This book shows readers dozens of easy, elegant, and inexpensive ways to give their homes a makeover without wrecking their budgets. With some of the projects, crafters can transform a room in a fun afternoon. This guide provides tips on everything from measuring and cutting materials to accessorizing, as well as savvy shortcuts and quick fixes. With 8 pages of color photos showing finished projects and all kinds of ideas, this inspires readers with practical ways update home décor.

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Available at dummies.com or wherever books are sold.
Ultrasuede
Cutout Curtains

Unique cutout designs add interest to simple curtains. The cutouts allow some light through, yet still give privacy. Try it in most any room, even more formal rooms like dining and living rooms. You can “fancy it up by choosing an ornate cutout, or simplify it with an elegant but elemental one. Try diamonds, hearts, or triangles—simple shapes that are dramatic—or try a scalloped edge on the bottom.

The best way to keep your fabric flat and secure when cutting with a sharp blade is to apply a paperweight, heavy books, or other weights on the fabric. (Fabric weights are available commercially, but they’re a waste of money.)

Fabric markers and Ultrasuede aren’t a great mix: this fabric may absorb the ink a bit too well and not wipe away. If you need to draw your image with something finer than tailor’s chalk, work on the wrong, or back side, with a nonbleeding ballpoint pen.

This curtain features various cutout designs and a scalloped bottom edge.

Getting it all together

To start, you need these supplies:

- Any color of mediumweight Ultrasuede fabric
- Curtain clips
- Marking chalk
- A mat knife or X-Acto knife
- Shears
- Yardstick or ruler
- Stencil (optional)
- Safe cutting surface
- Yardstick or ruler

To determine how much fabric you need:

1. Measure across your window to determine your panel’s width.
2. For the length, measure from the top of the rod to your windowsill.

Your panel needs to be the same size as your window, including the trim mold (for effective sun blocking). If you prefer a fuller look, add a half-width measurement. For example, for a 30 x 60-inch window, use an extra 15 inches, so your width is 45 inches.

Creating your cutout curtains

To make your cutout curtain creations, follow these easy steps:

1. Spread your fabric out on your safe cutting surface or worktable, weighing down the edges if necessary.
2. With your yardstick or ruler, determine the size and spacing for each cutout.
3. Use your chalk to create the pattern you want to cut out of your fabric. Start at the center and work left, and then right, to get an even amount of motifs and spaces across the bottom.
4. Cut out your motifs using your knife. Work slowly and take a break from your work once in a while to see if you’re doing it right.
5. Attach curtain clips every 5 inches at the top of your panel and hang it from your curtain rod.