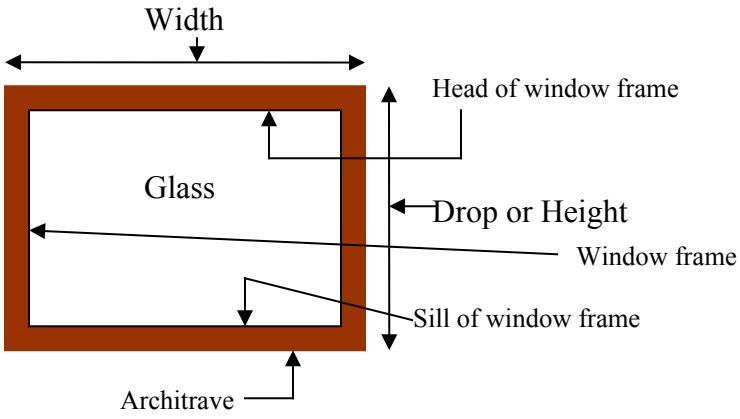
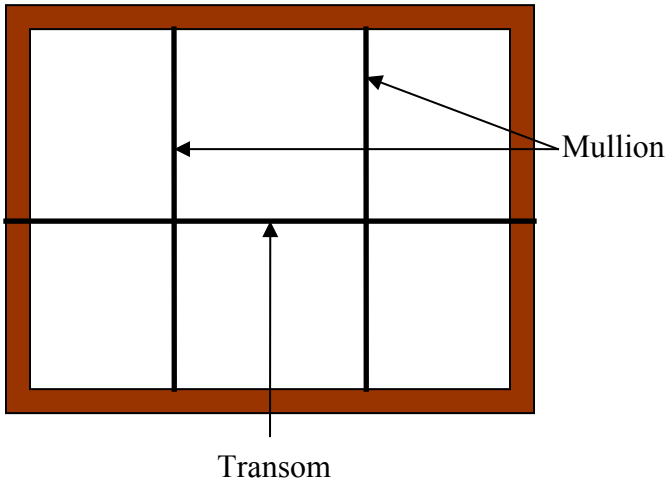
Basic Window and Door Configurations

1) **The basic window**:



-The horizontal dimension is known as the **"Width"**.
-The vertical dimension is known as the **"Drop"** or **"Height"**
- The **architrave** is a piece of finishing timber used to cover the gap between the window frame (also known as jamb liner or reveal) and the jib. Not all windows are finished with an architrave. Where there is no architrave the window frame has a groove cut in it to accept the jib.
- In all cases the **first measurement** given for the quoting and making of blinds is the width. Be careful because in the window making industry the drop is the first measurement given.

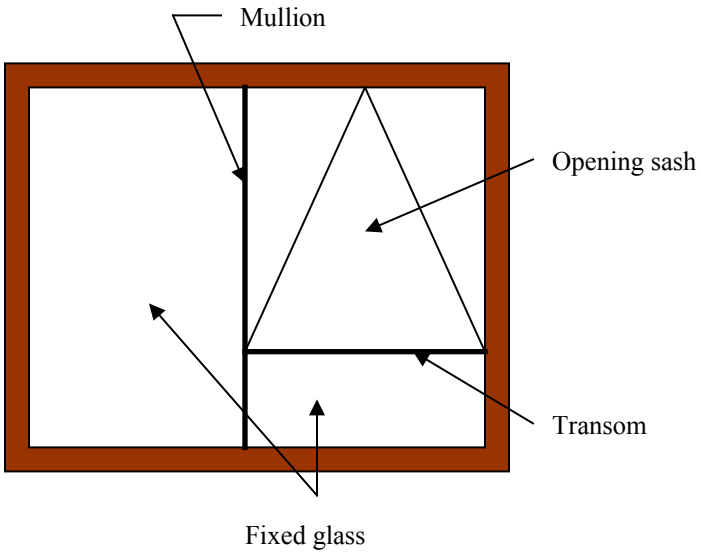
2) **A window with mullions and transoms**:



-**Mullions** are vertical structures that run from frame to frame.
-**Transoms** are horizontal structures that run from frame to frame or frame to mullion.

