

Curtain Pattern for a PVC Puppet Stage

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Introduction

The curtain you are about to make was designed specifically for the folding PVC puppet stage that I build. It is designed to fit easily onto a specific design but can be easily adapted to any PVC puppet stage with a few modifications.

For those of you that are just interested in the design of the curtain, this plan will serve as a guideline for creating your own design for your own puppet stage. This curtain design is offered free of charge.

Shopping List

If you are making the curtain exactly as show in this design, you will need the following items:

- ✓ 10 yards Non-stretch denim material (60-62" width) See option for using 8 yards under Step 1.
- ✓ 12 yards ¾-inch black sew-on hook (Velcro brand or substitute). See note below.
- ✓ 12 yards ¾-inch black sew-on loop (Velcro brand or substitute). See note below.
- ✓ 15 inches ¾-inch navy blue nylon strap
- ✓ 1 spool Black or navy thread.
- ✓ 1 marker Wax or other cloth marking tool (available at fabric stores)

Note: Velcro can be very expensive to buy at a fabric store. I've seen it priced anywhere from \$5 to \$7 a yard. That would cost you between \$60 and \$84 dollars for this pattern. What if I told you I get 25 yards of hook and 25 yards of loop for a total of \$7.50? It's all in knowing where to shop and the web offers the best locations. Here are a couple of sites that I recommend.

<http://www.fastenation.com/> \$.52 per yard for Velcro brand

<http://www.jontay.com/> \$.15 per yard for substitute hook and loop (this is where I get mine)

For the rest of this document I will use the term **H&L** to refer to Velcro brand or a substitute. I will refer specifically to hook to refer to the rough part and loop to refer to the soft part when necessary.

Let's get started.

Step 1 – Wash the Fabric

Do:

Wash the fabric before you cut it. This will reduce the amount of unraveling that will occur after you cut it.

Step 2 – Cutting out the Base and Backdrop Curtains

Do:

Cut the base curtain to a length of 17 feet 3 inches. This is a little less than 6 yards of denim.

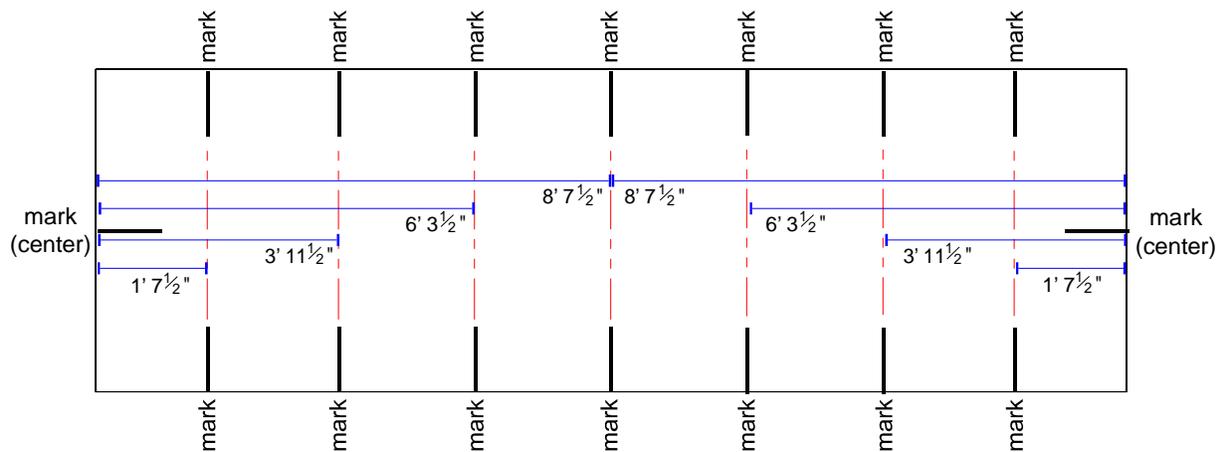
Cut the backdrop curtain to 24 ½-inches by 11 feet 5 inches. This is approximately half of the 4 yards of material you had left over from the original 10 yards after cutting out the base curtain.

Option: You may want to buy only 8 yards of material and cut the remaining two yards into two into 2 pieces of 5 feet 9 inches and combining them with a half-inch seam to create the 24 ½-inch by 11 feet 5 inch curtain.

