

SAMUEL & SONS

TAILOR MADE

Innovative Drapery and
Curtain Applications







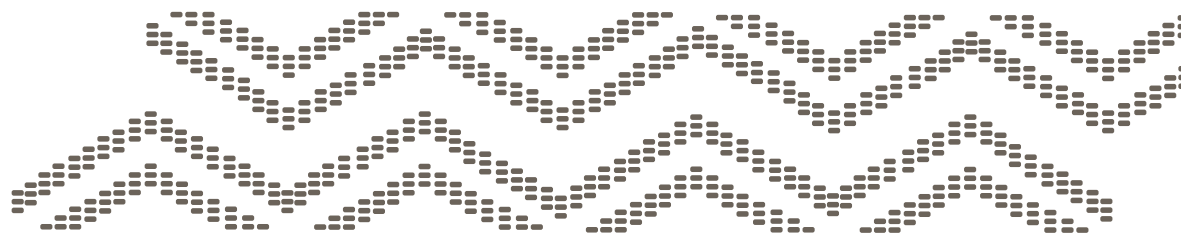


PASSEMENTERIE WITH A VIEW

Draperies and curtains define a space and shape light, bringing softness or structure to a room. Passementerie adds a refined layer, from framing the view with leading edges to introducing movement with fringe and tassels. Trim details can be subtle or expressive, transforming draperies and curtains into a truly custom design element.

This guide explores ways to incorporate trim into drapery, from classic leading edges to more unexpected applications, layering multiple trims, and finishing with beautifully handcrafted tiebacks. It also provides an overview of pleat styles and standard drapery and curtain applications, along with essential passementerie terminology as a practical reference.

Samuel & Sons has long been a leader in the finest quality trimmings, offering an extensive selection of over 10,000 styles and opening a window to endless possibilities in drapery and curtain design.





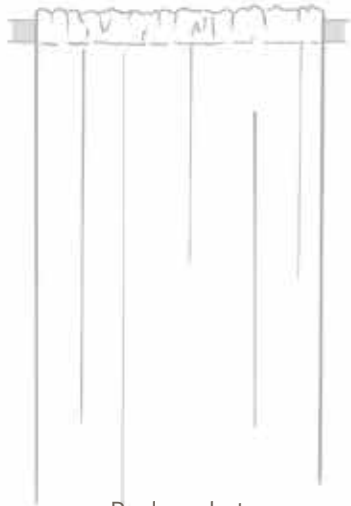
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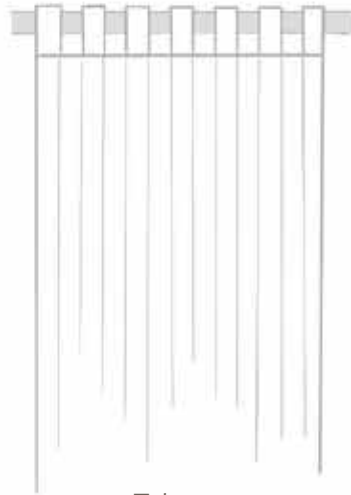


STANDARD PLEATS AND HEADINGS

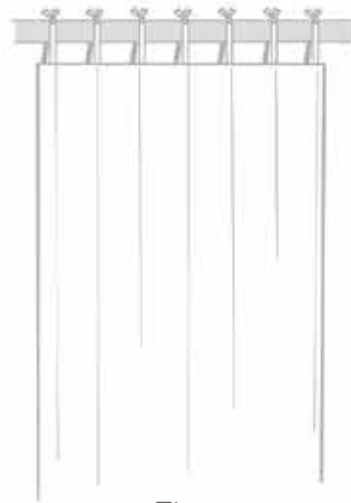
From relaxed ties to tailored pleats, the way a drapery panel is finished at the top defines its overall character. Selecting the correct heading sets the tone for the panel, while the addition of trim brings a more custom finish.



