ROLLER SHADE 101

ROLL CONFIGURATION
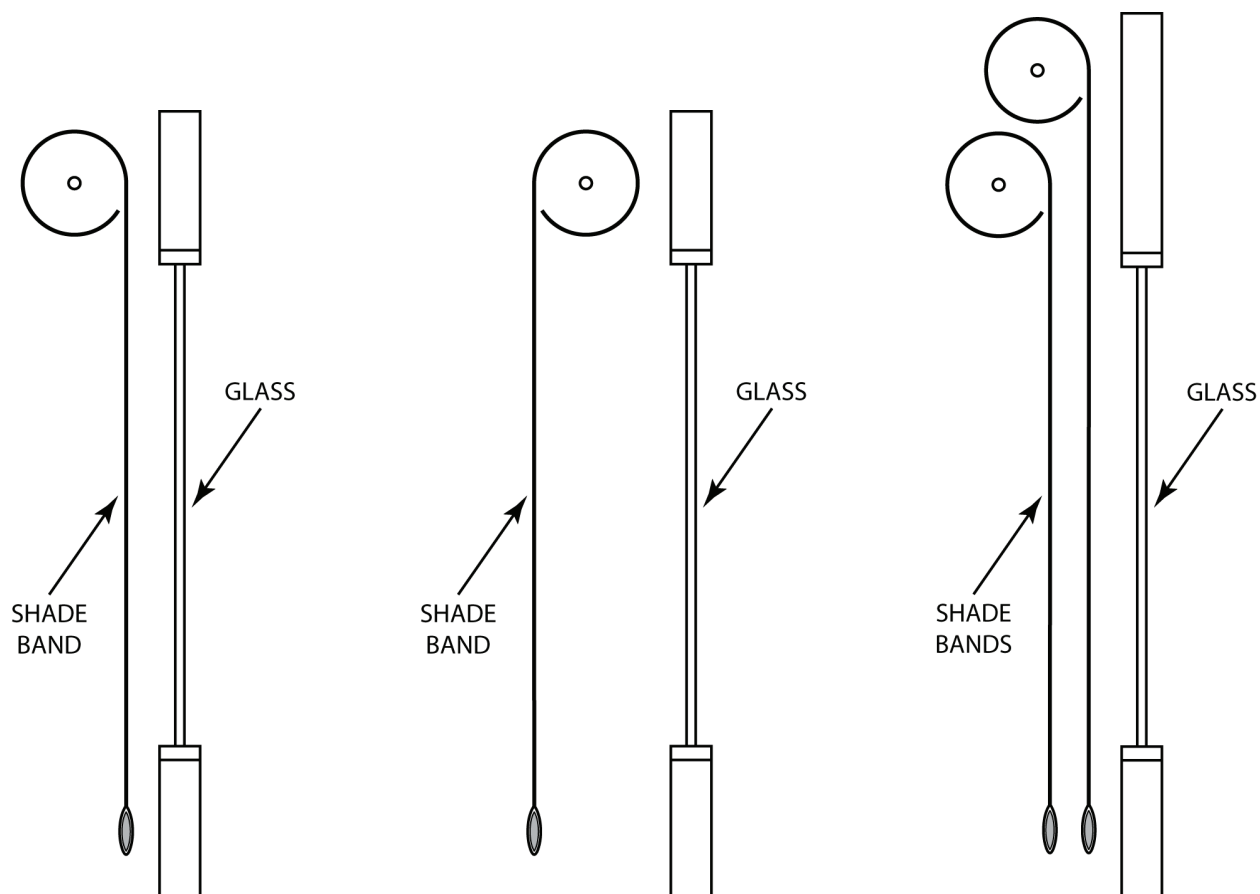
Regular Roll

- The fabric comes off the back of the roll, closest to the window
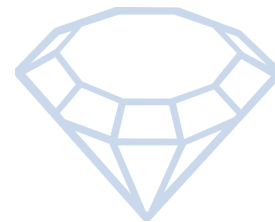- Used in all standard applications

Reverse Roll

- Sometimes referred to as "Waterfall Roll", the fabric comes off the front of the roll, furthest from the window.
- This is used when then there is door or window hardware in the way of the shade path.

