

## TIP OF THE MONTH MARCH 2009

### RETURNS ON SHADES

Flat Roman shades can't have operational returns because the folds can't stack around the corners when pulled up and down. However, they can have short separate returns that can hide the hardware otherwise seen from the side view.

London and other balloon shades can actually have returns that will stay in place at the sides of the shade, even when pulled up and down.

Instead of a weight bar, use a curtain rod that has a projection 1/2" smaller than the return size. Stabilize the curtain rod at the same width as the board (or 1/2" smaller). Use glue or a small screw to hold it in place.

Make a fabric pocket for the curtain rod and tack it in place, same as with a weight bar. The returns of the shade, of course, wrap around the curved ends of the curtain rod. The shade should extend 1/2" beyond the end of the curtain rod. The curved ends of the curtain rod will force the sides of the shade to hold close against the wall.

When using the curtain rods, you need to plan for the shade to be at least 1 1/2" (each side) larger than the window. This is so the thickness of the fabrics and the rod can rest against the wall beyond the woodwork.