

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE USE OF BANDEX CURTAIN AND DRAPERY TAPES

FABRIC USE:

Choosing the right fabric ratio depends on the function and style of the window dressing as well as on the latest fabric trend. It is recommended to use a curtain tape with a lower fabric ratio for heavyweight drapery fabrics.

Curtains made using lightweight fabrics are ideal perfect for using a tape with higher fullness ratio.

The required width of a pleated curtain is multiplied by the desired fullness ratio, but it is also necessary to take into account the side seam allowance.

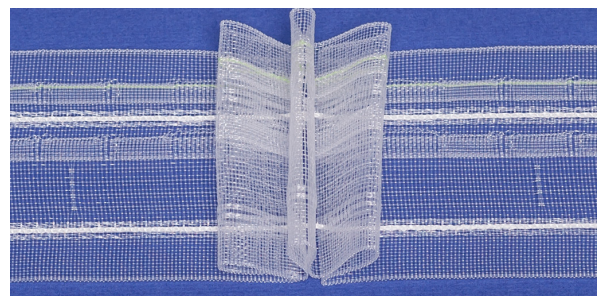
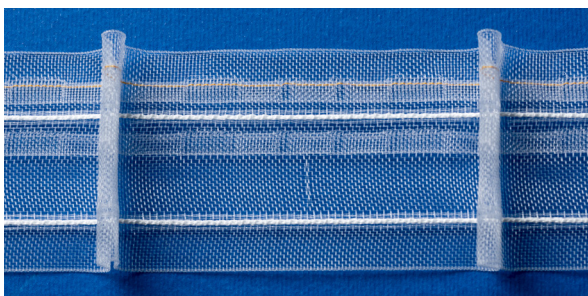
FULLNESS RATIO:

The fullness ratio specifies the parameter to calculate the required width of the curtain / drape. After adding the seams of the curtain you know the need of fabric for the drapery.

With BANDEX branded tapes, the fullness ratio of each curtain tape is indicated by differing interwoven coloured threads:

orange	1:1.5	green	1:2.5
black	1:1.7	brown	1:2.7
violet	1:1.85	pink	1:3.0
blue	1:2.0	grey	1:4.0
yellow	1:2.2		

For example: a fullness of 1:2.5 indicates you need 2.5 metres of tape for every 1 metre of pleated curtain.



SEWING THE TAPE TO THE CURTAIN:

The curtain tape must be placed on the reverse of the curtain fabric with the pockets visible and facing upwards in such a way that it can be cut at the mid-point between two groups of pleats. Many of the translucent tapes have a mid-point marker between the pleats (or pleat groups). For continuous pencil pleats or smock tapes the cut point is where the draw cords are floating.

When attaching the tape to the curtain/drape, an additional 2–3 cm must be left at each end of the tape. It is then possible for these ends to be turned back whilst allowing the cords to be drawn out.

The tape is then sewn to the curtain leaving an excess seam at the top which allows the curtain to run freely under the curtain track. Box pleat tapes must be sewn edge to edge. If you wish to cover a track, pole or gliders, the excess seam will be higher according to your requirements.

Please note that it is always important to sew in the same direction and not to sew over the draw cords.



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With all tapes that are for straight pleating one stitch line along each edge of the tape is usually sufficient. If a fabric with a stiffer handle is used along with a wide tape, a third stitch line (in the middle of the tape) is recommended. Some smock and goblet pleating tapes require more than 2 stitch lines. Where this is necessary, you will find our advice in the product information.

PERFECT PLEATING:

Pleats are created by gathering the tape on taut drawcords. Firstly, the drawcords are knotted together at both ends.

The side of the curtain, where the excess cords are to be bundled, is attached to a fixture such as a hook or a door handle.

Please note: the cords should be bundled to the side of the curtain which is to be the leading edge – this allows small adjustments to be made to the pleats and easy access to the cords. The attached curtain tape is held with two fingers either side of a pleat or pleat group and then it can be carefully pushed along the drawcords to start the pleating process – you are pushing away from you towards the door handle or hook. This process is repeated and the previously made pleat groups or continuous pleats should continue to be fed along until the tape and curtain are completely pleated.

Pleat the tape gently so that the spaces between the pleats stay flat, otherwise, puckering can occur.

Knot the excess draw cords tightly together behind the last pleat and then bundle them or wind them around a CORDTIDY. This allows the curtain to be flattened for cleaning.

You must NEVER cut the excess drawcords once the curtain has been pleated.

HANGING THE CURTAIN:

To hang a curtain, gliders or hooks are placed in the pockets of the back side of the tape. There are curtain tapes with one, two or even more pocket row(s) so adjustments are possible to suit the given suspension system. In the market, many different curtain track and pole systems are available, as well as different gliders and hooks. It is essential to consider this fact when making your choice of curtain tape, as well as how the tape needs to be sewn to the fabric to function correctly on the track or pole system.

With automatic tapes forming pleat groups – such as group pleat, V-pleat, box pleat, goblet pleat – double-pronged or pleat hooks are required, these hooks enable the pockets either side of the pleat to be used to create the pleat. In doing so, the pleat or pleat group is then fixed.

With automatic tapes forming continuous pleats such as pencil pleat and smock pleat as well as with universal tapes the hooks are fixed in a distance of 8–10 cm.