Step 3 – Marking the Base Curtain

Do:

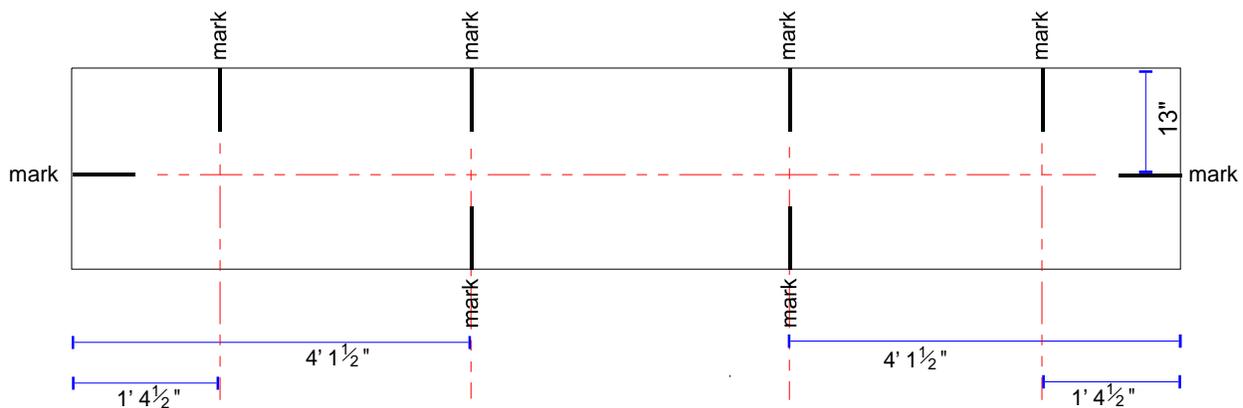
This step will mark specific measurements for placing the H&L on the base curtain. Each mark indicates where the center of the H&L will be placed. Use the following diagram and mark your fabric as shown on the backside of the fabric. Mark each line 8 inches long.



Step 4 – Marking the Backdrop Curtain

Do:

This step will mark specific measurements for placing the H&L on the backdrop curtain. Each mark indicates where the center of the H&L will be placed. Use the following diagram and mark your fabric as shown on the backside of the fabric. Mark each line 8 inches long.



Step 5 – Hem the Base Curtain

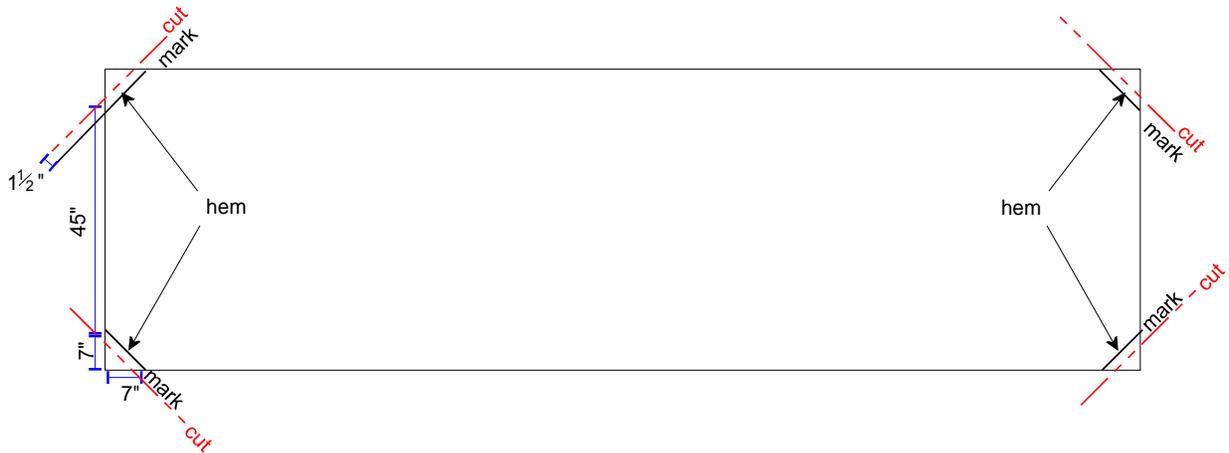
I recommend a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem for each edge of the base curtain. If your material is exactly 60 inches wide you may want to use a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem.

