magnets* - L. Whitaker
- 18. *How to make a Semi-attached Pillow-top Ottoman* - L. Medford
- 28. *How to Line a Mounting Board* - M. Nance
- 40. *How to Cover a Lampshade of any Size/Shape* - E. Gerdes
- 44. *Fearless Pattern Repeats* - A. Johnson

## *Share*

- 13. *Books and Blogs* - M. Corcoran
- 14. *Heimtextil* - J. Turner
- 52. *What is happening to our Roman Shade Industry?* - J. Abbott
- 60. *From the D&D PRO Network* - M. Williams
- 62. *Shoptalk* - S. Schurz

## *Inspire*

- 34. *Picture Portfolio* - K. McLucas
- 37. *Granger Homestead* - B. Haugh
- 54. *Bathroom Redesign* - K. Kissel

## *Prosper*

- 48. *Facebook* - D. Green
- 56. *Marketing & Strategy* - S. O'Neil

## *Meet*

- 10. *Meet a D&D PRO* - J. Braxton
- 31. *Peek Inside a Workroom* - K. McLucas
- 61. *Writers*

Cover photo provided by Joanna Braxton

# Installing With Magnets

By Linda Whitaker  
Salmon Arm, BC

Installations can sometimes be tricky. Making holes in walls that can be patched in case of error is one thing, but patching painted metal doors? To reduce drilling into metal doors, I started to use magnets in our installation for valances and Roman shades.

Several years ago I had to make a cornice with attached swags 20 inches deep, 120 inches long, and with a 6-inch return. Due to the weight of the plywood and finished treatment, I started to look for alternatives that would reduce the weight. A trip to the home store brought me to the 1-inch foam insulation used in housing, usually blue or pink in color. This insulation can be cut with a sharp knife and glued together. For my first application, I purchased the insulation and cut it to the needed size. The fabric was attached with screw pins and double-faced tape at the top. The completed treatment was attached to the wall with angle brackets. The finished valance was very light and could be lifted with one hand.

When I started thinking about valances on metal doors, I remembered this valance and decided to try a similar approach. I knew that, if possible, I would like to use magnets in the installation. Rare earth magnets are very strong and come in different sizes. I buy mine from Lee Valley Tools ([www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)). In my first attempt, I used five, 1/2-inch magnets and countersunk them into the 1-inch edge of the insulation. These magnets almost double in strength if positioned between two metals, so I used a small washer in the hole first, then seated the magnet and taped over the top of the magnet. Magnets are placed every 4 inches or so along the length of the board. When all the magnets

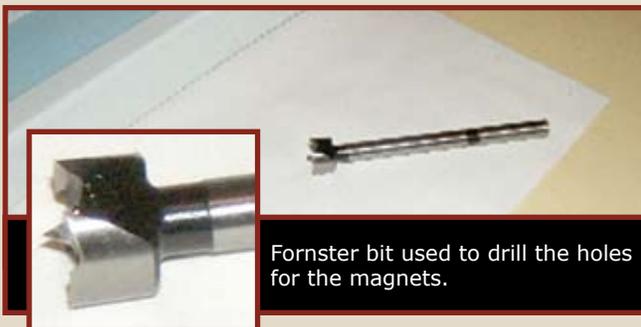
were placed, the covering was glued to the mounting board over the magnets. I used dimout drapery lining because it's opaque and covers the words printed on the insulation. This lining also doesn't fray, so the edges didn't need to be turned under.



These blinds are always crooked, they needed to be covered up.



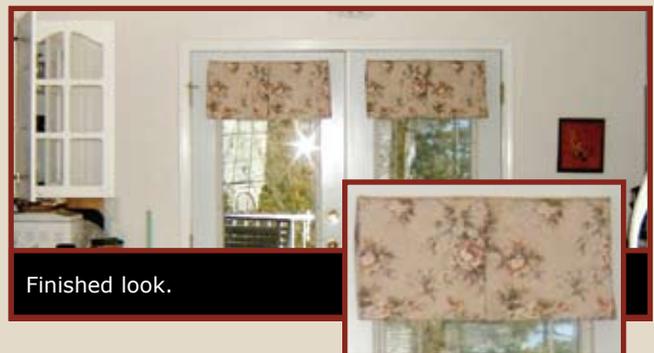
The valance just floats on the door.



