

These curtains feature sections of sheer fabrics and filled sheer fabrics to let the sunshine through a fanciful collection of happy colors and interesting shapes created by embellishments such as thread and sequins.

### Supplies

- o Baby Lock Celebrate or similar Baby Lock Serger
- o Baby Lock Presto 2 or similar sewing machine
- o Sheer Fabrics such as polyester organza, netting or lace (quantity depends on the size of curtain, see description below for purchasing suggestions)
- o Three cones serger thread in color(s) to match fabric
- o All Purpose sewing thread in color(s) to match fabric and bobbin to match
- o Cutting mat, ruler and rotary cutter
- o Sewing shears
- o Dark pen such as Sharpie
- o Fine pins
- o Light Box or Clear Extension Table with Light underneath (optional)
- o Assorted crumbs of sheer fabrics, leftover threads, scraps of lace and sequins
- o Spray adhesive such as 505 Temporary Adhesive



## Instructions

### *Collect Sheer Fabrics and Assorted Fun Bits*

Decide on a color palette for the curtains and collect assorted sheer fabrics. Generally select a collection of five to seven fabrics with similar value such as mostly light or mostly dark. When purchasing fabric, hold it up to the light to check how opaque or transparent it is. The color of the fabric will almost disappear when strong light is shining through, but will be visible when the room is lit from within. Some sheer fabrics have embroidery or printed designs that can add a lot of interest to the project. Most Sheer fabrics do not have a right or wrong side making them ideal for curtains.



Decide on the size of the curtain and use the measurement as a general guideline for the quantity of fabric needed. Make a sketch of a layout for the pieces. Purchase more fabric than you think you will need. This project will create waste fabric during assembly. (Use the waste fabric as “crumbs” sandwiched between the layers, so not all is lost.) A good guideline is to purchase at least 1/3 more of each fabric than is planned for the project. Many sheer fabrics are not heat tolerant. Check each of the fabrics with an iron in the corner for heat tolerance. If fabrics are wrinkled, gently press, tumble in a warm dryer or moisten to release the wrinkles.

Fun bits of sheer fabrics and thread sandwiched between two layers of sheer fabric creates the fun and magical part of the project. Choose additional embellishments such as lace, sequins, netting and even thin plastics such as Mylar to create interest. Everything used must be sewable and not break the needle when sewn through. Hard items such as buttons, small toys, mementos or beads can be added by planning a pocket for them.

## *Create Layered Sheer Sections*

Cut two sheer panels of the same size to create a filled sheer section. Cut these at least 4" larger than the finished size. Lay one piece on a flat surface wrong side up. Sprinkle bits all over the fabric and try to keep the goodies about an inch in from the edges. The pattern can be random or create an image such as clouds or a tree using the embellishments. To arrange an object, use a light box or a light under a clear extension table to gauge the effect. Keep the bits and pieces in place as much as possible when creating an image by using a spray adhesive. Lay the second layer of fabric on top and pin the layers together very well. Take the layers to the sewing machine and stitch through all layers. Use an extension table to keep the layers flat while sewing. To include larger items or items that can not be sewn through, use a zipper foot on the sewing machine to sew as close as needed to the item.

## *Seaming the Separate Panels*

Sheer fabrics are difficult to manage, ravel easily and resist a straight seam. The serger does a good job controlling all these situations. The video describes the process of using a wide seam allowance, marking a straight line and trimming while seaming the fabric with a three-thread wide serger stitch. Lay one of the pieces to be seamed together right side up on a flat surface. Orientate the second piece right side down on top of the first. Looking through the sheer fabric, adjust the pieces so they are well positioned. Pin the pieces together well and, using a straight edge and a marker, draw a reference line to use in seaming the fabrics together. The line will be the cut line for the serger so draw it about ¼" from the desired seam line. Use three matching threads in the serger and coordinate them to the fabrics. The seam will show as a darker line around the panels when light shines through. Seam the pieces together at the serger by guiding the marked line at the cutting blade. Remove the pins as



the seam is sewn. Do not serge over a pin. Trim the marked line off as the seam is sewn. After seaming with the serger and at the sewing machine, sew the seam down by stitching close to the edge of the serged seam. The edge will be easy to see through the sheer fabric.

Construct the curtain panel in sections and then assemble the sections. Use your layout sketch as a guide, but be prepared to make adjustments. As the curtain is assembled, hold the project up to the light periodically to check that pieces are working well together. To finish the curtain, turn the sides under in a double fold and stitch down with the sewing machine. Another elegant option for the sides is a binding of sheer fabric. A three-thread



serger stitch alone is not a good option for the curtain sides. The hem of the curtain can be finished as the sides are, but would benefit with a wide hem using a double layer of sheer fabric. A wide hem of doubled fabric will add weight to the bottom of the curtain and help it hang well. The seam for the hem can be hidden on both sides by rolling the entire body of the curtain into the folded hem like a burrito before seaming. Stitch the sides first and leave the hem open on at least one side. See photo right for the curtain rolled into the hem before stitching. After stitching, pull the bulk of the curtain through one of the side openings. If the curtain will be on a sheer rod, a simple casing at the top will work or create a pocket for the top casing similar to the hem.