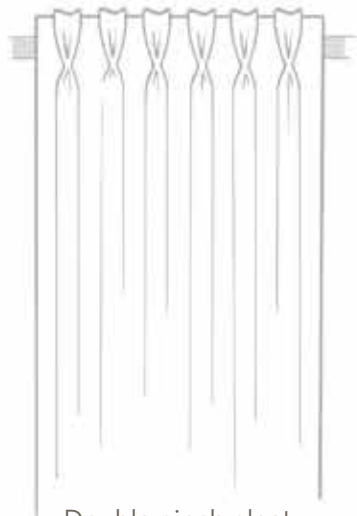
Rod pocket



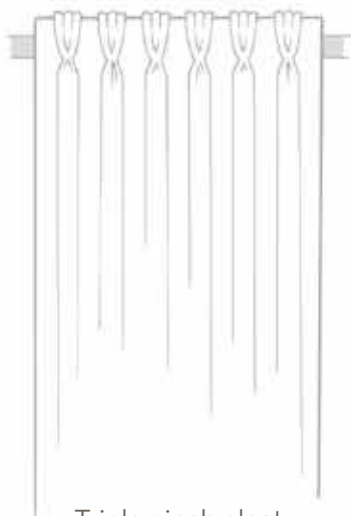
Tab top



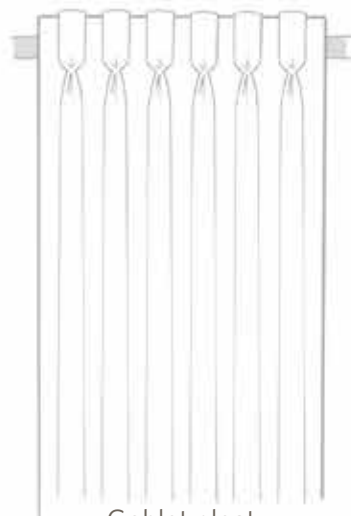
Ties



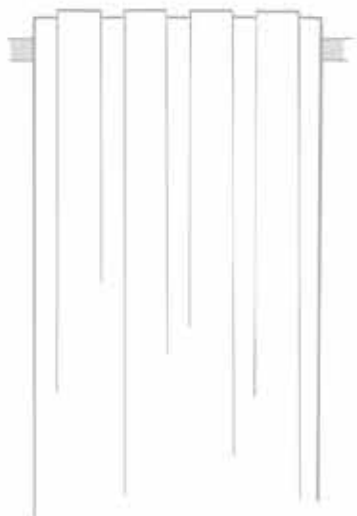
Double pinch pleat



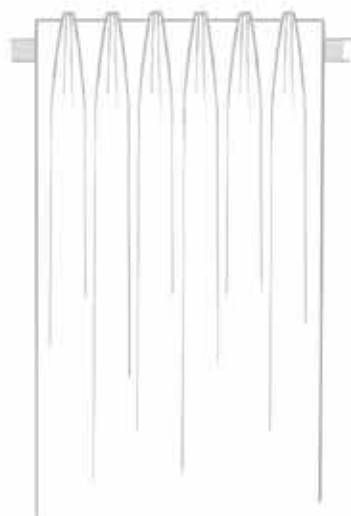
Triple pinch pleat



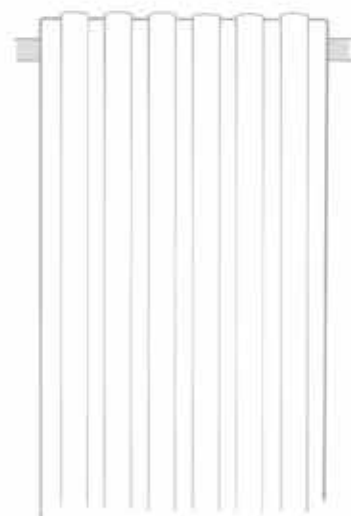
Goblet pleat



Box pleat



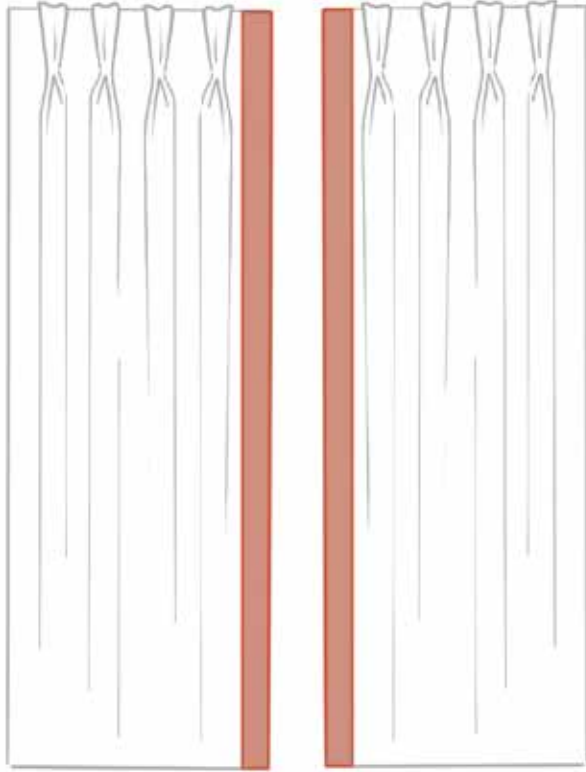
Euro pleat



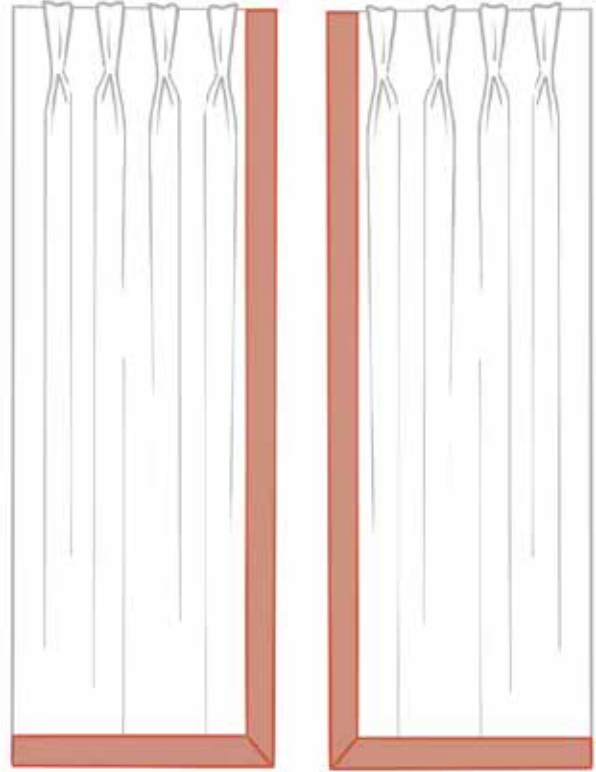
Flat panel

DRAPERY AND CURTAIN STANDARD APPLICATIONS

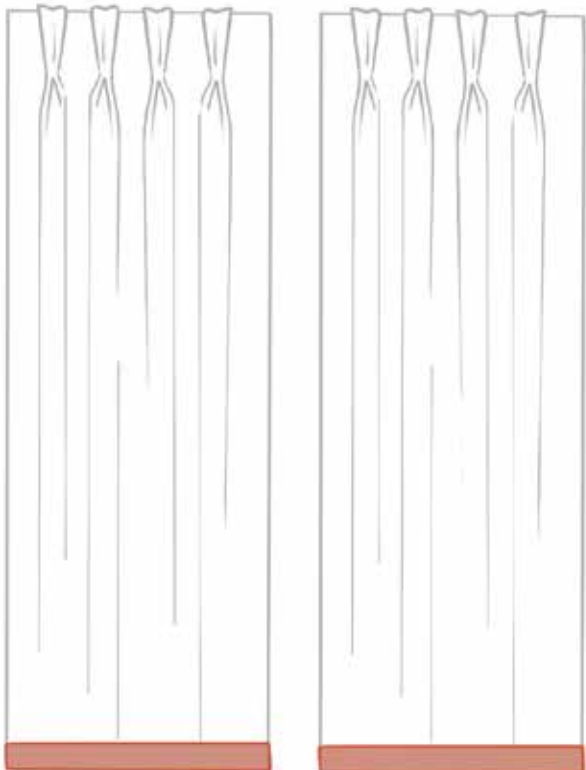
From leading edges to fun repetitions, we have compiled a combination of ways you can apply trim to your windows. Use these with a single layer of trims or mix and match more than one application. The possibilities are endless.



