

Bracket and Drapery Finished Length



Calculate these
two confusing
numbers without
stress.



PLEASE READ THIS.

I DON'T TALK JUST TO HEAR MYSELF.
REALLY...

Calculating where the bracket should go, or how long to make the drapery based on the bracket is a very perplexing, stress-causing chore.

If you've ever looked at the collection of bracket hardware in your hand and wondered, 'How do I know how long to specify the drapery, or where to put this stuff on the wall?', you are in good company.

It's such a seemingly mythical calculation we leave it up to the installers. I don't know why we do this, we are smart people, we can calculate a half drop repeat, for heaven's sake, but where to put the bracket or how to calculate the length of the drapery including the bracket? PARALYSIS!

I didn't include this in my course Learn to Choose Window Coverings because it is not part of choosing window treatments. I think of it as belonging more in the fabrication and installation realms than in the design.

But, enough of my students of the course LTCWC have asked for this info that I thought better of my intentional omission.

So here you are: how to calculate the bracket placement, and finished length of drapery based on the hardware.

Linda

GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

INSTRUCTIONS: Most of what is here you will have in your workroom. What you don't have can be picked up at the local dollar store or fabric store for not much money at all.

- ☐ ONE 6 X 6-INCH CLEAR QUILTERS RULER
- ☐ TWO 2-INCH ANGLE BRACKETS
- ☐ POSTER TACK
- ☐ ONE BOARD, ABOUT 6 X 15-16 INCHES, AT LEAST 5/8 INCHES THICK
- ☐ 2 OR 3 EACH 6 AND 8 ROBERSTON WOOD SCREWS, NO LONGER THAN YOUR BOARD IS THICK
- ☐ SCREWDRIVER FOR THE SCREWS
- ☐ SHARPIE
- ☐ SHORT PIECES OF THE RODS.. 3-6 INCHES

A BIT ABOUT HARDWARE

SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW,

If you specify hardware, you will find that you develop a few favourite systems, and use them repeatedly instead of always finding new ones.

For example: I have two Ripplefold systems I use (different price points), two metal rod systems (different finishes and price points), one wooden rod and rings system and one channel system which I use almost exclusively.

I am aware of other collections, and what they offer, but it's rare that I can't find what will work for my clients in one of these collections.

So, consider this:

If I have six rod collections I use almost all the time, I only have to calculate the bracket placement, and the corollary drapery length ONCE for each of these systems.

And if I do get a 'rogue' bracket system, I can calculate the exact bracket placement, and the drapery length in about five minutes, using this measuring system.

There are just two main types of brackets, Drop-in and Click-in/Top-mount Channel...

DROP-IN BRACKETS



Main Uses

Wood or metal rod and rings for pleated-header drapery. Grommet topped drapery, tab, tie or back-tie drapery. This is the most common retail bracket.

Main Characteristics

The brackets are either a screw attachment, or there is a back screw which fits into a connector on the wood bracket. The more popular drop-in bracket can be adjustable for the projection, and have a set-screw locking the rod in place.



Adjustable drop-in



Static drop in



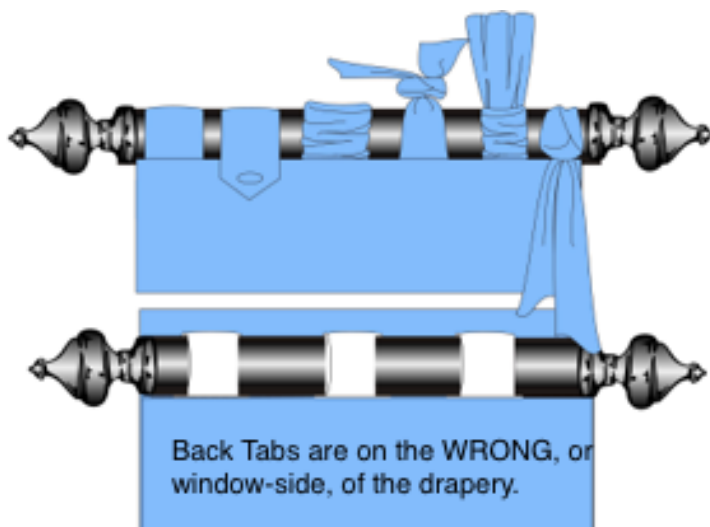
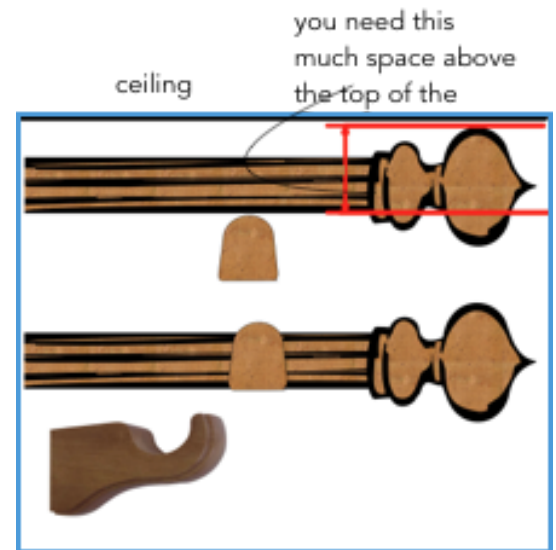
Static single
and double drop-in