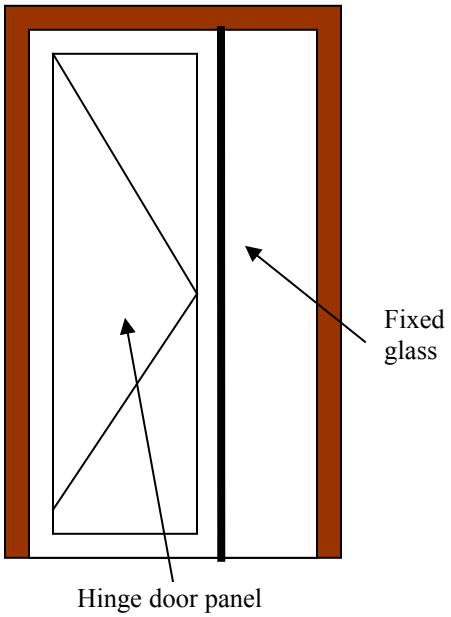
- Mullions and transoms are used to stop the glass from deflecting or to support openings in the window.
- Care is needed when measuring because a mullion or transom may protrude out into the window frame preventing a blind from fitting properly. This is normally the case with timber windows. In this case more than one blind may be needed to fill individual spaces. Aluminium windows normally have flat mullions and transoms that do not protrude into the window frame. The only occasion where aluminium windows may have protruding mullions is on a window with a large drop or in commercial joinery. If this is the case they should be treated the same as for timber windows.

3) Windows with openings:



- Window openings are normally referred to as a **sash**.
- A sash can be a push out opening or a sliding opening.
- A sash closes against the frame, mullion and transom.
- Handles are used to hold the sash shut and prevent leakage. Handles must be considered when measuring windows so as to make sure the blind does not catch on the handle.
- When considering on which side to put the controls of a blind it should be on the side away from the sash if possible. Vertical blinds have a stacking issue when closed, (which side the fabric collects when the blind is opened). The fabric should be stacked away from the sash where possible.

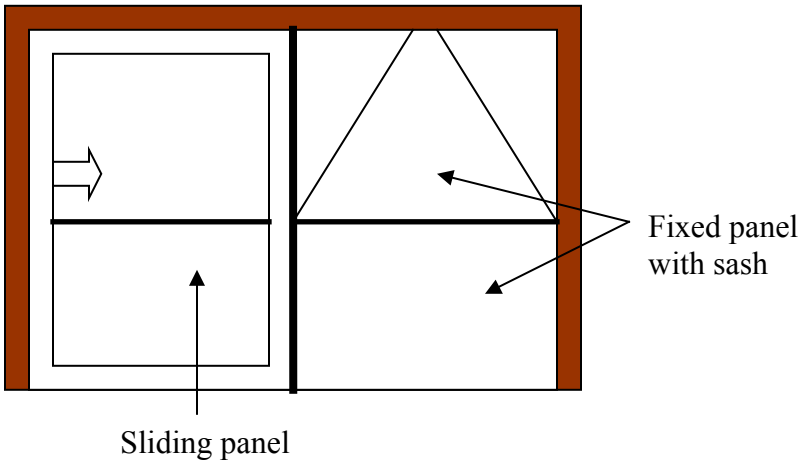
4) **Hinged Doors**:



-Hinge doors are normally used as entry doors, where the **hinged panel is timber**. Laundry and back doors have the **hinged panel as glass**.
- Most entry doors have a mullion on which one side has the door panel and the other has a **fixed glass panel**. Customers can request blinds be fitted to the glass panel. Due to the narrow width of this panel Venetian blinds should be used.
- Hinged doors do not have an architrave on the bottom and in some cases do not have a frame on the bottom. The **drop measurement is effected** by whether or not there is a bottom frame. If there is a bottom frame the drop is taken from the head to the sill. If there is no bottom frame the drop is taken from the head to the floor with deduction being made for, tiles, linoleum, timber or carpet.
- In the case of laundry and back doors: If the hinged panel opens out then the blind may be installed as normal into the head window frame. If the hinged panel opens in then the blind must be installed on to the panel, (to stop the door panel hitting the blind).