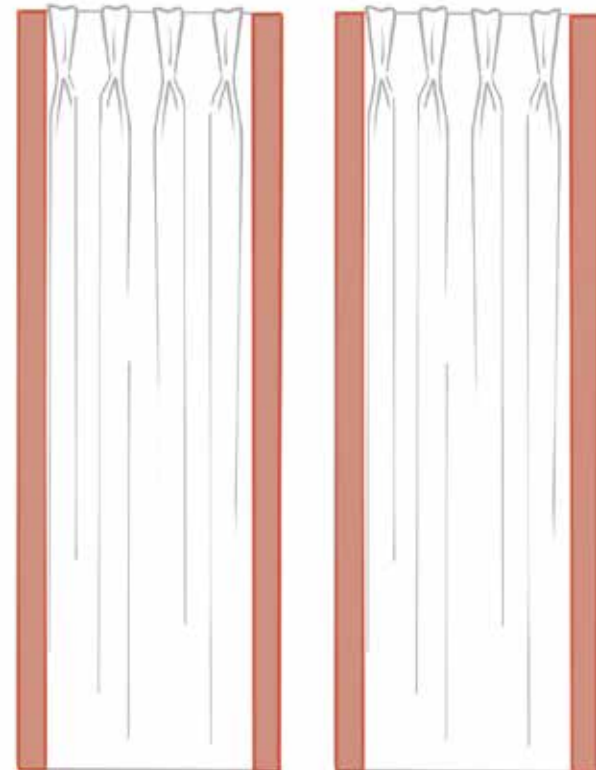
Leading edge



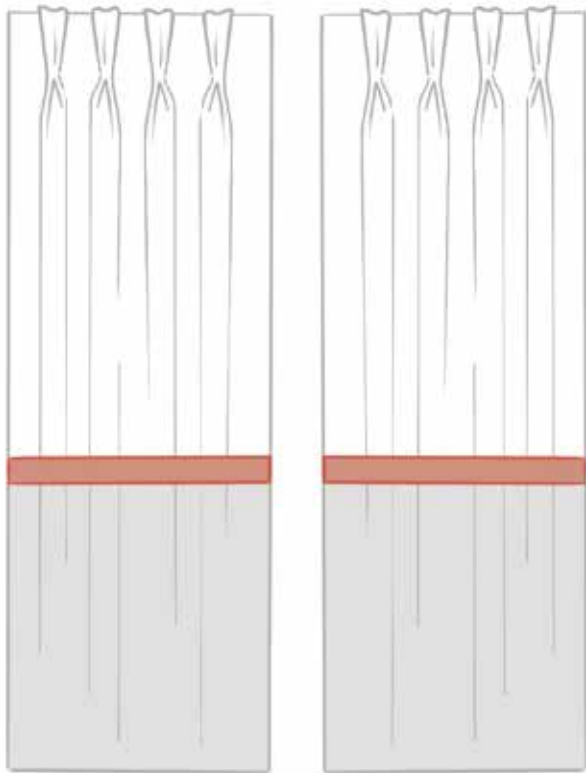
Leading and bottom edge



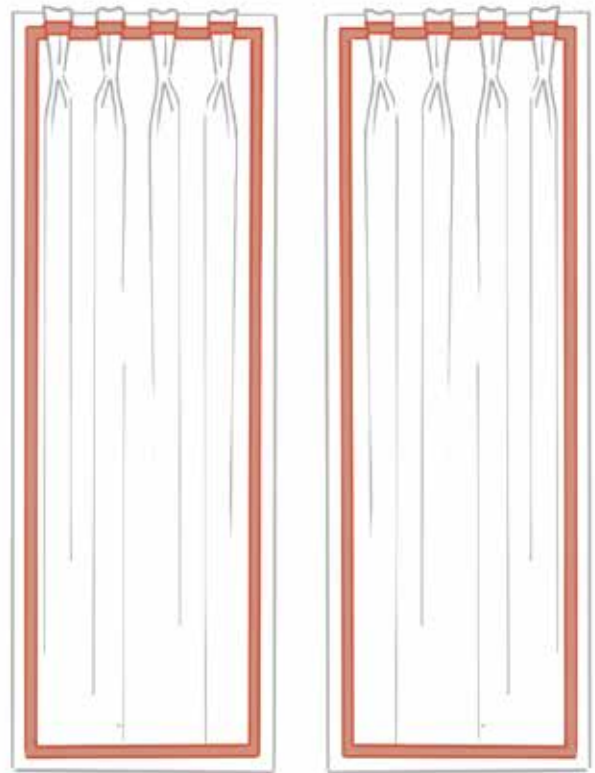
Bottom edge



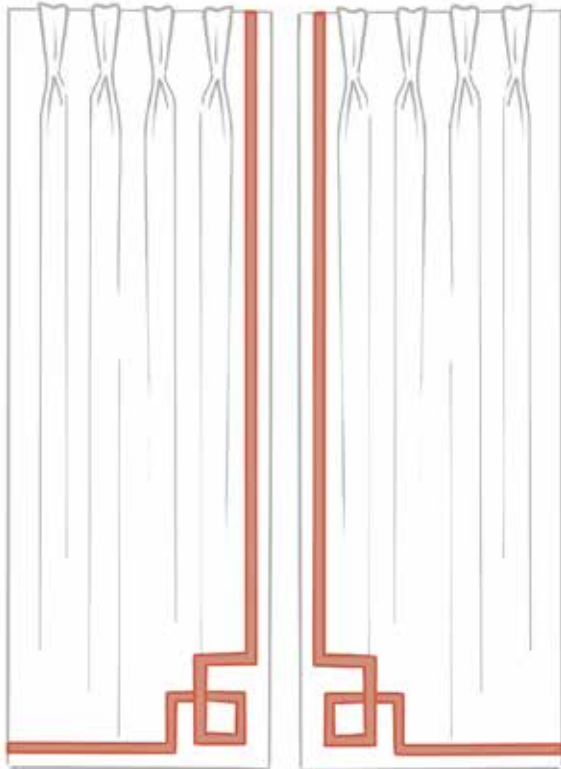
Double edge



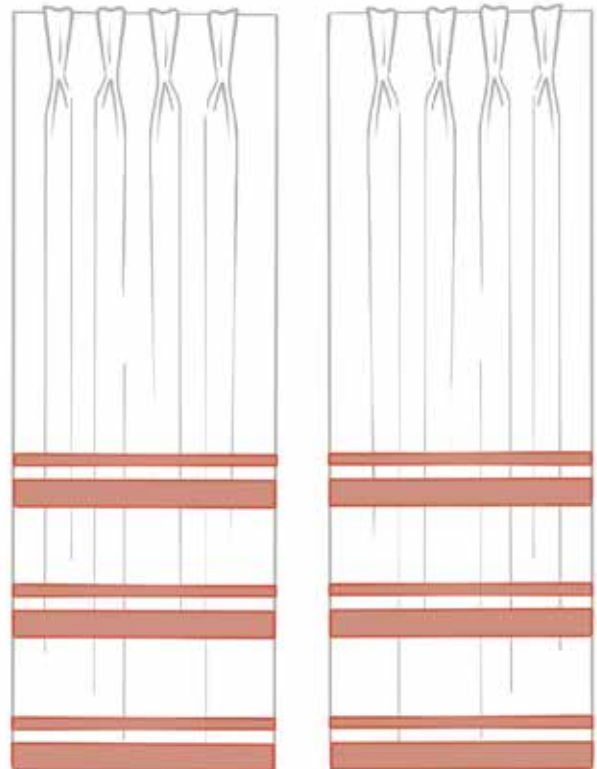
Split panels



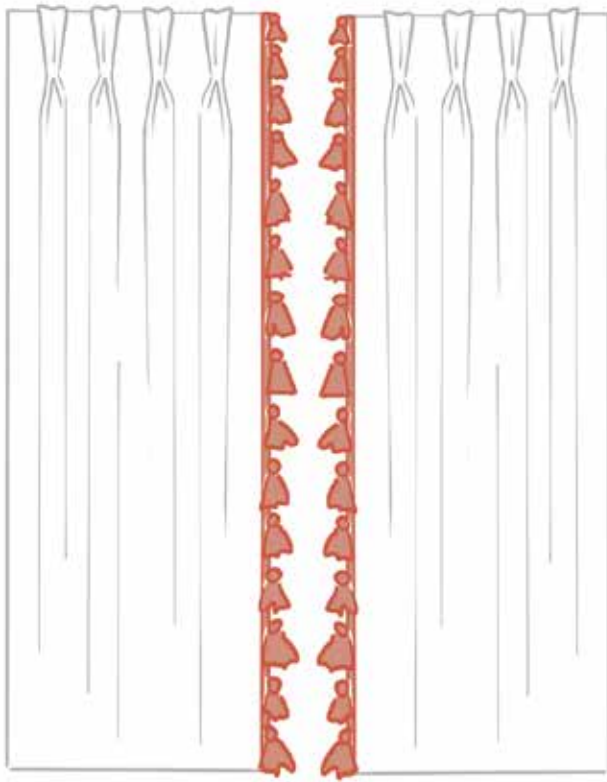
All around



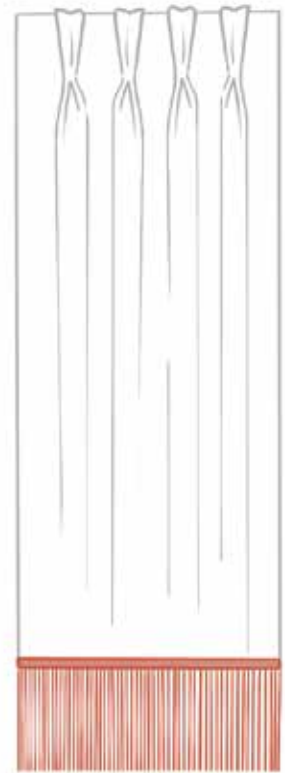
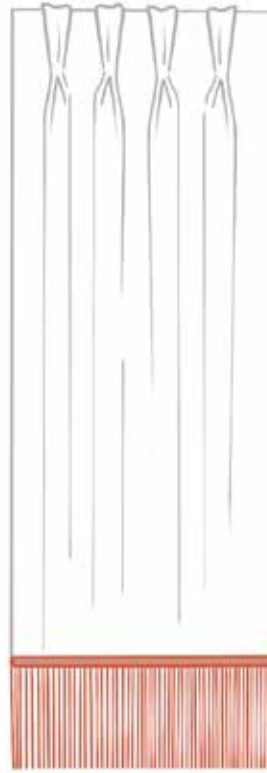
Decorative corners



Repeats



Fringes



Statement fringes



Holdbacks



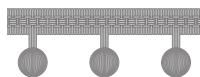
Tiebacks

GLOSSARY OF PASSEMENTERIE



APPLIQUÉ

Refers to a form of embellishing in which individual pieces of fabric are layered on a ground cloth and then stitched in place using embroidery techniques. In French, appliqué refers to “put on.” Within the world of passementerie, appliqués can be individual decorative embroidered pieces, which can have a raised or flat profile and can be incorporated into drapery or upholstery applications similar to frogs and rosettes. Also, the technique of appliqué is often used to create patterning on trimmings borders by adhering layers of fabric with embroidery on top of a contrasting ground.



BEADED FRINGE

A trim characterized by small, spherical fabric or thread beads evenly spaced along a header.



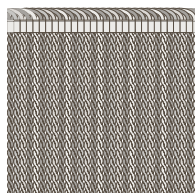
BORDER / TAPE / BRAID

A flat trim. It can come anywhere from 3/8” up to 3” or wider in width. Often used as a decorative element of draperies, upholstered furniture, pillows, etc. This includes ribbons and other, heavier weight flat decorative trims.



BRUSH FRINGE

A fringe made of cut yarns with a flat header that is typically inserted into the seam of fabric. It is called a brush fringe because it looks like a brush after it is applied. Traditionally used on the edge of pillows and sometimes as a detail in place of cord on upholstery. (Sometimes also referred to as moss fringe or marabout).



