

STEP AWAY FROM THE SWAG

BY SYDNEY SCHWARTZ HARDIMAN

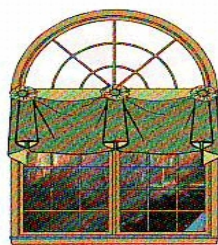
THE DRAPERY SWAG has been around since the 17th century. The way it hangs beautifully, and the fact that it can be put together in a hundred different configurations, makes it immensely popular, even today. Yet, after 400 years, isn't it time to give the traditional 5-pleat swag a little break, and look into some new window treatment designs?

If you absolutely must have the drape of a swag, instead of the traditional design, why not consider a swag and bell design? These swags have softly pleated center sections separated by a bell, with one, two and even three pleats, allowing a contrast fabric to peak from behind. Many of these designs are framed by multi-pleated cascades that can be changed to suit the window. Swags and bells can be mounted on either a standard drapery board or a decorative rod. Some of the most versatile include the Empire, the Estelle, and the Squire.

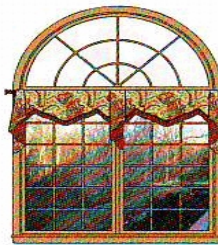
Recently new swag and bell designs have been popping up everywhere. Updated for today they reflect a more casual sensibility, but can be made more formal based on the fabrics and trims used. Some of these include the Josephine, the Morrison, the Cuff and Bell, the Gusset and the Catherine.

Instead of a swag and bell, why not break the swag habit altogether and look into some of the fabulous new valance patterns. M'fay, Pate Meadows, and Decorate Now patterns all have wonderful valance ideas that range from raised box pleats to scalloped cut outs and layered triangle points. They include the Summerhouse, Brooklyn, Brethaven, Oxford, Kensington and Emily. These designs and many others, including variations on them, can be found online at www.Mfay.com, www.patemeadows.com and www.decoratenow.net. HD

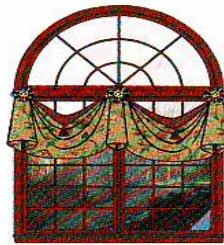
SYDNEY SCHWARTZ HARDIMAN IS THE OWNER OF THE SILKEN SCISSOR, BASED IN THE NORTH HILLS OF PITTSBURGH. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 412-734-1364 OR E-MAIL SYDNEY@THESILKENSCISSOR.COM



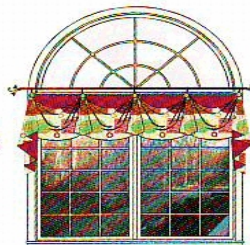
BRETHAVEN



BROOKLYN



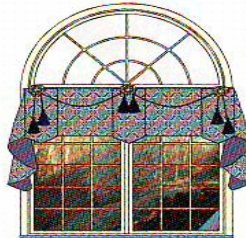
CUFF & BELL



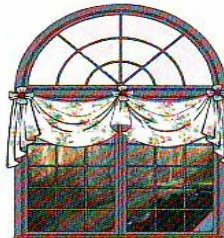
GUSSET



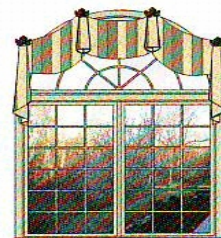
JOSEPHINE



KENSINGTON



MORRISON



OXFORD