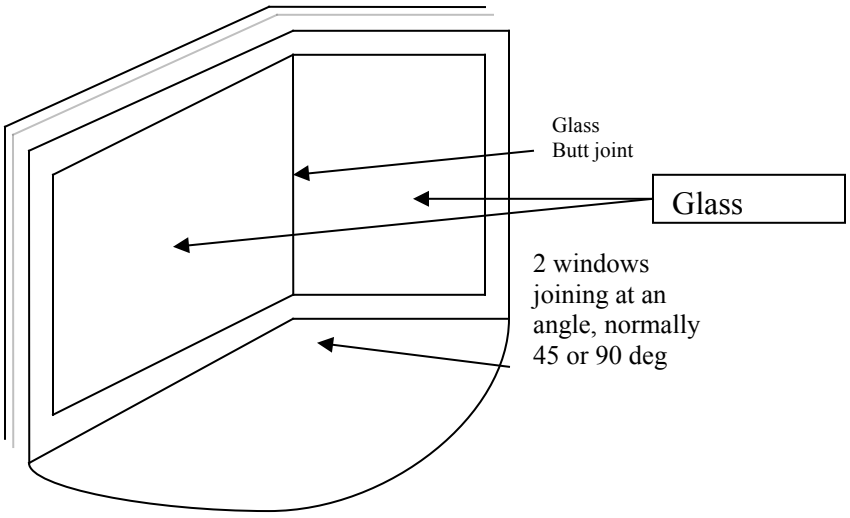
Installing a blind on the door panel that opens in will cause a problem. When the door panel is opened the blind may hit the window frame causing damage. This depends on how wide the window frame is. If the window frame is narrow the blind may miss the window frame. If the blind does hit either then you will need to put in a door stop. A door stop however may restrict the opening of the door too much.

5) **Sliding Doors**:



- There are a number of configurations for sliding doors. A single slider is shown in the above diagram. Here the sliding panel sides behind the fixed panel. Other configurations are made up of multiple panels both sliding and fixed. There are sliding doors called “Stackers”. Stackers are made up of multiple sliding panels that connect with the adjoining panel resulting in all sliding panels being pulled open giving a large unobstructed opening.
- As for the hinged door there is no bottom architrave. The drop must be measured as described for the hinged door.
- Vertical blinds can be made to cover the width in one blind. However consider the lost space in the door frame taken up by door handles and mullions. If there is not sufficient room for the fabric to turn unimpeded then fit the blind as an outside fit (described later).
- Other blind types need to be measured as multiples. Separate blinds for the sliding and fixed panels. Make sure the blind controls are not located on the blind such as to impede openings.

6) **Angled Windows**:



-**Angled windows** are where a window follows the corner of a room or extend out from the exterior wall. Instead of having separate windows the window frame is continuous around the shape of the window. The glass is joined by a "**Glass Butted Joint**". Here the separate panels of glass are joined by clear silicone glue. This gives the appearance of a single piece of glass.
- Angled widows come in a variety of configurations**.** A **Corner Window** where two panes meet at 45 or 90 deg. A **Bay Window** made of three panes that meet at 45 deg. A **Box Window** where the three panes meet at 90 deg.
- Special care is required in measuring these window types. You need to think in three dimensions. How to measure these windows will be discussed in detail in the "How to Measure section.