BULLION FRINGE

A long fringe made up of hanging strands of twisted rope. A 3” fringe might be used to follow the lines of a sumptuous drapery swag, whereas a longer fringe would be used at the base of upholstered sofa, chair, ottoman, or table skirts etc. Standard lengths are 4 1/2” (12 cm) and 8 1/4” (21 cm).



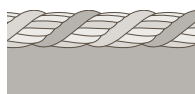
CHAINETTE

A fringe or trim that consists of a series of small, linked loops or chains made from materials like thread, cord, or beads.



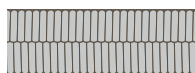
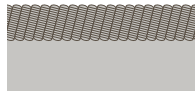
CHAIR TIE

A decorative element composed of a rope with tassels on each end. Usually attached to a loose seat cushion and then tied around the back legs of the chair to keep the cushion in place on the chair.



CORD / PIPING / WELT

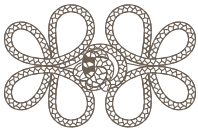
A cord consists of a mixture of yarns which have been twisted to form a rope. This decorative rope is then used as piping around edges of upholstered furniture, or as an accent to other soft furnishings. Cords come in a number of different widths from 1/8” - 1/2” or larger, depending on the application and desired style. It can come with or without a “lip” or tape (which allows the upholsterer to sew the cord into the furniture’s seam easily). A cord that is not twisted and is simpler in structure is typically called a piping or welt.





FAN EDGE

A decorative trim characterized by a repeating fan-shaped pattern, which often gives a scalloped effect to the edge of its application.



FROG

A two-piece closure used for decoration, made of cord that is wound in a decorative manner. One half of the frog houses the loop; the other houses the knot.



GIMP

A narrow decorative braid used to cover seams, raw edges and/or furniture staples. It is most commonly used on upholstered furniture with a wood frame where the fabric is nailed or stapled to the frame. The gimp is then glued over the nails/staples to hide where the fabric was attached. Gimps are generally about 1/2" wide or smaller. The difference between a braid and gimp is that a gimp is narrow.



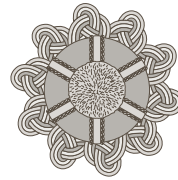
HOLDBACK

A large cord or braid used to hold back draperies to one side.



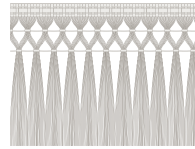
KEY TASSEL

A small decorative tassel used for accentuation. Often used as a decorative element attached to a key that is in a cabinet front or drawer front. Sometimes also attached to pillows.



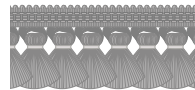
ROSETTE

A small circular medallion that is used to provide decorative interest. It is typically used on pillows or as a detail on the valence (top portion) of a window treatment.



SKIRT FRINGE

A fringe, typically at the bottom edge of upholstered furniture, attached by its header with a skirt hanging below. The skirt is typically comprised of decorative elements, such as tassels or beads, that add a finishing touch and visual interest to the lower part of the item.



TASSEL FRINGE

An ornamental border consisting of tassels hanging from a header.



TASSEL TIEBACK

Single or double tassels attached to a looped cord, used to dress and hold back curtains from the window.



TUFT

A bunch of threads tied together at the center. Used as a decorative element in place of buttons on tufted furniture.

DRAPERY VS. CURTAIN

The terms drapery and curtains are often used interchangeably, with regional preferences shaping their meaning. In the United States, “drapery” typically refers to more tailored, lined panels, often fuller in construction and designed to provide structure, coverage, and light control. In the UK and other regions, “curtains” is the preferred term for a wide range of window treatments, from light and casual to more formal and structured.

Regardless of terminology, these fabric panels play an essential role in shaping a space, framing the view, filtering light, and adding softness or definition to a room. Like fashion for the home, they set the tone and bring a space together. And just as fashion is elevated by accessories, window treatments are refined through the thoughtful use of passementerie.

Measurements

Millimeter Conversion

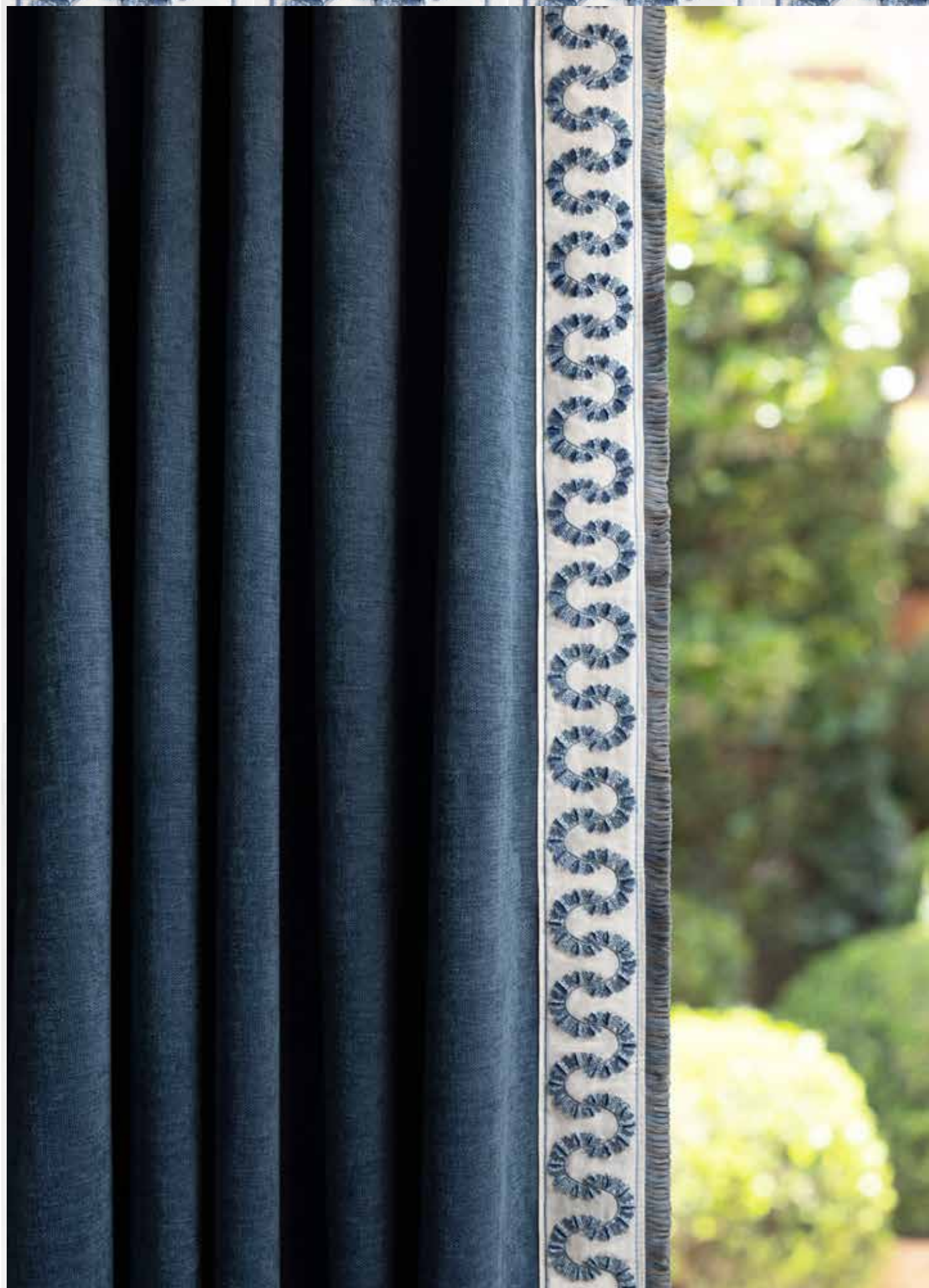
1 mm = 0.0394 in
3 mm = 1/8 in
5 mm = 3/16 in
10 mm = 3/8 in
15 mm = 9/16 in
25 mm = 1 in
40 mm = 1 1/2 in
50 mm = 2 in
60 mm = 2 3/8 in
80 mm = 3 1/8 in
100 mm = 4 in

Metric Conversion Factors

1 in = 25.4 mm
1 in = 2.54 cm
1 ft = 12 in
1 yd = 36 in
1 yd = 3 ft
1 yd = 0.9144 m
1 m = 1.0936 yd





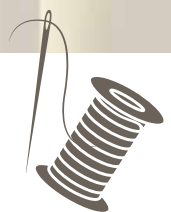


LEADING EDGE

One of the most classic uses of passementerie, trim along the leading edge creates a sense of separation while refining the outline of a drapery panel. Whether subtle or bold, it introduces structure and visual interest.