(static means it's not adjustable).

DROP-IN BRACKETS



For rods on a drop-in bracket, you need to position the top of the bracket not less than the distance from the bottom of the rod to the top of the finial, as it sits on the rod, plus at least 1/2-inch for your fingers. You might be able to install the rod into the brackets and put the finial on last, but even here you need some finger room.



The drop in bracket is also used for grommet, tab, tie, or gathered headings. This is the most common type of bracket you find in retail. The rods are expansion rods and the brackets are adjustable for return depth.

CLICK-IN / TOP-MOUNT BRACKETS



Main Uses

Ripplefold uses a click-in bracket. Drapery under a valance which must have free movement often uses a click-in bracket. They can be ceiling-mounted, and are often bendable for use in bays and bows.

Main Characteristics

Because the rod clicks into the bracket at the top edge, the bottom edge, which typically has a channel, allows for clear movement side to side for any drapery system. It can be corded, or left as a hand draw.



DS wall and ceiling bracket



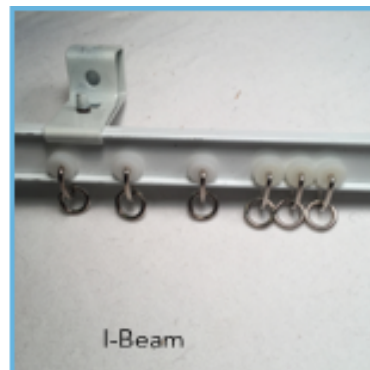
DS with wall bracket attached



DS with carrier in place
(note the ceiling mount bracket on the left)



Oval rod



I-Beam

CLICK-IN / TOP-MOUNT BRACKETS

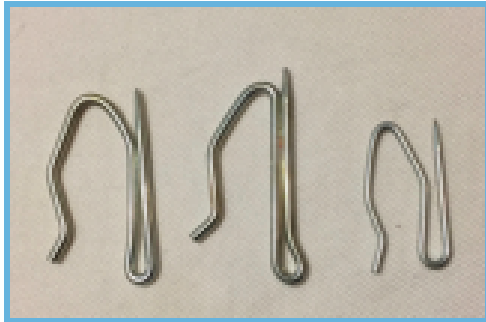


On the left is a Ripplefold system without the fabric. FYI..
On the right is a top-mounted click bracket for Ripplefold.

CARRIERS



Unless you are using a grommet, tab, tie or gathered heading, the drapery must attach to the rod somehow, and usually it's via a carrier which goes into a channel or eye-screw in the rod or ring.



This is a regular drapery pin on the left, a non-tilting in the middle and a sheer on the right.

The no-tilt pin prevents the top edge of the treatment from tilting forward. It works. I don't know why, but it does.

The small drapery pin (far right) is one used for sheers, or on narrow gathering tapes to attach to carriers.

Carriers for pins may be I-Beam, Channel rod, C-ring, metal or wood rings with eye-screws.

Pins are used to attach pleated or tape-gathered headings via the carriers. They need at least 2 layers of fabric, and support for the pins.

On the right are carriers for: at the top is the DS Track rod and on the bottom is an oval rod. The oval is the modern version of the I-Beam.