Forster bit used to drill the holes for the magnets.



The washer goes in first (left), then the magnet (right).



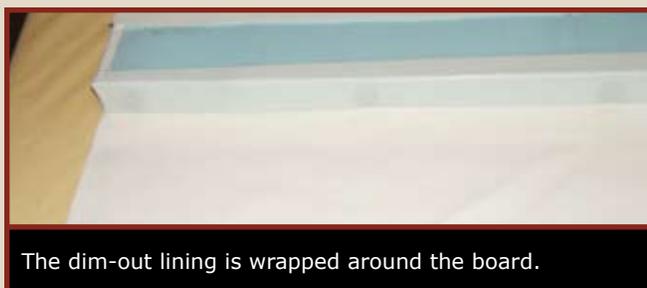
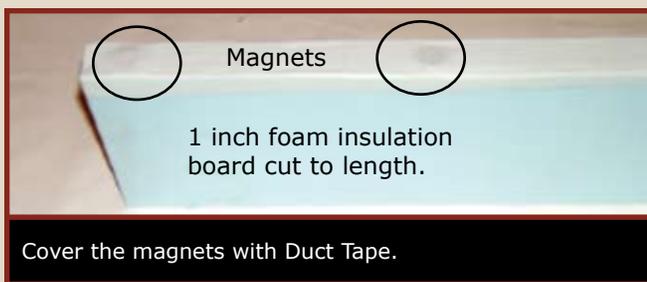
Finished look.

After completing the valance and sewing on the piping to the top edge, I used double-faced tape to attach it to the valance insulation board. I then finished wrapping and adhering the lining. I use a spray adhesive that's designed specifically for upholstery work. I spray a few shots into a paper cup and use a small paintbrush to transfer the glue to the appropriate surfaces.

This finished valance is 12 inches deep and is self-lined. The 3-inch return is the maximum I've had good success with; any deeper and the valance gets really front-heavy and tends not to hang straight. This valance weighed 12 ounces when done. The fabric alone weighs about 8 ounces per yard.

Once I was able to make the valance work, I began to investigate using this technique with Roman shades. Weight would definitely play a part in this installation. The first Roman shade I tried was a 24x24-inch single layer of fabric with rings and a cord cleat. I tucked the front so it would fold nicely, and used six, 1/2-inch magnets on the headrail, using a 1/2x1-inch board. The magnets were countersunk using a Forstner bit (also from Lee Valley Tools). This bit drills a hole that's flat at the bottom whereas regular bit drills a "pointed" hole. Again, I used washers first, then the magnets, then covered the edge with tape. Just a note here: Plan where your screw eyes and cord lock will be positioned in relation to the magnets. It isn't good to try to screw into a magnet; offset them if necessary. Next, cover the mounting board with lightweight drapery lining. A regular cord cleat could not be used so I improvised and used the sticky cup hooks that are transparent. (Make sure to follow the directions and clean the door surface with hydrogen peroxide before applying the double-faced tape that attaches the hook to the door.) The main problem with the cord cleats is that if the client tries to draw the blind up too tightly, the tension will pull the headrail out of position on the cord cleat side. To stop this, I install a "brake." This is a small piece of wood, 1/8-inch thick, taped to the door using double-faced tape directly under the screw eye on the headrail that leads to the cord cleat. I try to paint it the same color as the door. Often, if mounting directly above a window on a door, there's a small window frame that the headrail can rest against; this also prevents shifting.

Measure carefully. A 1/2-inch mounting board may be too narrow to allow the screw eyes to rest in front of the small window frame around the glass door. In this case, you'll need



to use a wider mount board. Since the first attempt using this process, I've made slight modifications to my approach. I often use cedar wood because it's lightweight. The magnets I use as a standard now are 3/4 inch, and I always use the "gripper" fabric that's seen in shelf lining attached to the back of the the headrail to control slipping.



My next goal was to use a cord lock instead of only cord cleats. For a normal installation, I use six magnets across a single French door. If there's a cord lock as well, I mount an additional magnet to the headrail on the cord lock side.