Leading edges set the tone. From two-tone geometric borders inspired by classical dentil molding to resort-inspired embroidered flamingos and lush botanicals, these details introduce pattern, character, and a strong sense of definition.





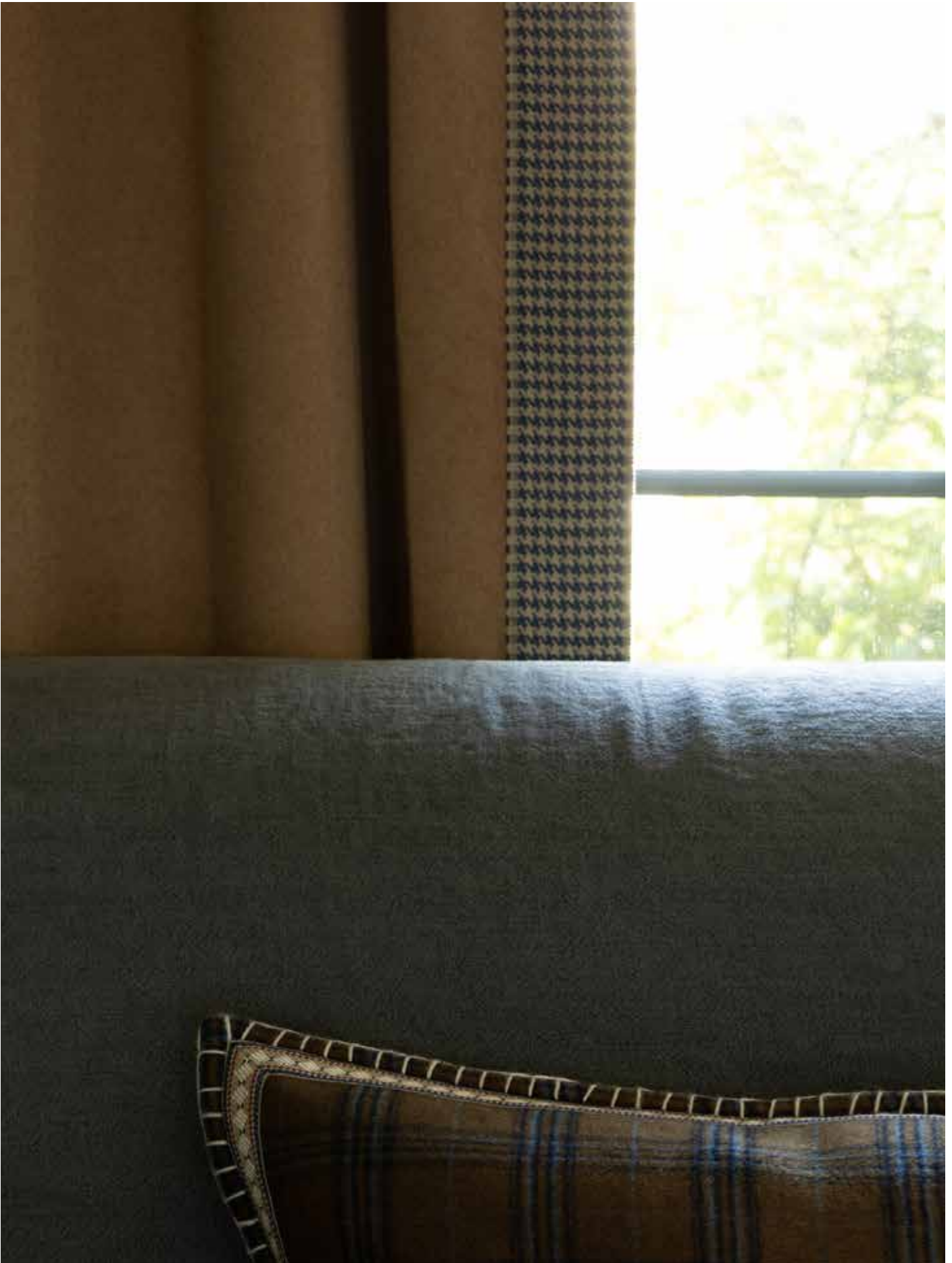
























Scallops are a unique and versatile design element since they can be used as a border creating a scallop effect, or be sewn inwards/outwards. Combine with contrasting color fabrics for an even more special effect.



STEP 1

Sew along the straight line to secure your trim in place.



STEP 2

Turn any corners at the desired spot.
Sew the other side following the pattern.



Let the scallop take the lead, redefining a silhouette with a subtle statement.



Precisely aligned along an edge, a scallop adds architectural intrigue and crisp definition.



An inset scalloped border creates an inherently tailored, softly framed composition.





Carry the detail beyond the window. From serene touches to more graphic patterns that complement the overall design, adding trim to the leading edges of bed drapery introduces a sense of continuity and quiet refinement.



Design Tip







Design Tip



While leading edges frame the view, bottom edges introduce an unexpected note, drawing the eye through the space and grounding the drapery within the room.







THE FRAMED PANEL

Inner borders, placed along the edge or inset within the panel, frame drapery with clarity and definition. From tonal applications that create a more tailored finish to contrasting trims that introduce color, these details elevate the overall design.



Design Tip

Even simple mitered frames can make an impact. Varying the width of the border or extending it across the pleats adds structure and a bold, graphic presence.





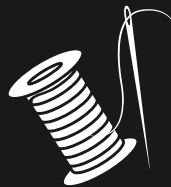








Design Tip



Seeing double. Why settle for a single line of trim when doubling the border can create a more tailored and intentional presence.













Design Tip



Framing can be tactile. Textured trims and playful details, such as pom-poms, bring softness and movement while maintaining a sophisticated finish.



When applying flat borders around a panel, a well-executed mitered corner is essential for a clean, tailored finish. Below is a step-by-step guide to achieving the perfect miter, along with a video exploring creative approaches to layering mitered corners.

STEP 1

Iron your border to make sure your corners are clean and sharp. Double check the fiber of your border to select the right heat setting for your iron. For more delicate fibers you might need to place a cloth over your trim prior to ironing. Always test before starting.



STEP 2

Fold your border inwards where the face is touching.



STEP 3

Press to flatten.



STEP 4

Fold the top side to 45 degrees towards the side you ironed straight.



STEP 5

Press to lock the 45 degree angle.



STEP 6

Stitch along the 45 degree angle line.



STEP 7

Cut the excess at the corner.



STEP 8 and 9

Open the back side that you just cut and press open flat.



LAYERING TRIM & MITERED CORNERS

by RoseHyll Studio – Custom Drapery Workroom



*“Decorative corners open a world of possibilities
for creating custom patterns with borders.
From reinterpreting a Greek key at any scale to
developing more intricate geometric designs, they
allow creativity to flow freely.”*