MEASURE

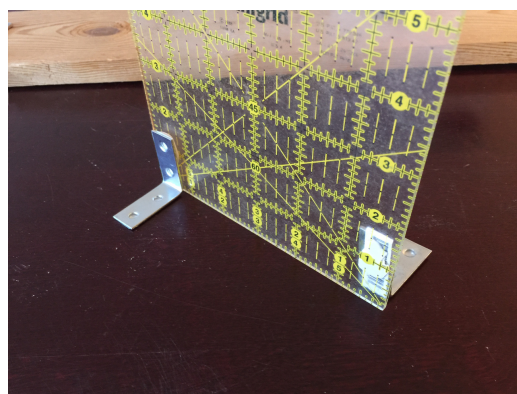


So let's move along to how to calculate where to hang the brackets, and the required finished length of the drapery, considering the brackets.

NOTE: I do NOT make allowances in these calculations for the drapery clearing the floor by 1/4 inch, of just skimming the floor. We calculate to the exact measure, as if the drapery was just touching the floor. If you need to raise the drapery up for clearance, you will adjust your measurements when you are all done. Less chance of error that way.

Gather your supplies and tools. I used what I had in my workroom and toolbox, with the exception of the poster tack. I had to go buy that.

Attach the 2-inch angle brackets to your 6-inch quilters ruler like this:



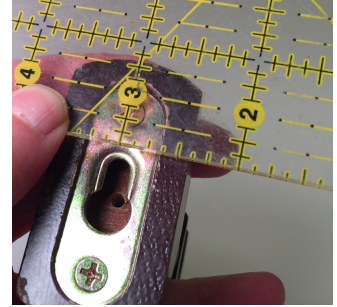
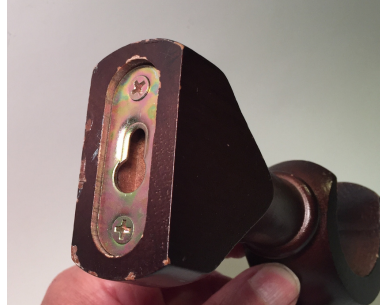
Use the poster tack to keep things in place. Put a piece on the inside of the bracket to hold the rod from tilting while you measure.





Measure the Drop-in bracket.

1: Measure from the top of the bracket to the top of the screw plate. Note this measurement.



2: Insert a screw on your board down the measurement you took in #1 plus a 1/2-inch



3: Hang the bracket on the screw.



4: Assemble and attach the rest of the rod. Use the poster tack to keep things in place.

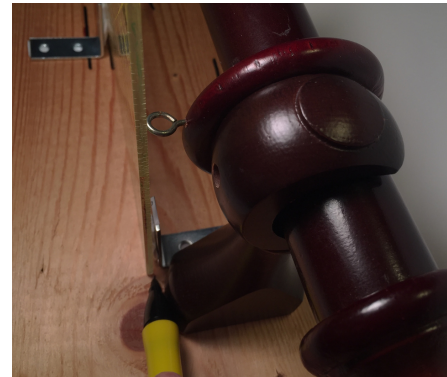
Please note: A screw eye has a top and a bottom. The bottom is the pointed end of the screw, no matter how you hold the screw.





Measure the Drop-in Bracket.

5: Lay the bracket board down flat and position your 6-inch ruler so the edge touches the edge of the eye oriented to the floor and mark that position.



6: Move the ruler so that it rests on the bottom edge of the ring. This is the uppermost edge of the drapery. Mark that position



7; Mark the top of the bracket



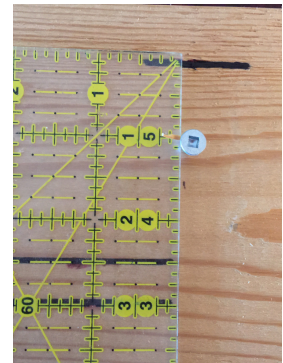
8. Remove the rod and bracket from the board, you can see the marks you made.



Measure the Drop-in Bracket.



9: If the marks are faint, darken them so you can easily read them through the ruler.



On the ruler:

The Top of bracket is at 0. (This is the **Top of Bracket**, or **TOB**)

The bottom of the ring is at 2 1/2/ (**Top of Drape**, **TOD**)

The inside edge of the enclosed eye of the eye screw, where the pin rests, is at 3 (**Top of Pin**, **TOP**)

A little note:

The section of the eye screw where the screw section starts, and which is close to the rod, is typically the top of the drapery edge. If the drapery pin is placed too low, the drapery will drag on the rod.

