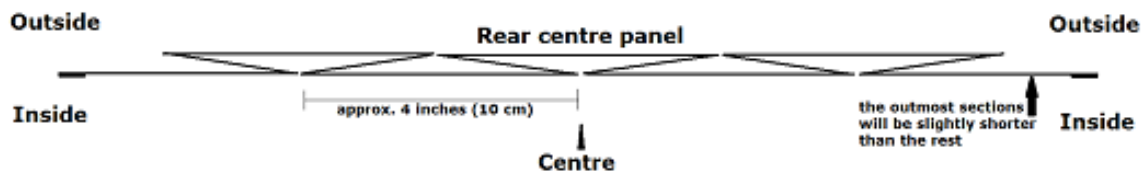


Curtains for COVID – Instructions for the Generic Curtain

The curtain is made from a piece of breathable fabric roughly 40 inches across and 14 inches high (see pattern).

- 1) Measure the height of the shield in the face-shield you have. Make the height of the fabric cut this number plus 1 inch (2.5 cm). If your shield height is 12 inches (30 cm), the height of the cut fabric should be 13 inches (32.5 cm).
- 2) Put the face-shield on your head, and adjust for a comfortable fit.
- 3) Double fold the fabric bottom edge over twice, at ½-inch (approximately 1.25 cm) (see the pattern) with the good side of the fabric on the outside of the folds. Pin or clip the double rolled edge to get consistency on the wide of the hem. Sew a single straight stitch line down the entire length of the double-folded fabric, in the centre of the folded-over fabric, unpinning or unclipping as you go. The raised edge is the inside of the curtain. (This is so that the hem lip will not catch anything from the outside when worn.)
- 4) Do the same double fold operation on both ends of the fabric, folding to the same side of the fabric as was done with the bottom edge. Do not create a double fold hem on the top edge.
- 5) Measure the length of the face-shield head band, from where it will overlap the shield at each side. On the face-shield we used, this came to about 15 inches (38 cm), including overlapping the snaps used to anchor the curtain to the face-shield assembly.
- 6) The pleat folding guide is laid out for a finished length of 15 inches (38 cm). The actual pleated piece will lay flat; the diagram shows spacing to provide guidance on the folding spacing. When folding, the 3-layer folding uses 3 times the fabric as finished length. If you need more or less than 15 inches (38 cm) finished length to fit your shield band, make this adjustment in folding the outmost Z-fold at each side. Remember the 3:1 ratio.



- 7) Pleat the top edge based on the markings on the pattern, as follows.
 - a. Create a 4-inch (10 cm) wide panel centred on the mid-point of the fabric length, folding the inside of the fabric together, coming back 2 inches (5 cm) to the centre, and then do the reverse fold (Z-fold) of the next 4 inches and pin (clip) the 3 layers of the Z-fold.
 - b. Continue per pleating guide, pinning or clipping all the way.
 - c. Test the length of the pleated and pinned curtain against the head band of the face shield. Adjust and re-pin as necessary to get the desired length.
 - d. Sew two lines lengthwise through the pleating. ½-inch (1.25 cm) from the edge and 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge is recommended.
 - e. Run a wide zig-zag stitch on the unhemmed, pleated edge to prevent fraying. As an alternative, sew a strip of bias tape or binding strip to enclose the raw pleated edge. (I have not recommended using a folded hem on this edge as not all home sewing machines will go through nine layers of fabric.)

Curtains for COVID – Instructions for the Generic Curtain

- 8) Lay the curtain alongside the head band as you intend to install it. Determine how you will attach the top corners of the curtain to the head band or shield. For our generic curtain, two small holes were made to go over the snaps which hold the shield on the band. At the back of the head band, a single 1-inch piece of hook-and-loop fastener was used, and sewed in place as the head band is elastic at that point, which made the adhesive ineffective.
- 9) Place the peel-and-stick hook-and-loop fastener on the shield. Note: attach the hook side on the shield and head band, and the loop (fuzzy) side on the curtain. You'll appreciate this when you launder the curtain fabric.
 - a. With the curtain attached at the top of the shield (via the snap or a piece of hook-and-loop fastener), bring the side hem along the inside of the shield and pick the spot where you want the lower attachment point to be. Cut a small piece of fastener, pick the hook side, peel off the tape to reveal the adhesive, and stick to the inside of the shield at the selected spot. Then, at the equivalent point on the curtain side hem, attach the loop portion of the fastener lightly to the outside edge of the fabric. Align the fastener pieces, but do not join them. Ensure they align as you wish, adjust if necessary. Once aligned, squeeze both pieces firmly to the shield and fabric separately. Then attach together. Repeat on other side of the shield. (You may wish to put a few stitches into the pieces of hook-and-loop fastener attached to the fabric for a more durable adhesion.)
 - b. If you need additional connection points on the head band to prevent drooping, install those now, as described previously.
- 10) Test for fit and make any final adjustments.
- 11) Personalize your new COVID Curtain face-shield and mark your name or telephone number or email address on it somehow.
- 12) Find a place to hang the shield and curtain so you will remember to take it with you when you will need it. When necessary, go out in public better protected against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

Laundering

Either hand or machine washing should be fine. Use soap or laundry detergent, as these are effective at killing the virus. I recommend hanging to dry, as some hook-and-loop fastener adhesives will be affected by the heat of a clothes dryer. (Not an issue if you have sewn all the hook-and-loop fastener pieces to the COVID curtain. When travelling, if a clothes line is not available, just hang over the shower rail in the bathroom or the back of a chair.