Milton De Paul, Executive Creative Director

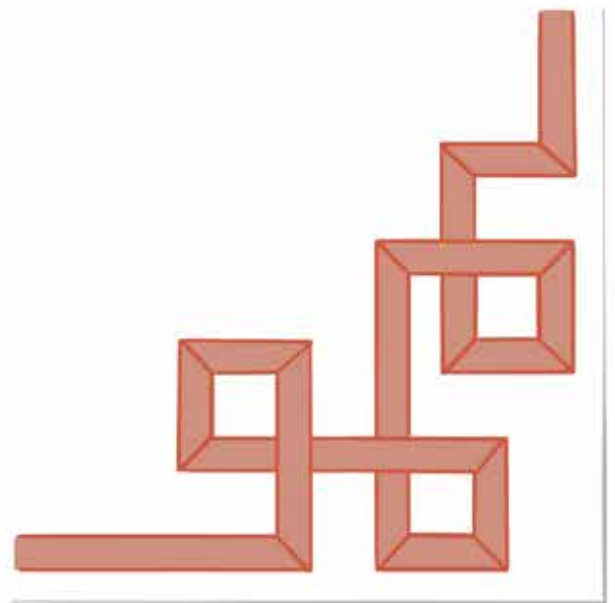
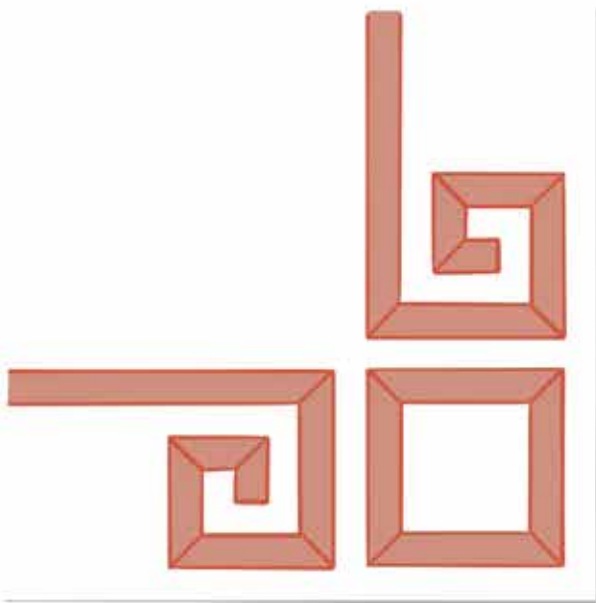
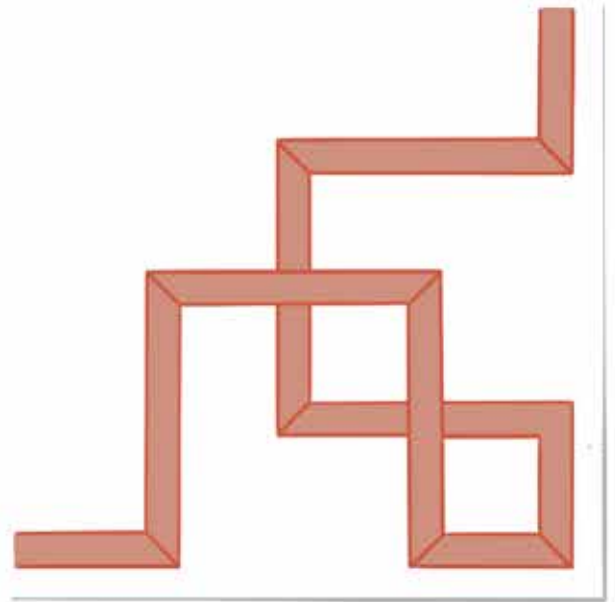
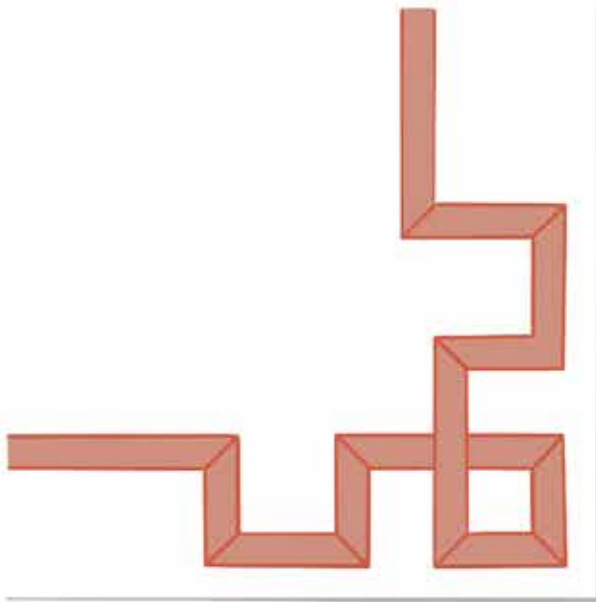
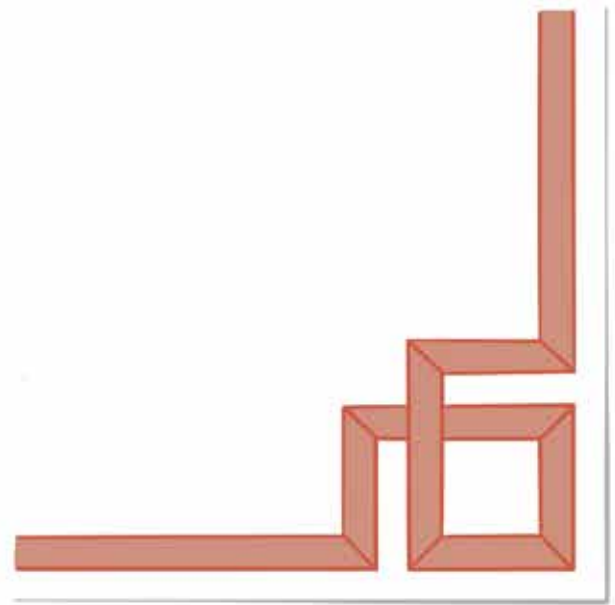
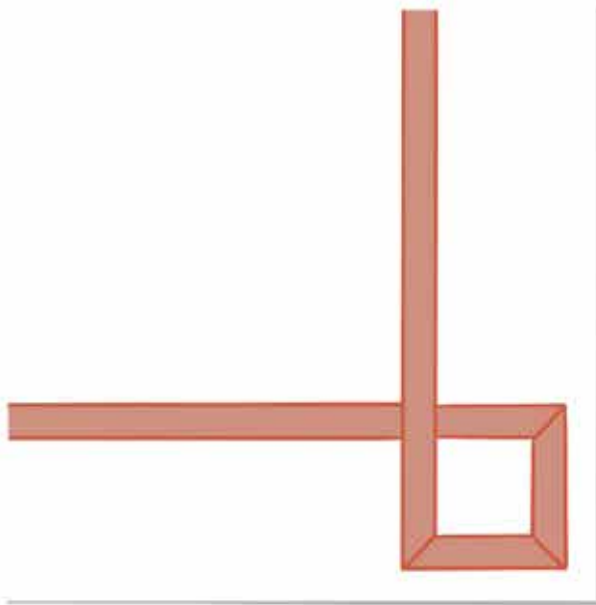






DECORATIVE CORNER PATTERNS

Once mitered corners are mastered, they become an opportunity for creative expression. Trim can be used to build striking geometric patterns at the corners or around the edges. These examples show how pattern can be created through careful measurement and thoughtful composition, combining precision with creativity.





FRINGE & TASSELS

Whether adding a playful note or a more refined, classic finish, fringe and tassels bring texture and personality to drapery. Applied at the leading edge or along the bottom of a panel, they introduce softness and movement.







Tassel and beaded fringes can be styled to hang gracefully when gathered with a tieback or allowed to fall freely along the hem, introducing movement and a sense of softness to the drapery.



