



# Workroom Threads

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*Workroom to the Trade*

## Communication Disasters - Part 2



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Thank you for all your great comments to last month's "disaster" newsletter! Seems like everyone can relate to that subject. Disasters have a variety of opportunities. Sometimes they are due to omitted details, other times details get lost in translation.

*Recently a decorator dropped off fabric and 2 duvets. She provided the measurements for the duvet covers that were to be made and alot of yardage. Upon completion she wondered why I had invoiced her for only 2 covers when what she had wanted was 4, two for spares! I assumed the extra fabric was her miscalculation. In this case she didn't specify the quantity and I assumed the quantity.*

In this newsletter I illustrate how even common terminology sometimes doesn't convey a designer's vision because resources vary and inaccuracies abound. Scroll down to see what I mean...

**-Sylvia Marvelli**

## This Isn't What I Had In Mind!

There's a momentary silence, a stunned expression, your finished product isn't what you expected! Have you had this experience? This could have been due to different interpretations of the same terminology.



**Box Pleat**

One example where interpretations vary is the **box pleat**. The dictionary definition is "a pleat consisting of two parallel creases facing opposite directions and forming a raised band".



**Inverted Pleat**

Now consider the definition of an ***inverted pleat*** . . . "a box pleat reversed so that the fullness is turned inward". Using the terms "box pleat" or "inverted pleat" give different results. Without looking at the pictures shown here would you know the difference between those terms? To further confuse the issue, if you were to Google images of "box pleat" you will see both box pleats and inverted pleats looking the same and using the terms interchangeably.



**Here, Inverted Pleat shows front, Box Pleat shows to the back**

To simplify those definitions let's just say that a box pleat brings the fullness forward and an inverted pleat takes the fullness to the back. One is the opposite of the other. If a box pleat is created and the fabric is turned backward you then have an inverted pleat. Currently this is a popular style for stationary drapery headings and is no longer reserved just for valances.

If you were to ask me to do a box pleat I have learned to be sure that we agree on what it is to look like.

Fortunately, errors that require alterations happen very infrequently, but they remain with us and we don't trip over that same dime again. Bringing your vision into reality is the ultimate goal. Never hesitate to ask questions of your workroom and engage in dialogue. A full understanding of the project will bring a level of comfort to both you and the workroom and lead to the result you are looking for.

Remember the 5 P's . . . Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.

**Where the ordinary becomes extraordinary**

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