Do:

Fold 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of the edge twice to form the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem and sew it. This will change the dimension of the curtain to 59 inches by 17 feet. These numbers don't have to be exact; but try not to go below 59 inches width after the hem is sewn.

Do:

Now, measure and mark 7 inches from the each corner in each direction. Draw a line, across the corners, from one mark to the next. Now mark another line 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inches from the previous line on the outside edge. See the diagram below. Cut the corners along this line and then fold each corner 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch twice to form a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem and sew them.



Step 6 – Hem the Backdrop Curtain

I recommend a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem for the top and side edges of the backdrop curtain. You should use a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hem on the bottom of the curtain.

Do:

Fold 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of the top and the side edges twice to form the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem and sew it. Fold $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of the bottom edge twice to form the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hem and sew it.

Step 7 – Cut the Hook and Loop and Nylon Straps

Cut the hook and loop into the following lengths:

Do:

- ✓ 2 each 40-inch H&L
- ✓ 14 each 18-inch H&L
- ✓ 2 each 20-inch H&L
- ✓ 4 each 10-inch H&L
- ✓ 2 each 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch H&L

Do:

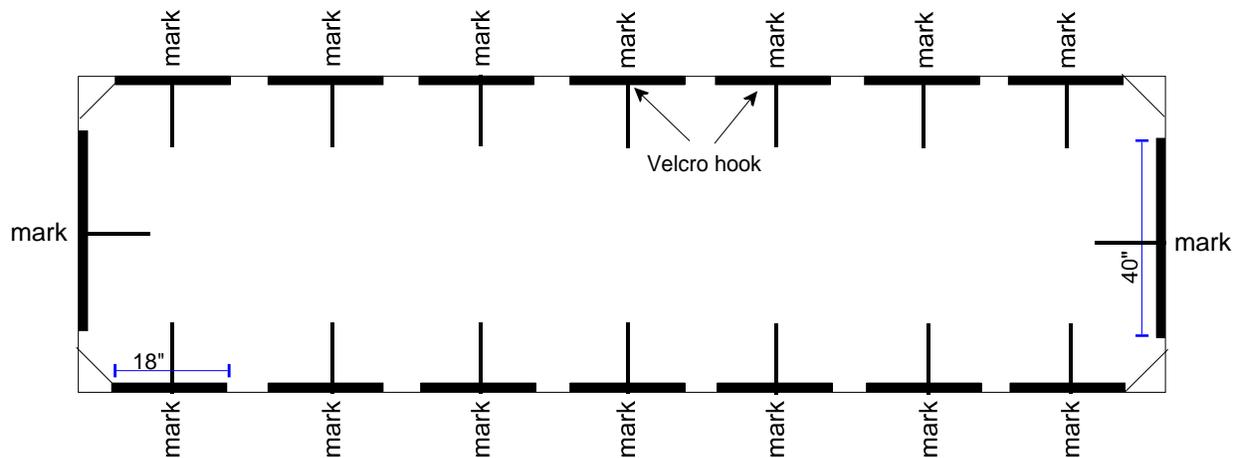
Cut the nylon strap into two 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch lengths. Melt the ends of the nylon strap with a lighter or candle to prevent fraying. Sew the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -loop at one end of the strap and the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hook on the other end on the same side of the strap.

Step 8 – Sew the H&L onto the Base Curtain

In this step you will sew the hook and loop onto the base curtain. The hook should be sewed to the outer edge of the curtain and the loop should be to the inside of the curtain. **This is very important. By sewing the hook on the outside edge, it will face away from your puppets when the curtain is attached to the stage. This will prevent it from snagging on your puppets during a performance.**

