

Scenery and Drape Fabrics

are available both in stock, and by special order at STL. We carry a selection of the most common scenic muslins, scrim, commando, and duvety. The fabrics shown on this page are just a small sampling of the many hundreds of types available. We are unable to display the many colors and styles of fabric available, so we're showing you some of the more common fabric types as examples of weave and texture. Come visit our sales staff for a look at a complete swatch book of fabric styles and colors.

Muslin: One of the most commonly used fabrics in theatre, available in light, medium, and heavy weights, and in widths ranging from 45" - 140". Use lightweight muslin for cheesecloth and pattern-making, medium weight for small drops, and for covering flats, and heavy weight for large painted drops, flats, and cycloramas. Available in White, Natural, Lt. Grey, Lt. Blue, Dark Grey, and Dark Blue, but colors, dye lots, and weaves may vary between widths. Muslin is also available as NFR (Non-Flame Retardant) and FR (Flame Retardant) varieties, each having unique properties with regard to how well it receives paint, and where it can be used. Check your local codes for Flame Retardancy requirements. Our in-stock range of muslin varies, so be sure to call for current inventory.



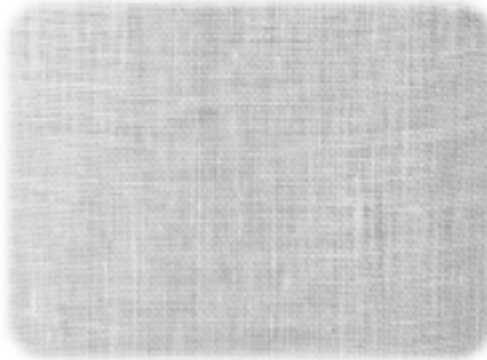
Muslin



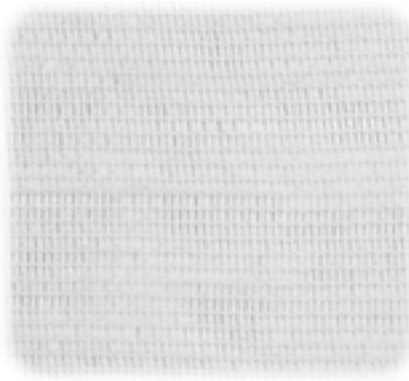
Velour

Velour: A very rich-looking, woven fabric commonly used for stage draperies. Available in many colors and weights; notice how it softly catches light, creating a very plush look for your curtains. Available weights range from 16 oz. to 32 oz. per linear yard. All cotton velours for stage draperies are FR. Stop by our showroom for a swatchbook of the many available colors to choose from.

Fabric & Drapes

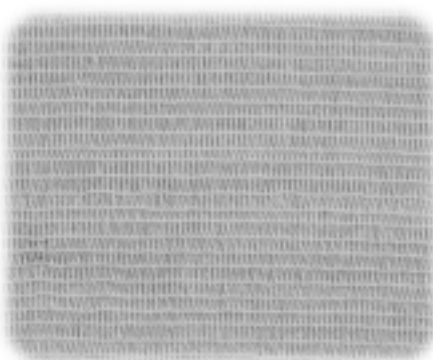


Theatrical Scrim

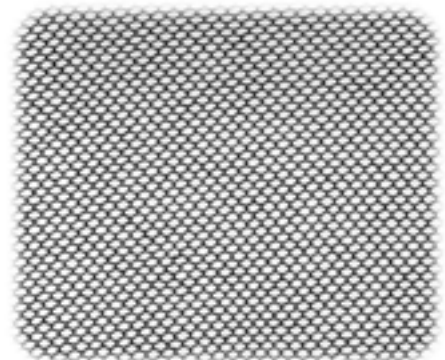


Sharktooth Scrim

Scrim material varies in both type and density of weave, and each offers unique and varying degrees of light-reflecting qualities. Standard cotton **theatrical scrim** is an ultra-fine gauze that drapes beautifully. It's extremely lightweight, comes in natural color only, and is available in 36" (NFR), and 58" (FR and NFR) widths. **Sharktooth scrim** is more loosely woven, but with a heavier thread to produce that translucent look, commonly used for the "bleed-through" effect. Sharktooth scrim is available in white, black, light blue, dark blue, or light grey, and in a variety of fabric widths. **Leno-filled Scrim** (or simply "Leno") is like sharktooth scrim, but with the spaces in between the threads filled in. The resulting textured surface diffuses and softens reflected light, making it perfect for illuminated cycloramas, and a favorite of lighting designers. Available in white, light blue, and light grey, in widths of 19' and 29' (approximately).



Leno-filled Scrim



Bobbinette

Bobbinette: 100% FR cotton, bobbinettes are available in 3 types of weaves, all more open than scrim or gauze, and offer a range of light transmission values to give a soft and hazy look to images, or to create depth when used in front of scrims or cycloramas. When used in combination with front- or rear-projection screens, bobbinette helps to reduce glare and improve contrast.