All angled blind measuring must follow a two-step process

Measure, Order, Install thru blind

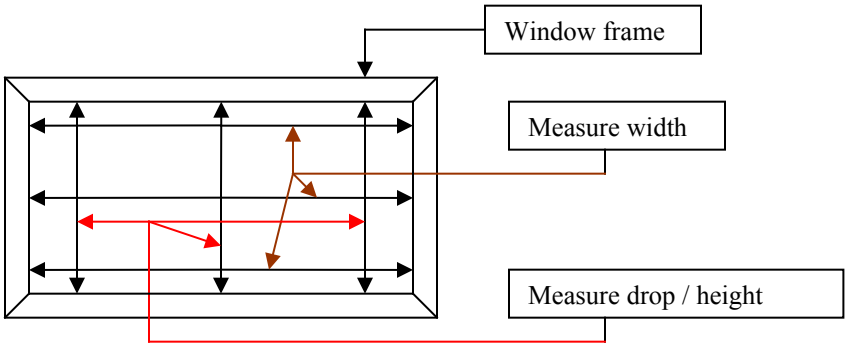
Then

Measure, order, Install butting blinds

How to Measure

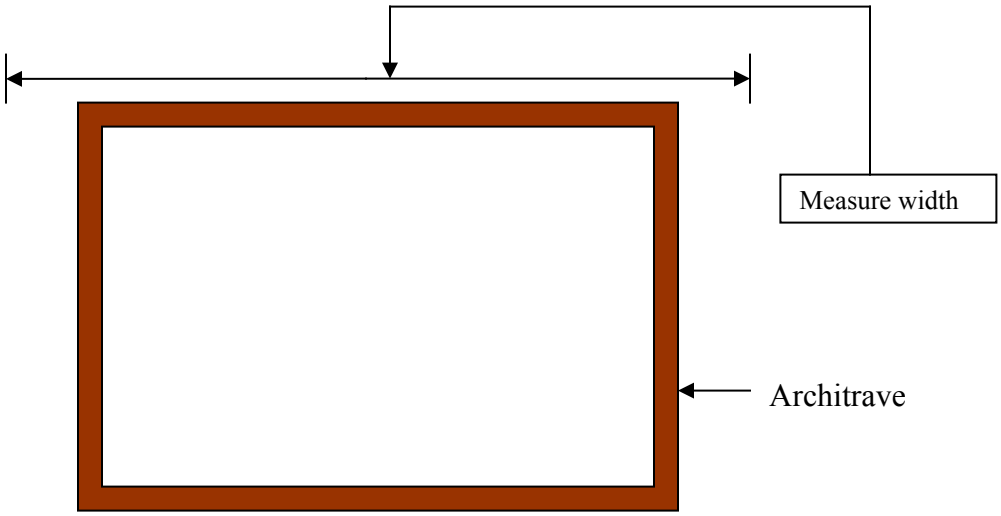
Measurement for blinds falls into three categories, **inside fit**, **outside fit**, and **three dimensional fit.** In all cases follow the instructions given and **do not** make any further deductions as all clearances and special deductions are performed by the computer that turns your measurements into cutting sizes for the factory.

1) **Inside fit:**



-Inside fit represents the best fit. Keeping all the blind inside the window frame makes for a tidy job and gives maximum wall space. It is also makes the installation quicker and easier.
- There will be occasions when inside fit is not practical. This is caused by the window frame not having enough room to hold the blind without the blind hitting something such as handles. In the case of sliding doors the aluminium section used is so large that the door frame is reduced to 20mm, not allowing any room to fit the blind.
- Measure the width in **three places**, at the head, half way down and at the sill. Use the smallest dimension as the width.
- Measure the drop in three places, at the left side, at the middle and at the right side. Take the smallest dimension as the drop.