Dual Roll

- Two fabric tubes placed close together to allowing the use of two types of fabrics.
- Used for applications requiring the best of both worlds; a solar screen and a blackout fabric.
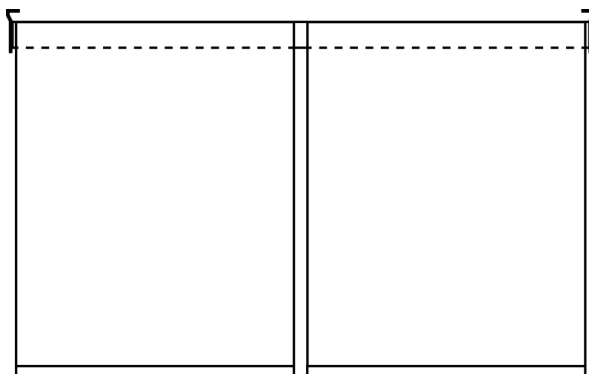
GLASS   GLASS   GLASS

SHADE BAND   SHADE BAND   SHADE BANDS
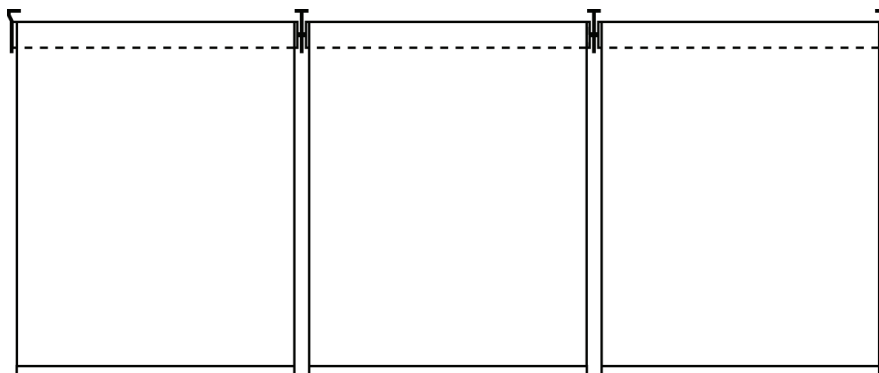
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MULTIPLE BANDS

Banding

- Banded shades are 2 or more fabric bands on one tube. Shades must all be the same length.
- Due to the sizes involved, banding is typically reserved for motorized applications.
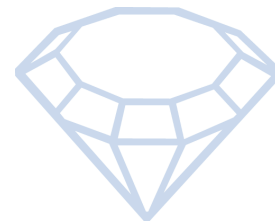
Coupling

- Coupled shades are 2 or more separate tube assemblies joined together by the use of mechanical couplers and operated by one drive mechanism. All shades operate in tandem.
- Due to the sizes involved, coupling is typically reserved for motorized applications.

Combination

- For large motorized runs band and coupling can be combined to create a wall of shades that operate together.
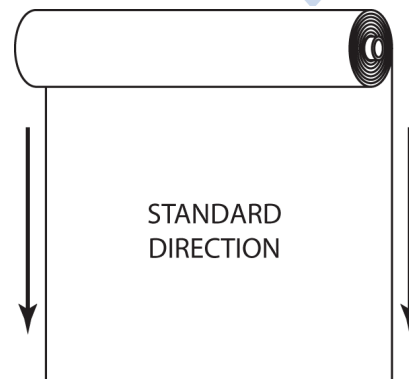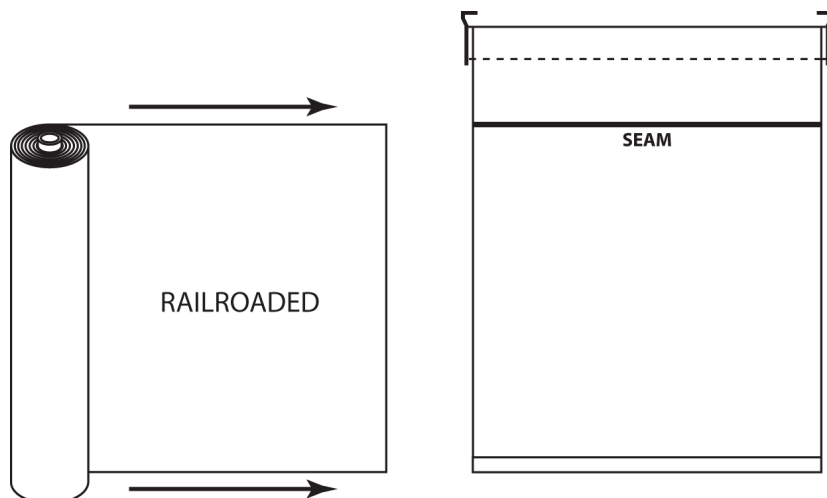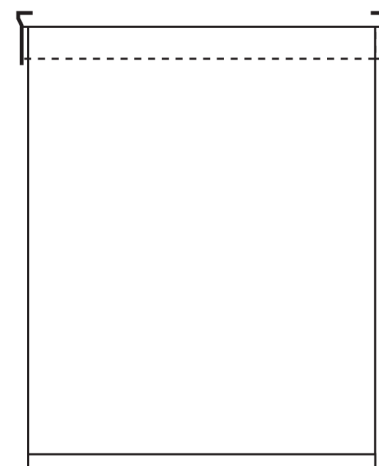
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FABRIC DIRECTION