Because this is the uppermost measure the drapery can be, we call this point the **Top of Drape**, **TOD**

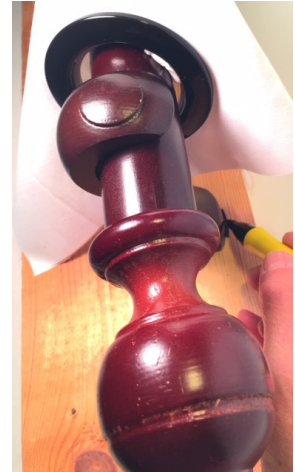
You will note that the screw is 1 inch below the TOB.



Measure the for Grommets

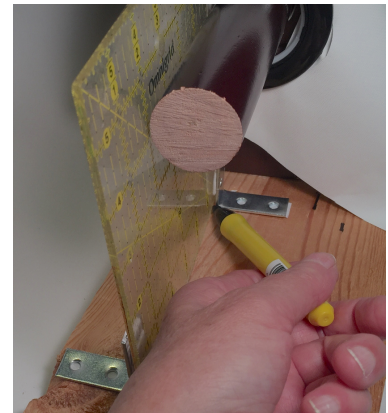
Grommets are a bit different. The only measurements you need are the top of bracket to the top of the rod. (TOR) To that you add the distance from the TOR to the TOD for the FL.

The distance from the TOR to the TOD is typically about 1 1/2-2 inches, including the grommet.

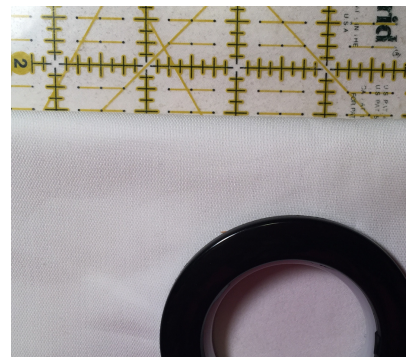
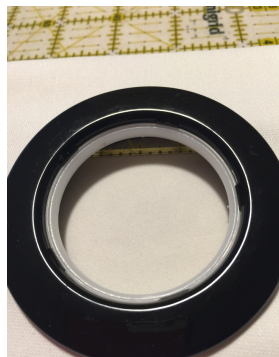


1: Draw a line across the TOB

2: For the TOR measurement:
Position the ruler against the top edge of the rod, draw your line on the side of the ruler touching the rod.



3. It's easiest to lay the drapery on top of the ruler for this measurement. make sure you can just see the edge of the ruler under the grommet opening. Then look to the top edge for your TOD to TOR measurement.



CALCULATE



Calculate the bracket position on the wall.

TOB The top edge of the bracket.

TOD The top edge of the drapery

TOP The top edge of the drapery pin.

Distance from the TOB to the TOD	<u> </u> inches
Add the finished length of the drapery	+ <u> </u> inches
This is the position for the top of the bracket on the wall	= <u> </u> inches

For example.

The TOB to TOD is 3 inches

Add the drapery 84 inches

The TOB is placed 87 inches from the floor.

To determine the pin drop: this is the distance between the TOD and TOP

**DONT FORGET TO ADD LIFT IF YOU WANT THE DRAPERY
TO CLEAR THE FLOOR.**

**For example. If the TOB is 87, but you want the drapery to sit
1/4 inch above the floor, then the TOB must be placed at 87
1/4 inches from the floor.**

CALCULATE



**How to calculate the FL if the rod is already in place,
or you know what the TOB measurement must be.**

The TOB is at 87 inches.	TOB location	:	_____
The TOD to TOB is 3 inches	Subtract TOB to TOD difference -		_____
THE DRAPERY FINISHED	DRAPERY FL	=	_____
LENGTH IS 84 INCHES			

***The measurement for your installer is
the screw position on the back-screw
example: if your TOB is at 87, your
screw is at 86.***

THE OTHER BRACKETS

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO

Now you've seen one bracket measure, you can go ahead and measure all the other brackets, record the measurements and you are done.

You can now give installers exact bracket placement measures. You know how to calculate the length of finished drapery for your workroom.

You have just put yourself into the top few percent of people in our industry who can actually do this, and do it with confidence.

BUT

I know you like visuals, so I've done a Ripplefold and a click bracket for you .

If the rod is already in place, use this same system. Stick all the components together with tack, use your ruler with the stabilizing feet, and away you go.