Design Tip







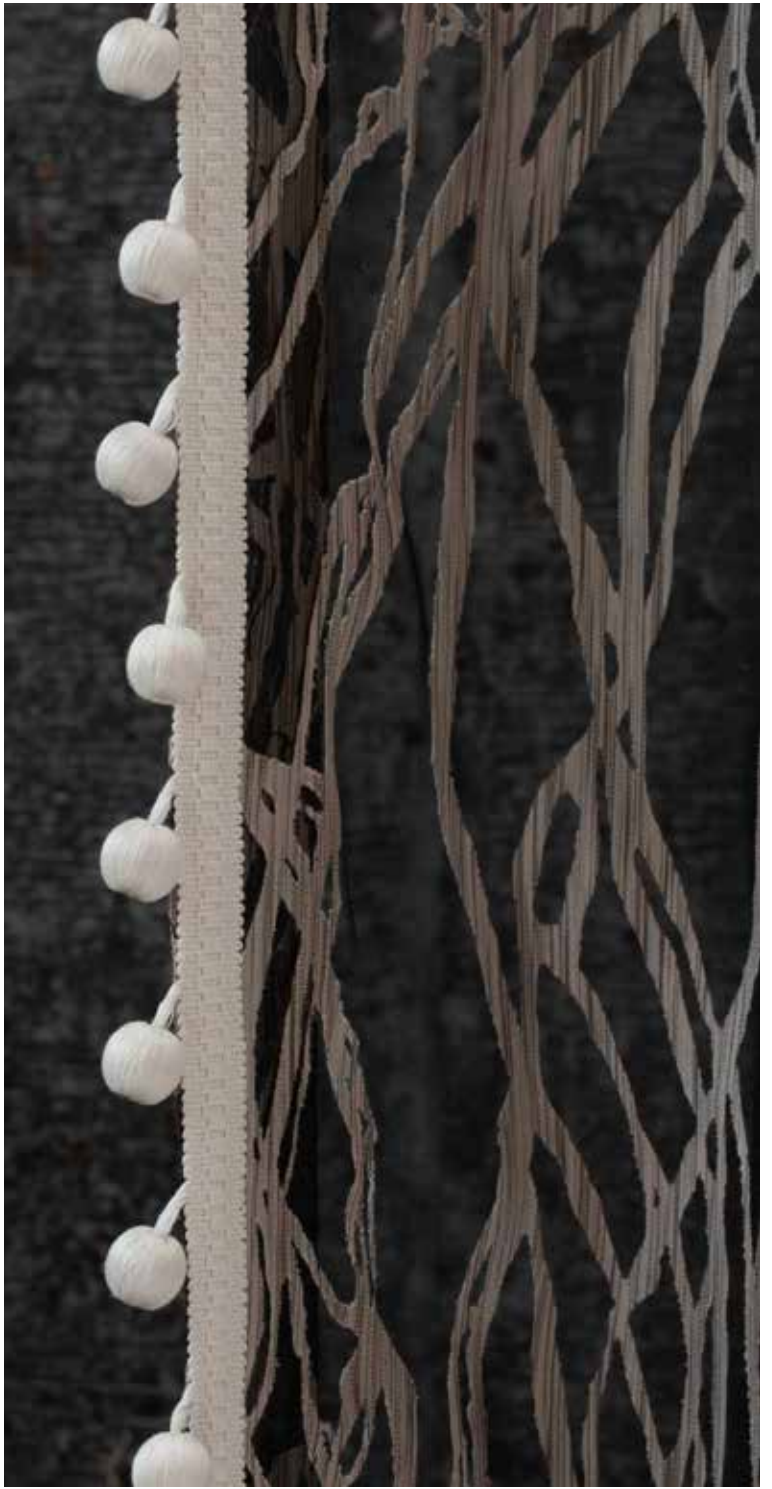




Design Tip



Even hidden seams can be considered. The transition between face and lining fabrics is often overlooked, introducing a delicate cord or braid creates a subtle, tailored detail that complements the leading trim.







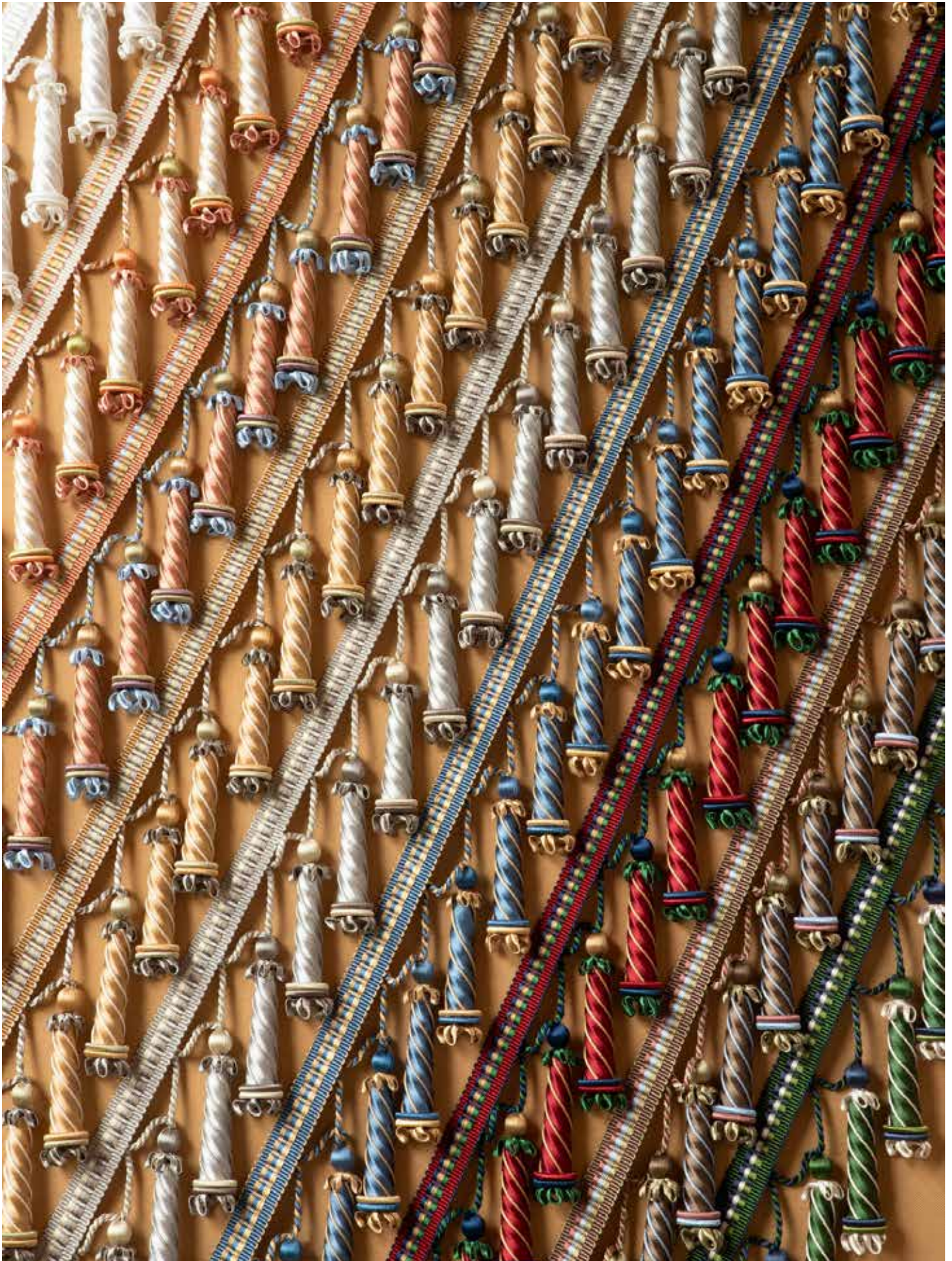


Design Tip



Classic passementerie, often associated with grand interiors, can feel equally at home in a contemporary setting. Beaded bullions and silk tassel fringes bring richness and detail, creating a thoughtful contrast within a more modern aesthetic.







HOW TO FINISH A TASSEL SKIRT FRINGE FOR DRAPERY

Tassel skirt fringes, with their more intricate construction, require careful finishing for a clean and tailored result. To the right is a step-by-step guide to properly finishing a tassel skirt fringe on a drapery panel.



STEP 1

Carefully remove at least two tassels at the end and flatten the trim as much as possible.



STEP 2

Stitch across the end to secure any loose threads.



STEP 3

Fold the end approximately 3" inward.



STEP 4

With the end folded, stitch the trim onto the fabric.



STEP 5

Fold the fabric to the back, preparing for the lining.



STEP 6

Secure the trim by hand for a clean, finished edge.