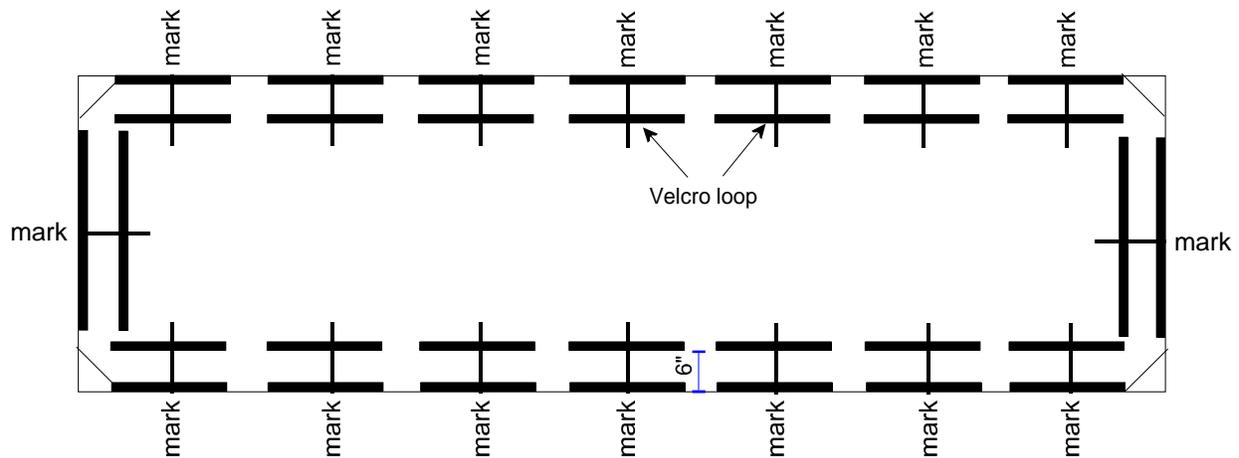
Do:

Center the 18-inch hook pieces on the marks that you made on the top and bottom edges of the base curtain and pin them in place. The outside edge of the hook should be almost flush with the edge of the curtain. See the illustration below. Then center the 40-inch hook pieces on the marks on the sides of the curtain and pin them in place. Now sew them to the base curtain.

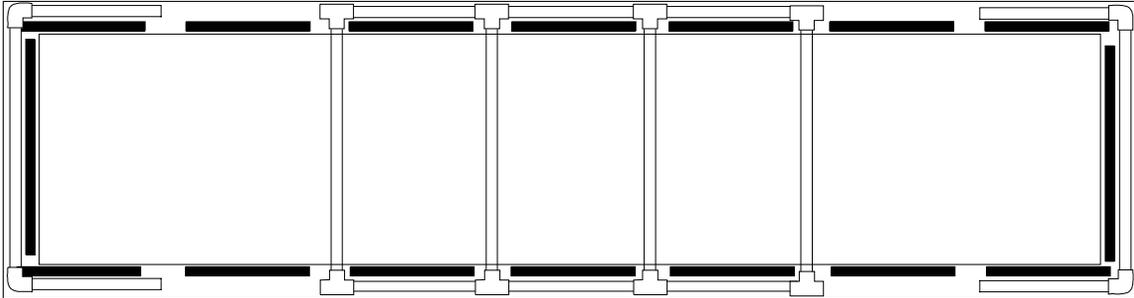


Do:

Now center the loop on the mark exactly 6-inches from the outside edge of the curtain and pin it into place. Sew it into place.



Here is an example of how connectors would fit into the completed curtain with the H&L fastened.



The curtain is designed to fit a stage with seven panels in the configuration shown below.



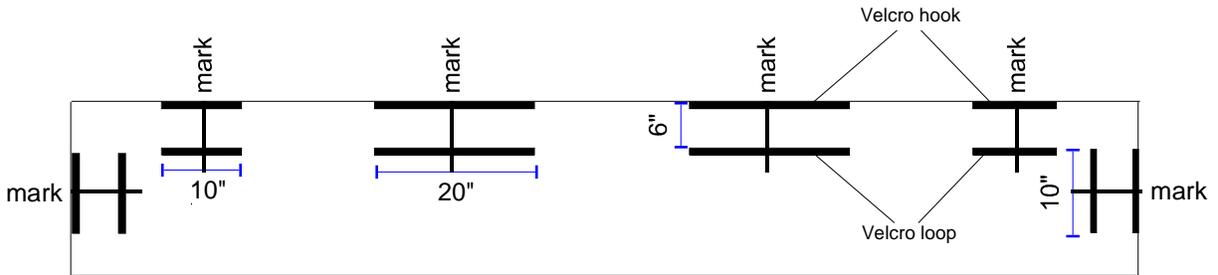
You're done with the base curtain!

