

Buckram-Fold, Interlined, Blackout Roman Shade

A new Roman shade method by Susan Woodcock

This Roman shade uses buckram, instead of ribs or rods, to provide stability and structure to the shade folds. Blackout lining prevents shadowing. The following instructions are for a shade finished 32 inches wide wide by 50 inches long, with 8 inch vertical ring spacing.



Materials and supplies:

Face fabric

Blackout lining (sample used Hanes Outblack)

Heavy flannel interlining

4 inch döfix fusible buckram

döfix fusible blackout tape

Safe-T-Shade Forever Rings® and RingLocks®

1.4 mm lift cord

Weight bar (based on lift system used)

Basic sewing tools and rulers

Roman shade lift system that accepts cords

Cuts:

Cut face fabric finished width + 8 inches x finished length + 10 Inches

Cut interlining and blackout lining finished width finished length + 2 inches

Cut enough pieces of 4 inch fusible buckram for each shade fold, finished width minus $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. (This shade used 6 pieces).

Note: The size of buckram used should be half of the ring spacing. For example: 3 inch buckram is used for 6 inch ring spacing, and 4 inch buckram is used for 8 inch ring spacing. If ring spacing is 7 inches, use 4 inch buckram and tear off $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Only woven buckram, like the döfix fusible buckram, can be ripped to size. Pre-plan how many pieces of buckram by figuring your ring spacing. You will need one piece of buckram for each section between the rings.

Fabrication Step-by-Step:

1. Place main fabric, face down on the worktable. Fold over 4 inches on each side, measuring to check that the width is accurate. Fold cut edge under to create 2 inch doubled side hems. Press the side hems.
2. At the bottom, fold over 8 inches and fold the cut edge under and press to create a 4 inch doubled bottom hem.
3. Place interlining over the back of the face fabric, fitting under the side and bottom hems.
4. Starting at the bottom, place one piece of buckram **fusible side up** and even with the bottom, finished edge. (A)
5. Measure from the top edge of the first piece of buckram 4 inches, and place the second piece of buckram, evenly spaced **with fusible side up**. Repeat for the rest of the pieces of buckram spacing 4 inches apart. (B)



6. Mark ring spacing at the top edge of each piece of buckram. Ring spacing will be 2.5 inches from each side, and 10 inches or less apart in the center. This shade used 4 columns of rings spaced 9 inches apart.

7. To make it easier to move the shade around, you can secure the buckram with low-tack blue tape. Do not tape over where the buckram will be sewn in the next step. (C) Or, you can stab pins into the worktable, or use weights to keep the buckram in place until it is stitched.
8. Hand stitch the buckram to the face fabric at each mark, stitching through the interlining to catch the face fabric, and using a thread that matches the face fabric. (D) Because blackout lining is used, you can float the threads from each tack point without clipping if you like. Continue tacking all the buckram pieces to the face fabric. There are 24 tack points on this shade.



9. After all the buckram is tacked, remove the tape.
10. Cut small pieces (3/4 inch squares) of the döfix fusible blackout tape. You will need one piece for each tack point. Lift up each piece of tacked buckram and place one piece of blackout tape below each tack-point, under the buckram and with the **fusible side up**. (E) Fold the buckram back over, covering the blackout tape pieces. (F)



11. After all the pieces of blackout tape are in place, carefully place the blackout lining face up over the back, covering the buckram and keeping the shade neat and square. (G) Slip the blackout lining under the pressed side and bottom hem. Press the entire back of the shade using steam to fully secure the fusible buckram to the back of the blackout lining. (H)



12. Finish side hems with fusible tape or fabric glue. Place the weight bar at the bottom of the shade before finishing the hem across the bottom. Use fusible tape or fabric glue to finish the bottom hem. The outside edges of the bottom hem can be hand sewn using a ladder stitch.
13. Sew a shade ring slightly below each tack point that was made in Step 8. The bottom rings should be sewn to the top of the hem, catching the blackout lining underneath. (J) You should be able to see and feel a small raised area from the knots where each piece of buckram was tacked. If needed, make a small mark for the ring spacing. DO NOT SEW THROUGH the buckram, or to the front of the shade. Only sew through the blackout lining. You will be sewing over the blackout tape. This hides the pinholes of light.



14. Measure and mark the finished length and complete the shade by attaching it to a board or headrail and threading the cord through the rings using RingLocks® or a cord shroud. Attach the required cord safety devices, labels and warning tags.

Additional information:

Using buckram that is exactly half of the vertical ring spacing creates a slightly spaced, cascading look to the folds. For folds with a tighter stack, use a piece of buckram smaller than the fold size. You can rip-down the döfix buckram to the size you need because it is woven. Ripping is very quick and accurate!

For dark color fabrics, you may be able to omit the blackout tape when using interlining. Test first. A light color fabric will need the blackout tape added to eliminate pinholes of light.

This technique works well without interlining, and only using the blackout lining.

The shade in this instruction took one hour and forty five minutes to complete; from cutting the materials to sewing the last shade ring, and measuring the length. Estimate extra time for mounting the shade to the lift system. Once learned, it should take a little less time to make.

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For hands-on training visit www.WorkroomTech.com