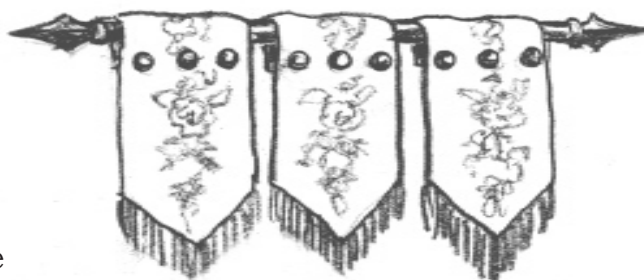


Instant Window Treatments

Window treatments don't have to be traditional in design, nor does fabric always have to be used. I've compiled a few quick and easy treatments that are fun to make. For a few of these designs, you don't even have to sew a stitch!

Runners Up

This window treatment is created from premade table runners (check for sales to make this project super budget-friendly). Use as many as you need to fill the width of your window. Just cut them in half, fold over the cut edge to make a rod pocket large



enough for your rod to slide through, and stitch in place (either by hand or machine). For the perfect finishing touch, add buttons along the top edge and a little fringe to the diagonal edges for a stunning alternative to a traditional window treatment.

Knot Going to Believe It

Swags and tails do not need to be complicated. Use a half hitch knot to secure a length of fabric to the center of a rod. Flip the fabric ends over the rod on each side as shown in the illustration to create a casual and soft window treatment. You will need a long ready-made window scarf (available in 6-yard lengths or longer in department stores) or a length of sheer fabric measuring 2 times the width and side drop of the window. If you purchase fabric, hem the cut edges first with iron-on adhesive or a simple straight stitch. Fold the entire length of fabric accordion-style and secure it with ties in several places. Keep the fabric folded and tied until the knot and swag have been created. After the folds have been released, arrange the fabric in a pleasing fashion.



Someone's in the Kitchen

The great array of decorative kitchen towels and matching potholders are hard to resist. Buy enough dish towels so that the total width is equal to at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of the rod. Handstitch some colorful ribbons to the corners of the towels and tie them to the rod. For the valance, mix and match square potholders with mitts, and throw in a utensil or two for additional personality!



Clothesline

Do you hate the thought of discarding those cute clothes that your child has outgrown? Give them a new life as a fun and inexpensive valance. Use a decorative rod and slide it through the sleeves of your child's favorite sweaters, dresses, or overalls. Try to use sets of clothes in coordinating colors. This is also a great idea for old sports jerseys for the ultimate in recycling.



The Great Frame-Up

Include favorite photographs in your window décor. Hang small, framed prints of similar size across the top of your window from ribbons or decorative chains. Hang the frames from small nails placed in the top of the window molding. Conceal the nails by twisting wire-edge ribbon (about 2 times the measured width of the window) around the nails as you pass it through the ribbon or chain that suspends the frame.