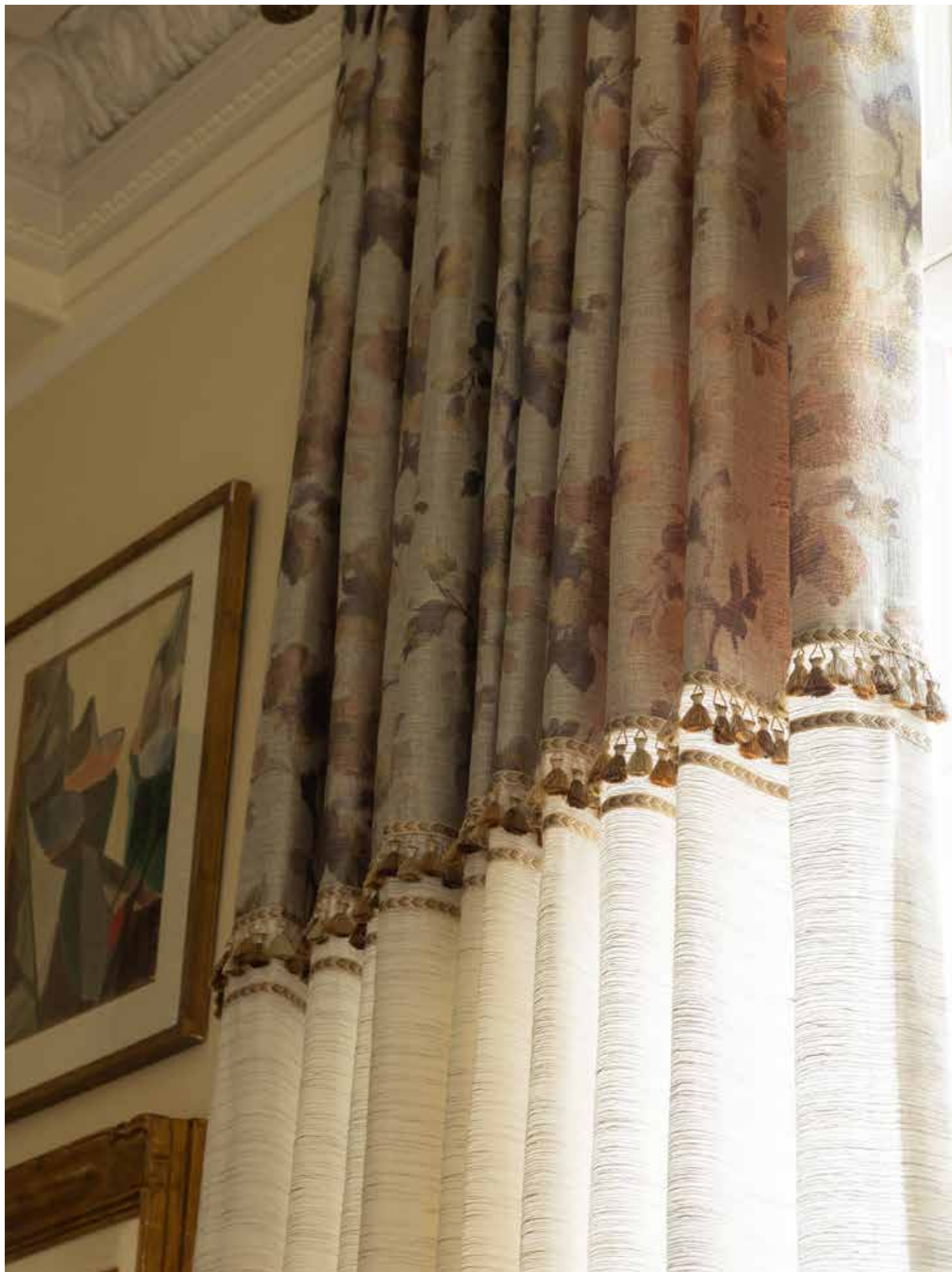






PANEL COMPOSITION

While a single fabric can be complete on its own, split panels introduce an opportunity to define the drapery through contrast and construction. Trim returns to one of its most original functions, finishing seams, while adding a distinctly custom finish.





















Design Tip



Splits are not limited to the horizontal. A vertical composition introduces tonal variation while subtly drawing the eye upward, enhancing the perceived height of a room.



LAYERING & UNEXPECTED APPLICATIONS

With thousands of trim options, layering offers endless combinations. Borders, fringes, cords, and even tufts as details can be used to create new patterns, where creativity becomes the defining element.



Design Tip



Layering thrives on contrast. Combining cretes, tassel fringe variations, and unexpected proportions can result in distinctive and surprising compositions.





Bullion applied across the pleats introduces a strong horizontal element that draws the eye upward, while reinforcing the room's palette and creating a sense of cohesion.



Design Tip







Design Tip



An unexpected detail worth considering, a coordinating cord offers a refined way to hold back drapery while seamlessly echoing the rest of the palette.



More is more. Double layer of brush fringe, finished with a gimp, and why not double holdbacks? Yes, please.



Design Tip





Design Tip

Rethink the holdback. Using matching fabric and adding trim along the edge or across the length creates a custom detail that ties the look together.













Design Tip



Layer without limits using borders, fine cords, and long fringes. Mix, repeat, and explore. There are no rules.







Attention to the pleat changes everything. From delicate tufts to rosettes and gimp-wrapped detailing, these small touches bring a tailored, bespoke finish.



Design Tip





Essential borders offer an opportunity to create pattern, whether through stripes and repetition or more organic compositions. They can also be used to mask seams, giving the design a more intentional finish.



Design Tip





TIEBACKS & HOLDBACKS

The perfect balance between function and beauty. Tiebacks and holdbacks define the silhouette of drapery, drawing the fabric inward to reveal light while adding a refined finish to the room.



















Design Tip



Holdbacks are an opportunity for play. Combined with bold fabrics and bullions, they introduce a lively note while maintaining a sense of sophistication.





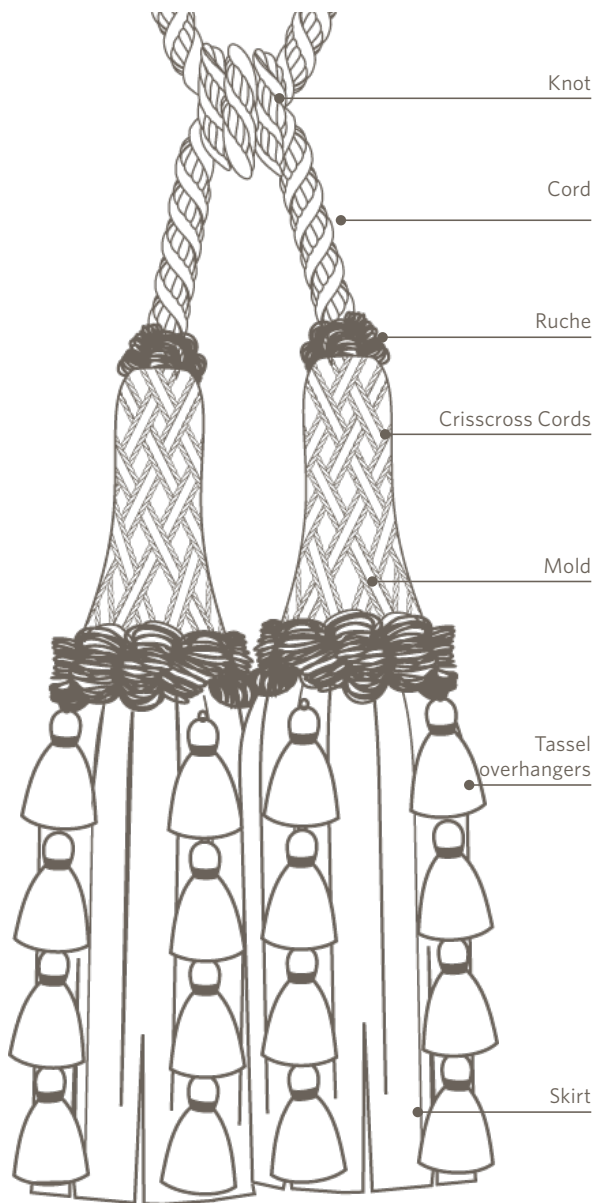






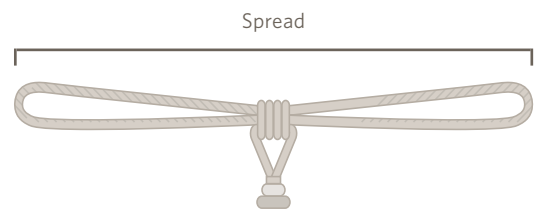
ANATOMY OF A TIEBACK

Tiebacks are composed of a series of carefully crafted elements, each contributing to their structure and refined details. This guide highlights the most common components, offering a clear reference for identifying and specifying details.



WHAT MEASUREMENTS MEAN

Tassel Tieback Spread: Measurement refers to the cord width when spread from the knot



Tassel Height: Measurement refers to the length between the top of the mold to the bottom of the skirt