Standard

- The shade cloth is cut so the material width comes from the width of the fabric roll. Fabrics come in widths ranging from 72" to 120".
- Any shade whose width is greater than the width of the fabric roll will require the fabric to be railroaded.
- Some materials have pattern or color direction which will be visible if shades are made in both standards and railroaded directions.
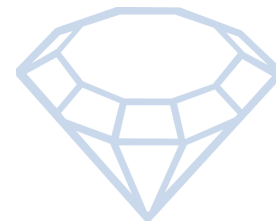
Railroaded

- Railroading is the process of rotating the fabric roll 90 degrees and running the fabric "sideways". This is necessary when the shade width exceeds the fabric width. Once railroaded, the width of material becomes the height of the shade.
- Depending upon the pattern of the selected fabric, railroading my produce a undesirable visible difference in the pattern of the fabric.
- *Important!* If the length of the shade exceeds the width of the fabric roll, a horizontal seam will be visible.
- Fabric railroading can be avoided by utilizing banding and coupling.

Telescoping

Telescoping is when the fabric spirals off the side of a tube when rolled up. This can occur when the shade is not leveled properly during installation. Telescoping also has a tendency to occur when the length of a shade band is more than 3 times its width.
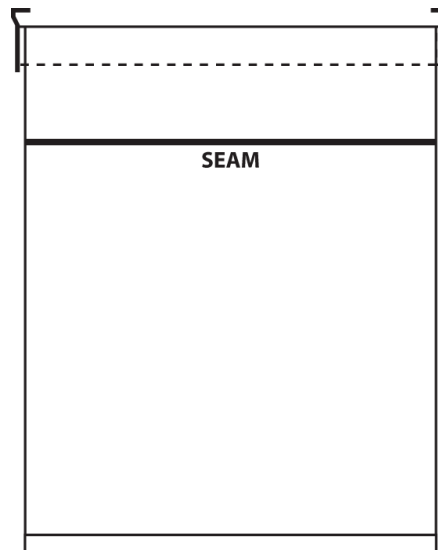
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SPLICING AND SEAMS

Seams

Used when railroading fabric, this condition takes two fabric bands and then heat seals them together to form a larger shade. The result is a visible seam-line approximately ¼" wide. The seam location will vary based upon the length of the shade and the width of the material used. Multiple seams can be made depending upon the total shade length required.

Due to the light filtering nature of a solar screen, seaming the fabric is somewhat unsightly because the overlapping required to heat seam the fabrics changes the opacity of the fabric allowing the seam to be easily seen. It is for this reason that solar screen materials come in a wide variety of widths- some up to 126" wide. This allows us to be creative in fabrication to avoid seams as often as possible.

Blackout fabrics are easily seamed, because they are completely opaque, they hide seams very well. Although these seams are not completely invisible, they are hardly unsightly as is the case with seamed solar screens. Most blackout fabrics are only available in 72" widths.

SEAM

Battens

Battens are thin fiberglass or metal supports run horizontally through the fabric band. These supports reduce waviness and assist in maintaining the flatness of fabric. Battens are heat-sealed between 2 hems to form a pocket in the fabric.

BATTEN

DIAMOND
D R A P E R Y