Due to the many sources of scrim, muslin, and other woven goods, variances and imperfections in weave and dye lots can occur, and are beyond our control. If your fabric requirements demand flawless goods, always inspect the fabric before ordering or purchasing.

Stage Draperies

are custom made to your - or our - specification, sized appropriately to fit your specific space or application. Stage draperies are usually fabricated using cotton velour fabrics because of the rich look and "handling", but there are other less expensive fabric options to consider. When requesting a quotation for stage draperies, there are many fabrication and construction details to consider. It's very helpful for us to speak in the same terms when it comes to ordering Stage Draperies. Use the diagrams and terminology provided below to help us provide you with the exact finished goods you require.

Height and Width of the finished curtain: Provide us with the size of your proscenium opening, and we can recommend an appropriate size for your finished goods; or simply measure your existing curtains if you're replacing them. When measuring height, measure to the top of the existing drape, and not to the track or pipe from which the drape is suspended.

Fullness: Fullness is an amount of additional fabric sewn into the finished drape to achieve a plush, full look. Cycloramas and Scrimms are always sewn flat, with no fullness. Most velour stage curtains are sewn with 50% fullness, but a very rich and full look requires 75-100% fullness. Remember that the weight of the finished drape increases with more fullness.

Top Hem Finish: A standard top finish hem usually begins by sewing the curtain fabric to a 3-1/2" jute webbing (see example B). For pipe-mounted drapes, grommets with tie lines or cloth tape (examples B, C) are then punched through the webbing, usually every 12". Track mounted draperies can have either S-hooks (example A) or snaps placed through the grommets, but sewn-in snaps are frequently used for a nicer finish. These snaps can be sewn so that the top of the snap is 1" above the top hem, or sewn "hidden", meaning that the entire snap is concealed, sewn to the back of the top hem, as shown in example D.

Bottom Hem Finish: A number of different methods are used to finish the bottom hem of a stage drapery, depending upon the type of curtain. For bipart drapes, and other drapes sewn with fullness, an internal canvas pocket containing a weight chain is sewn into a 6" bottom hem. For flat curtains and cycloramas, a pipe pocket or flap is sewn to the bottom hem. This is essentially a canvas pocket sized to accommodate the circumference of a steel weight pipe. A standard pipe pocket (example E) requires the pipe to be slid in from the side. However, space constraints may prohibit this, so a pipe flap may be requested; cloth tape, velcro, or tie lines secure the weight pipe. A pipe flap allows the pipe to be attached to the bottom hem from the back of the drape, rather than from the side, thus conserving the space required for the loose pipe. For curtains that extend down to the stage floor, the pipe pocket or flap is usually sewn behind the bottom hem, so that the bottom of the pipe pocket is held slightly higher than the bottom of the actual curtain finished hem. In this manner, the actual bottom hem touches the stage floor, completely masking the activities behind the curtain (example F).

Fabric & Drapes

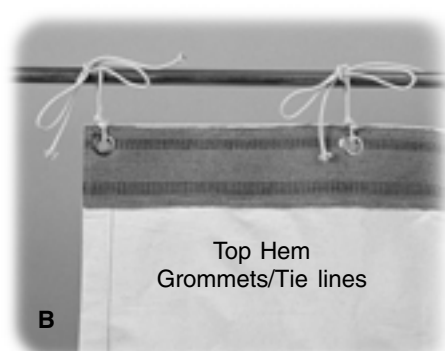
Side Hems: Standard side hems can be anywhere from 2-6" for legs, borders, and non-biparting drapes. Biparting drapes are finished slightly different on the onstage and offstage hems, because the movement of the drapery panel may tend to cause "billowing" of the drape while closing. To prevent this, the onstage hem of a bipart is usually 12" or more in width. We think a full 24", or even a half-fabric width is better, because it helps just a little more.

Curtain style: You may desire something a little fancier than the standard bipart drape. Tab, Austrian, and Contour (or Venetian) style drapes - shown on the next page - offer a very formal look to your stage setting, but also require some very special fabrication attention. Because of this, we recommend contacting our Special Projects Department for more assistance with any of these styles of drape fabrication.



