

2. STEP 2 – ESTIMATION OF MATERIALS

2.1. Top Batten

There are two methods of attaching the blind to the top fixing batten. I by far prefer the first method as it gives a much more professional and crisp finish. Commercially made roman blinds however are invariably made using Method 2. The size of the top batten is the same using each method. It is the method of attaching the blind to the batten that varies:-

Length of batten

- *Batten outside the recess – allow the batten to extend approx. 5 cms either side of the window recess and be installed approx. 10 cms above. Cover the batten with face fabric for neatness.*
- *Batten inside the recess – Batten should be 2.5 cms less than the width of the recess. The actual blind will be slightly wider than this. The batten can either be face fixed or top fixed as required.*

N.B. *For the purpose of this guide, I have described **Method 1** in the making up process. However, the following descriptions and diagrams below will prove useful whichever method you use.*

Method 1

*Here the blind is stapled on to the back of a wooden batten that is approx. 5 cms x 2.5 cms x length required. These dimensions can be adjusted if the situation dictates it. The batten can be covered in fabric if desired - see **Diagram 5** but this process is unnecessary if the top of the blind is to be covered by a valance or pelmet etc. The blind drops over the front of the batten therefore showing no staples. Fix the batten to the wall first, remove it and then staple the blind to the batten before re-fixing to the wall or window frame. Fit screw eyes to the underside of the batten to correspond with rings and cords on the blind. See **Diagram 7**.*

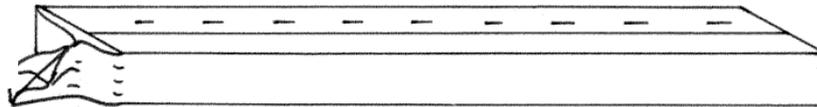
Method 2

*Here the blind is attached to the batten by the use of velcro. The batten can be covered with fabric if desired as above and the front edge of the batten has hook velcro attached to it with staples. See **Diagram 6**. The top edge of the blind, rather than being stapled to the batten, has the softer 'loop' velcro stitched to the reverse of the top edge. The two velcro fastenings bond together. The problem with this method is that most commercially made blinds have the velcro*

attached by means of two rows of machine stitching going through from the front of the blind. These two rows of stitching are therefore visible when the blind is installed and in my opinion this looks very unsightly. The velcro can be hand stitched using an invisible stitch but I still find this rather unsatisfactory, as hand stitching is never as strong as machine stitching and the blind can so easily sag. If you do decide to use this method of suspension, then it will not be necessary to allow the 10 cms extra face fabric required for stapling the blind to the batten. Instead, allow 3 cms for turning under as a single hem allowance at the top of the blind into which you sew the velcro.

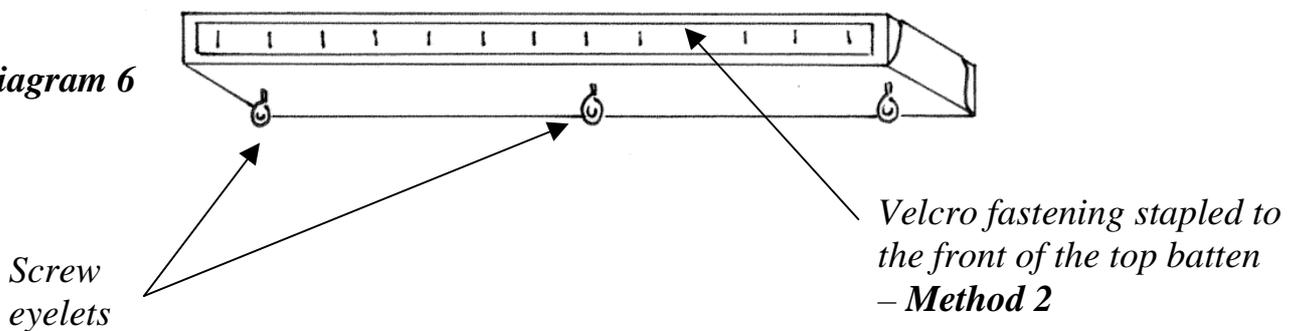
It is possible to buy purpose made roman blind tracks instead of using the wooden top fixing batten. They have velcro attached to the front edge, which is then bonded onto velcro stitched to the reverse top edge of the blind. They are rather expensive and you have to use the velcro fastening.

Diagram 5



Cover top batten with fabric in exactly the same way as you would wrap a parcel. Cut off any excess fabric at the ends to avoid bulk and staple the fabric securely in place.

Diagram 6



Blind stapled to back edge of pelmet board - Method 1

