

ATTACHING CURTAIN HEADING TAPE

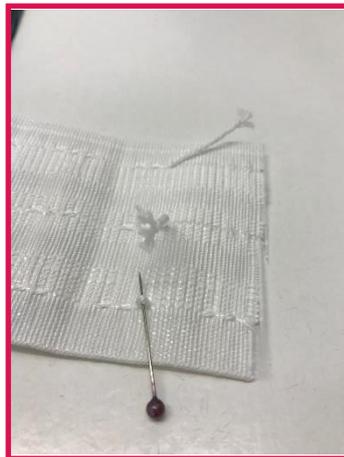


How often have you found a gorgeous pair of curtains in a sale but they have been much longer than you need? Shortening them is great but what if you could get two pairs of curtains for the price of one? Well, by adding some curtain heading tape to the leftovers you can do just that!

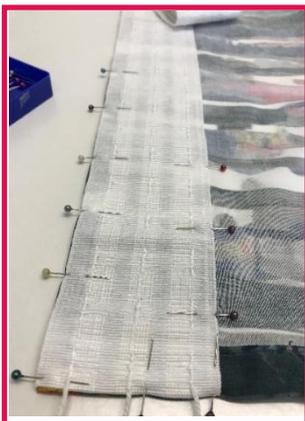
WE USED	
MATERIALS	EQUIPMENT
Pencil Pleat Heading Tape Left over curtain Sewing thread (the stitching will show on the right side so match to your curtains as best you can)	Sewing machine Scissors Tape measure or long ruler Pins
<p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heading Tape comes in different widths so if your window is not particularly long, you could use a thinner tape. • For this exercise, we are working with hemmed curtains. If this is not the case, make sure you add on a hem allowance when measuring yours. • When working with a cut off section from a ready-made curtain, make sure the curtain width is sufficient for the window (don't forget curtain widths vary to suit different window sizes)! • Various heading tapes will create different effects – pencil pleat is the most common but you can also get wave and pinch pleat. • As a rule, measure the drop from the underside of the curtain rings to ensure the pole can be seen above the curtains (you can place the curtain hooks on the lowest setting of the heading tape if you want to hide the pole). The curtain drop is the length from the top to the bottom of the curtain. The drop will depend on where the base of the curtain is to finish, i.e. sill, below sill or floor. • Sill length- curtains should finish approximately a half inch (1.5cm) above the sill. Below sill length - curtains should finish approximately 4-6" (15-25cm) below the sill for the best effect. Floor length - curtains should finish approximately a half inch (1.5cm) above the floor. 	



1. Measure the length of curtain you need. To this measurement, add 1.5cm. Measure the required length from the hem up on both side edges and in the centre of the curtain, then use a long ruler or tape measure to ensure you have a straight line to cut. On the right side of the fabric, mark 1.5cm along the top width edge.



2. On the top edge, turn the 1.5cm allowance to the wrong side and press. Measure a length of curtain tape to fit edge to edge of your curtain plus an additional 6cm. Mark 3cm from each tape edge and ease out the gathering cords so they sit uppermost on the tape. Now fold the 3cm allowance to the wrong side of the tape and pin to hold, making sure the cords are sitting free.



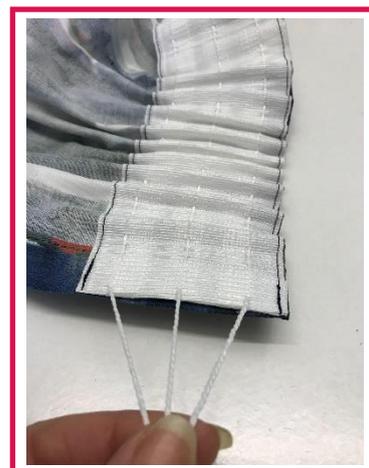
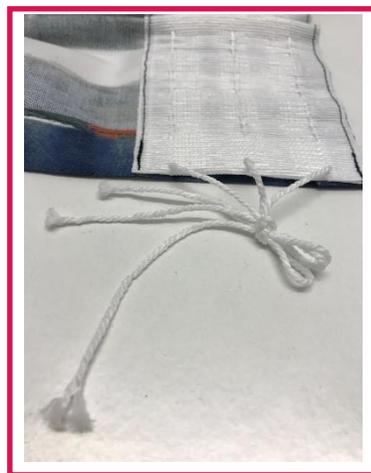
3. Line the corner folded edge of the tape to the top side edge of the curtain and pin to hold. Continue to pin the tape to the curtain across the entire top edge making sure both the tape and curtain are sitting flat against edge other. Repeat along the lower edge of the tape.



4. Topstitch the tape in place along both long edges, stitching approx. 3mm away from the tape edge. Make sure to backstitch when you start and finish sewing and that the loose cords remain free from the stitching.



5. You now need to gather the cords. Secure one set of cords together (we always tie these in a secure bow so they can be undone if necessary and tie the side that will sit in the centre of the window first). Holding the opposite side cords firmly together, start to gather up the curtain by holding the fabric and gently pulling the cords. NB: it's important to hold all cords together as otherwise you can end up with uneven gathers. Check the gathered curtain is the required width before tying the cords as before. It is up to you if you prefer to knot them at this point.



There you have it. Two pairs of curtains from one! This does only really work if the curtains are long and the windows you are working on are a fairly standard length but it's certainly worth considering next time you are looking for curtains!



Written by Vanessa from the CBSA Tool Shed project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