Step 9 – Sew the H&L onto the Backdrop Curtain

Sewing the H&L onto the backdrop curtain is very similar to the base curtain. The major difference is that there isn't any H&L at the bottom of the curtain.

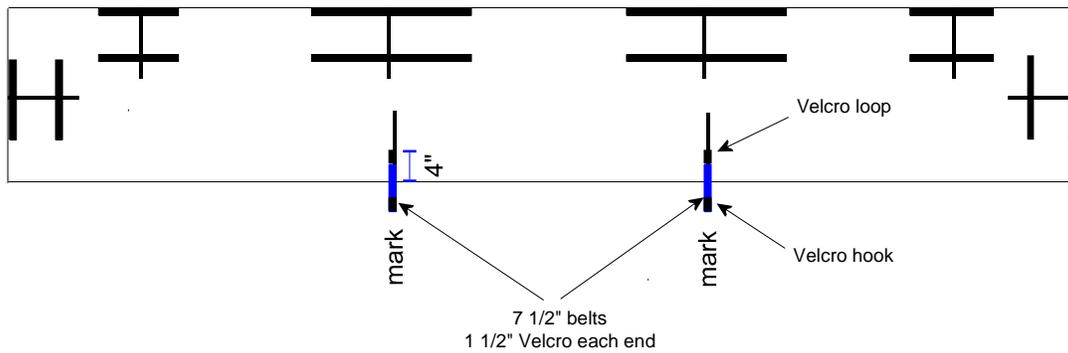
Do:

Center the 20-inch and 10-inch hook pieces on the outside edge marks of the curtain as shown on the illustration below and pin them in place. Now sew them to the curtain. Repeat this with the loop as shown and sew them into place.



Do:

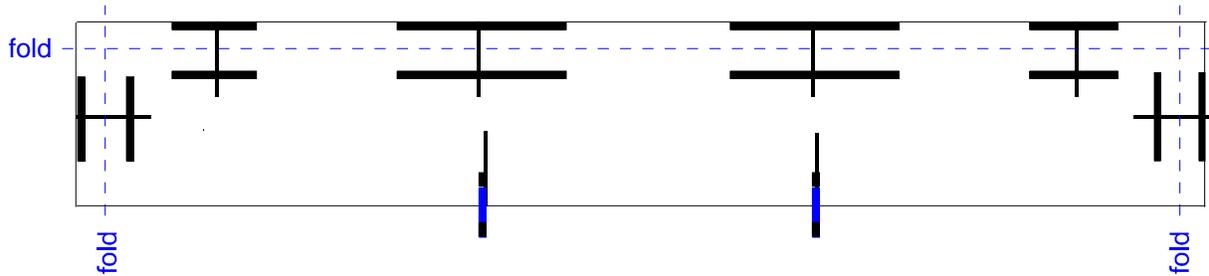
Now sew the nylon straps to the curtain as illustrated below.



Step 10 – Sew the Corner Pockets on the Backdrop Curtain

The sides and the top of the backdrop curtain are folded to form a pocket in the upper left and right corners. This pocket helps support the curtain on the top crossbar of the backdrop supports.

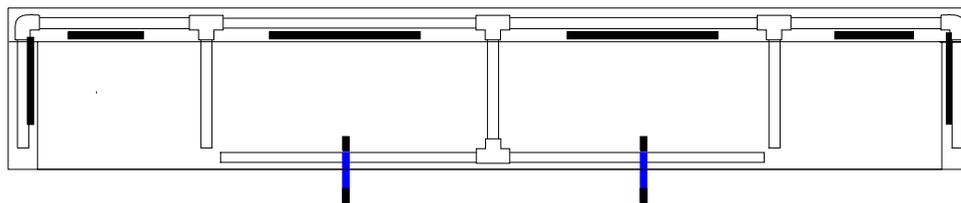
Do: Fold the curtain on the dotted lines shown on the illustration below. Fold the sides in first and the top last. The H&L should be fastened together when folded.



Do: Pin the part of the top that is folded over to the part of the side that is folded over as illustrated by the dotted line below. This should form a pocket in the upper left and right corners. **Do not pin it to the curtain below it.** Now sew along this dotted line to form the pocket. **Do not sew it to the curtain below it.**



The following illustration shows how the curtain fits on the backdrop support with the H&L fastened together.



That's it; you're done!



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