

# Cardboard Valance

This valance uses cardboard from large appliance boxes that is cut to size, covered, and then stapled to the window molding. It is lightweight and a very inexpensive way of adding color to a window, especially in a boy's room where you may not want poufs and ruffles. I used fire-engine-red corduroy to cover the cardboard but an old rib-cord bedspread tucked away somewhere will cover the valance just as nicely. Be creative and cut the edges of the cardboard in scallops or in points, and cover with baseball pennants instead of fabric. Hot-glue any accents directly on the cardboard or fabric. If you don't have large boxes on hand, ask an appliance store clerk for extra boxes that may be available.

## Materials

Fabric	Yardstick or T square
Cardboard from large appliance boxes or foam board from art-supply store	Pencil
	Scissors
	Wide masking tape
	Staple gun and staples
Utility knife	Paint to match fabric

1. Directions are for a single window valance. To determine fabric yardage, measure window width from outside edge of trim to outside edge of trim. Measure depth of pro-

jection and multiply by 2; add to window width measurement and use this width for valance. Use 15 inches for height. Add 4 inches to both width and height measurements to wrap fabric around the back of valance. (If there are any blinds or curtains, allow enough projection or clearance from wall to clear the existing rod, hardware, or curtains; 4 to 5 inches is usually sufficient).

2. Cut cardboard with utility knife using these measurements.

3. With yardstick or T square, mark the projection measurement on the back of the cardboard valance on each side. Draw a line from the top to bottom with pencil. Using point of closed scissors, score over line using edge of yardstick as a guide. Bend cardboard back at each scored line.

4. Lay fabric right side down. Center cardboard scored side up on fabric. Raw edges of fabric will be covered with masking tape. Wrap fabric taut around top and bottom. Use masking tape to secure fabric to cardboard. Fold sides over, making sure fabric on side pieces is smooth.

5. Paint a row of staples the color of fabric and let dry. Load into staple gun. Hold covered valance up to window with one edge against outer edge of window molding. Put two staples into cardboard and molding, one at top and bottom. Repeat on other side, making sure valance is placed straight across window.