Measure the Top Mount Bracket for Ripplefold.

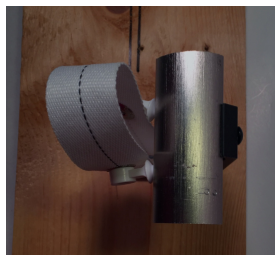


Different carrier systems measure differently. So do your calculations with the rod you will use AND with the tape and carriers you will use.

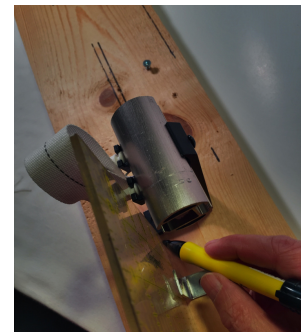


This is an example of a one-piece carrier, and the TOD is different than on a 2-piece carrier (used in image 3 below). On the 2-piece, it is preferred to sew the top of the tape about 1/4-inch below the TOD, for example. In the tape example to the right, the TOD needs to be level with the top of the tape.

1: Put the rod and bracket together and thread the carriers and tape into the channel. Mark the TOB



2: Using the ruler, mark the TOD (which is the bottom of the rod)



3. Remove the hardware and extend the lines you made so you can determine your calculations.



Measure the Top Mount Click-in Bracket



1: Put the rod and bracket together with a carrier in place



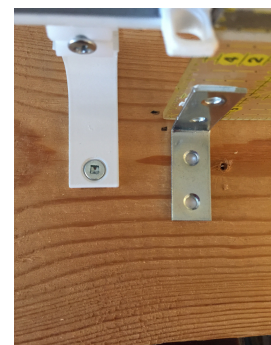
2: Stick the bracket onto the board and mark the TOB



3: Mark the top of of drape



3: Mark the top of of pin



Many designers and decorators shy away from choosing window coverings for their clients because the subject is complicated. And there isn't anywhere to go to learn it all.

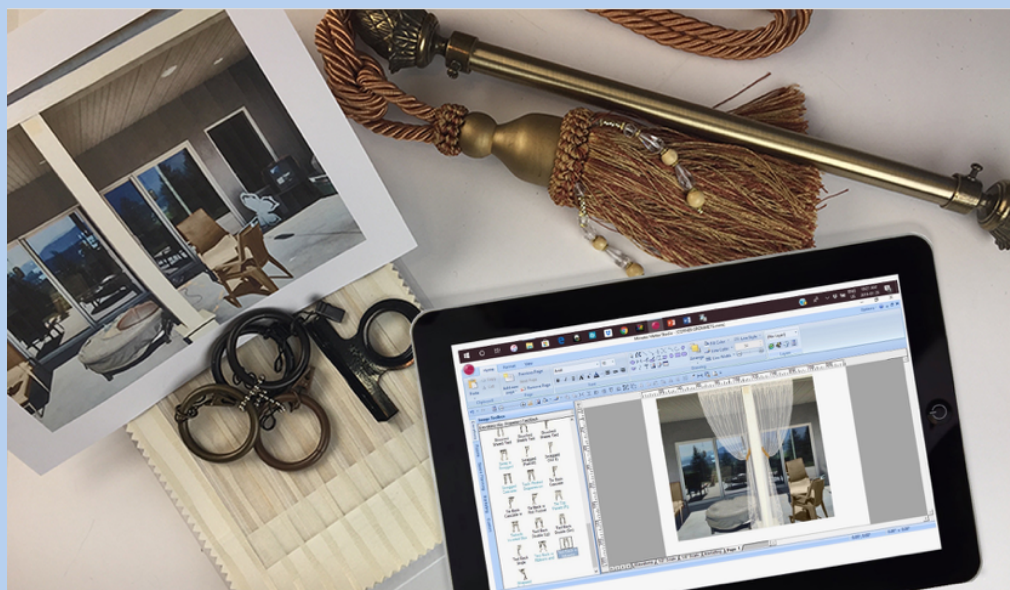
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And if you would like to have a free look-around in the course, please email me at Linda@LTCWClessons.com and I'll give you that.



Learn To Choose Window Coverings



MEET THE AUTHOR

LINDA ERLAM



“Drapery is one of the most fun, most frustrating, most lucrative, most risky, most rewarding, most creative parts of Interior Design and Decoration”

HAVE QUESTIONS?

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