I haven't found a formula for how many magnets are required per meter/yard of fabric; so I test each blind before completion by attaching all the hardware and using push-pins to fasten the blind to the headrail. Each blind is tested on my backdoor, which is metal, to make sure it holds. Because I haven't completed the final wrap of lining at this point, it's easy to add more magnets if necessary.

Caution should be used with this method if small children or pets are in the home in the event that the shade is pulled down. ⚡



# Meet The Writers



**Merlyn Corcoran** started her retail window treatment and soft furnishings workroom in 1985 and has been a contributing member of the CHF Forums (formerly SewWhat?) since its inception. She is also employed by Minutes Matter Solutions as their Webinar Host and resident Studio Wizard. Merlyn lives with her husband of 38 years, Bourke, in Cohasset, MA.



**Ann K. Johnson** has owned her home based wholesale/retail workroom since 1992. She is the author of two books on drawing swag patterns: *The Professional Workroom Handbook of Swags, Volumes 1 & 2*. Ann is a representative for Evan Marsh Designs, creators of Dream Draper and Quick Quote and a specialty instructor at the CHF Academy.



**Kate Kissell** is the owner of Picadilly Interiors, a custom soft furnishing workroom that also offers redesign and staging in State College, PA. She has a degree in Art Education and a passion to share all that she has learned. She recently began offering home decorating classes out of her workroom. She is a member of SDP, WCAA and an advisory board member for the D&D PRO magazine.



**Bonnie Haugh**, owner of Designing Windows in Pittsford, NY, is a member of the Greater Rochester Professional Workroom Association and WAA. She was born in Canada and enjoys attending conferences and online courses. Bonnie has been sewing for customers for 19 years. She is a Hunter Douglas Priority dealer.



**Debbie Green** is the owner of Dandelion Interiors and founder of Minutes Matter. Her philosophy is "Systematize your business by doing the same thing the same way." She conducts seminars at D&WC conferences and International Window Covering Expos. She is also a Certified QuickBooks Pro Advisor.



**Elizabeth Gerdes**, owner of Stitch Above the Rest in Marietta, GA, started her business in 2003. She owns a custom drapery workroom with services that keeps her customers talking. Elizabeth is a CHF Graduate and WCAA member. She can be reached at [elizabeth@stitchabovetherest.com](mailto:elizabeth@stitchabovetherest.com) or [www.stitchabovetherest.com](http://www.stitchabovetherest.com)



**Jenna Abbott** is the sole proprietor of Sew Elegant by Jenna, a to the trade workroom founded in 2001 and located in Sacramento California. She is a founding member of the Northern California Chapter of the WCAA, the Executive Director of the National WCAA and a proud alumnus of the Custom Home Furnishings Academy in Charlotte, NC.



**Laurie Medford** is the owner of Centsible Creations, Inc., in Fenton, Michigan. With over 20 years of experience in the window treatment industry and 8 years of experience in upholstery, Centsible Creations, Inc., prides itself on creating and fabricating beautiful products. Laurie is an active member of GDWA as well as WCAA. She joins CHF as the upholstery 101 and 201 instructor.



**Sarah Devaney-O'Neil** is the owner of Storibook Designs, Inc., a custom home furnishings and design business providing design and advice for both residential and commercial clients. She has 20+ years of leadership experience, including sales training and upper management positions for two large home furnishings retailers.



**Susan W. Schurz** has owned Tavern Hill, a professional wholesale custom drapery workroom since 1988 working primarily to the trade. She is an instructor for the CHF Academy. She is the Brand Experience Manager for Rowley Co. Susan is a popular industry speaker and has been featured in many books and magazines. She is a member of the WCAA and a WFCP Expert.



**Judi Turner** started her business while in Germany from 1991-1992. It began with a client base of expatriates who wanted the American style of window treatments for their German homes. Upon relocating stateside, Judy chose to remain in the home décor field and now, 17 years later, works with clients in several states and 3 countries.



**Linda Whitaker** is the owner of Design Sewlutions based in Salmon Arm, British Columbia. She is a Master Sewer and Interior Decorator specializing in fabric based home decor items. Linda designs and creates draperies, slipcovers, Roman blinds and bedding as well as assisting clients in color coordination and furniture placement. She currently writes a column for the local newspaper called 'Design Dilemmas.'