Top Hem
Grommets/S-hooks

A



Top Hem
Grommets/Tie lines

B



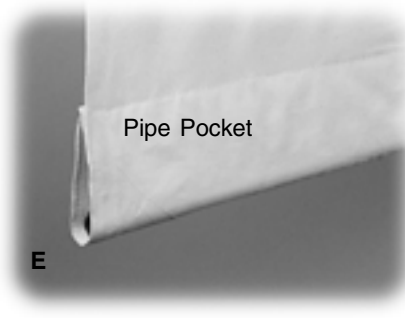
Hidden Tape Ties

C



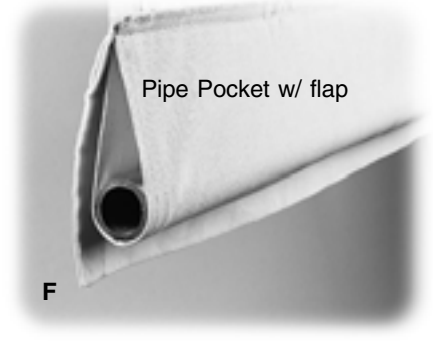
Top Hem
Hidden Snaps

D



Pipe Pocket

E



Pipe Pocket w/ flap

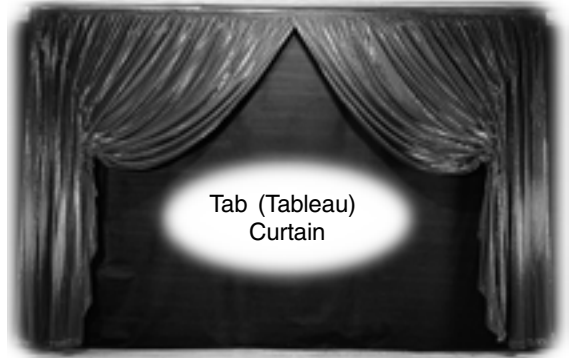
F

Drapes not only add an exquisite look to the stage setting, but also provide functionality by helping to mask, or hide, parts of the off-stage areas. These areas are commonly used to store props, scenery elements, and also serve as a waiting area for actors prior to their entrance on stage (“waiting in the wings”). A properly designed stage drapery layout provides full masking of the offstage non-performance areas, and also creates a visually pleasing aesthetic enhancement. At STL, we provide and install drapery systems of many styles, each custom designed to fit the specific application. Call our sales team for more information about how to buy the appropriate draperies for your performance space.



These styles of Main Drapery layouts have become very common over the years. The **Tab** curtain, when closed, appears just the same as a standard bipart drape. However, the Tab curtain opens by pulling the bottom onstage corner of each half-panel up (as shown at right).

The **Venetian** style begins as a single finished drapery panel, sewn with fullness, but also with several vertical lift wires attached along the width. Opening of the drape is accomplished by lifting the bottom hem up, using the lift wires, such that the drapery fabric gathers as the bottom hem rises. A **Countour** curtain is simply a Venetian style drape opened in a “contoured” manner (as shown at lower right). For a more elaborate and elegant look, the **Austrian** drape is accomplished by adding vertical fullness to the sewn finished drape. This causes the rich, swagged look as shown in the diagram below. All of these drapery styles require special rigging to accomplish the finished look. Using equipment from H & H Specialties, our Special Projects department can help you design a drapery rigging system that fits your space.



Tab (Tableau) Curtain

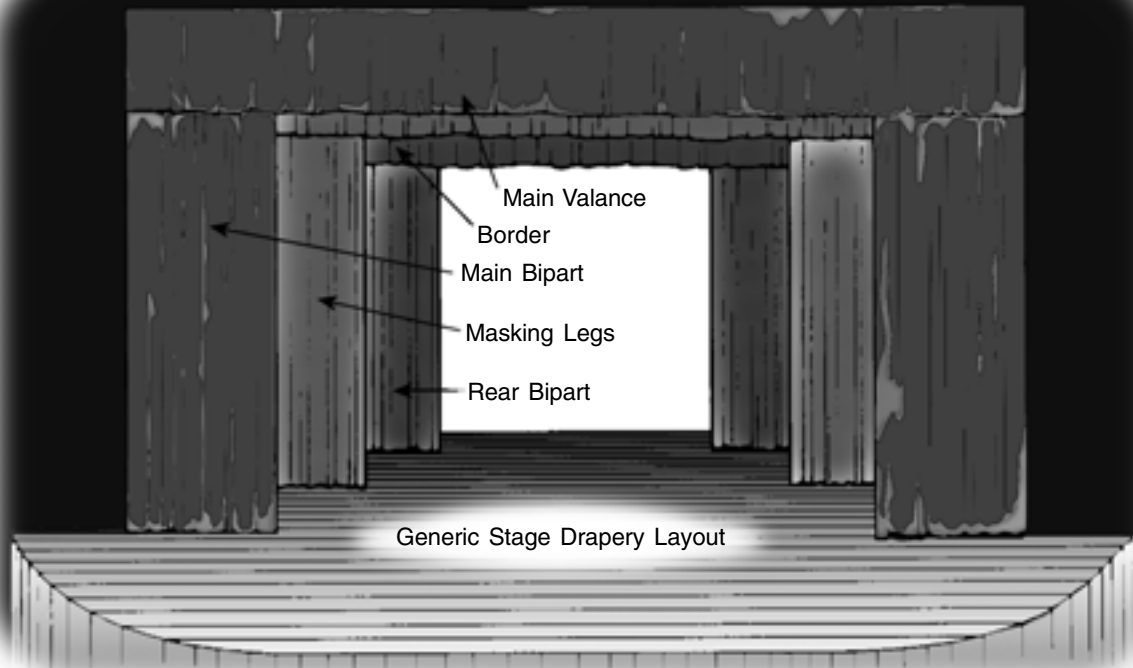


Austrian Curtain



Contour Curtain

Fabric & Drapes



Generic Stage Drapery Layout