2) Outside fit:



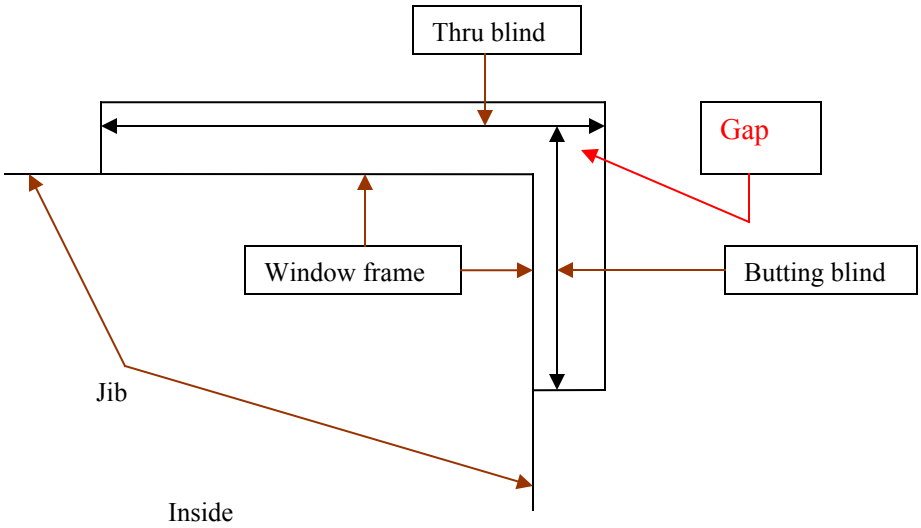
-To be able to do an outside fit check there is enough wall space either side of the blind. The blind should overlap either side of the architrave by at least 100mm. If the blind is a vertical then the blind must overhang the end where the fabric collects by enough to have the fabric off the window.
- Only one measurement need be taken for the width.
- The blind can either be fitted above the architrave or onto the architrave. If there is no architrave (the window frame is grooved to take the jib) then the blind can only be fitted above the window frame.
- Be careful when fitting onto the architrave as the architrave may split. Always drill a clearance hole for the screw.
- The drop will need to be measured in three places, the two sides and middle. Allow for any flooring. When installing above the architrave locate where you want the top of the blind to be. You will need the following clearance between the top of the blind and the architrave to fit the brackets.**40mm for Vertical blinds, 60mm for Timber & PVC blinds, 30mm for 25mm venetians and 50mm for roller blinds.** If the installation is onto the architrave take the measurement from the top of the architrave (the top of the bracket will be level with the top of the architrave).
The drop should be measured to 50mm below the sill architrave for all blinds. Timber & PVC blinds will cover a window or door when pulled up. If you want to have a door way or window unobstructed then you will need to consider **stacking heights**. For this please make contact with us.

3) Three dimensional fit:

Builders often use three dimensional windows to add architectural features to buildings. They may make the window go around the corner, protrude out or even protrude in. These windows are a lot more complicated to measure and great care is required. Costly errors can be made.

The following diagrams and directions will discuss the measuring of a corner window, a 90deg bay window and a 45deg bay window.

The **corner window** is the simplest of the three dimensional windows.



The first thing to determine is the blind that will become the **"thru Blind"**. When 2 blinds butt together in a corner window there will be a **gap** that runs down the drop of the window. The gap exists where the thru blind and **butting blind** meet. While this gap is minimal you can choose what part of the room where the gap will not be seen.

The next thing to determine is how far into the window frame you want the blinds. The further inside the window frame the blinds go the wider the butting blind must be. The drop is measured as a standard window.

Before measuring the butting blind, order and install the thru blind.

Now you can measure the butting blind:

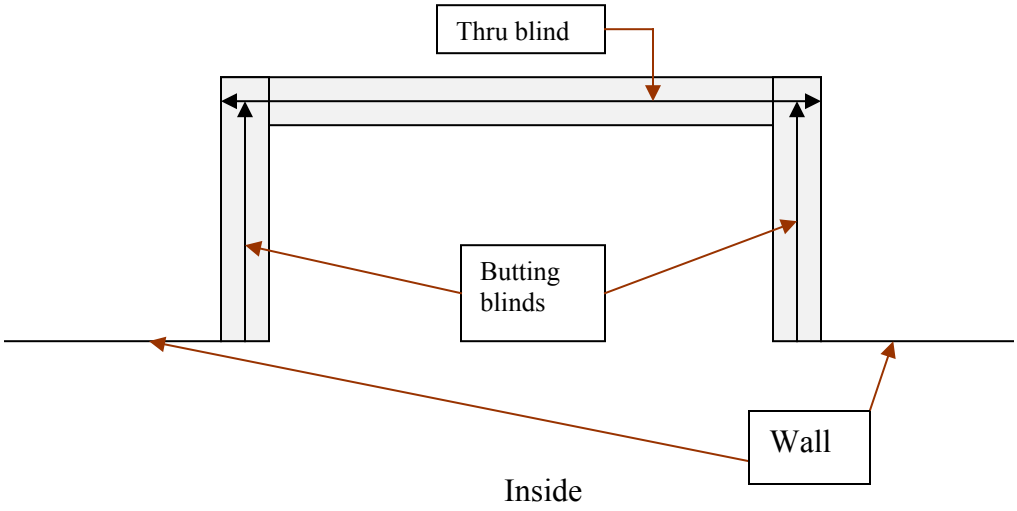
- For Venetian, Timber, PVC and Vertical blinds measure from the thru blind head rail to the window frame
- For Roller Blackout and Roller Sunscreen blinds roll the fabric all the way up and measure from the rolled up fabric to the window frame and take off 10mm.

The butting blind drop is measured as for a standard window.

Order the thru blind and butting blinds as inside fit.

To operate Vertical Blinds in angled windows turn one of the blinds first and then the other. This will stop the fabric drops hitting as they turn. The **control ends** must be on the opposite end of the blinds from the gap or where the blinds butt. If the corner window is made up of two separate windows with individual window frames then the two windows should be measured separately.

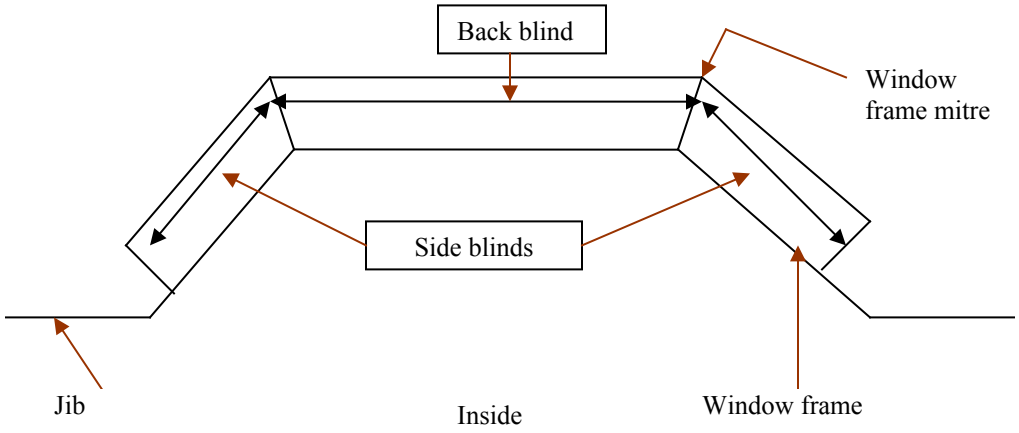
The box window is actually two corner windows joined.



The only difference is that there are two butting blinds and one thru blind. The thru blind is normally the center blind. Measurements are taken the same way as for the corner window. The controls of the butting blinds should be away from the gaps. The thru blind will have to have the **control located behind** one of the butting blinds.

If the box window has been made with three separate widows all separated by individual window frames then they will be measured as three separate windows.

The **45 deg bay window** is probably the most difficult blind to measure. However the same steps are taken as for the box and corner windows.



The difference with the bay window is that the two side windows butt at 45 deg to the center window, not at 90 deg as for the box and corner window. Measurement principals are the same as for the box and corner windows except that there is no thru blind. All the blinds butt together.
The first step is to determine how far into the window frame you want the center blind to go then measure, order and install the center blind.
The side blinds can now be measured. Measure from the center bracket inside edge to the window frame.

Order the back blind and side blinds as inside fit.

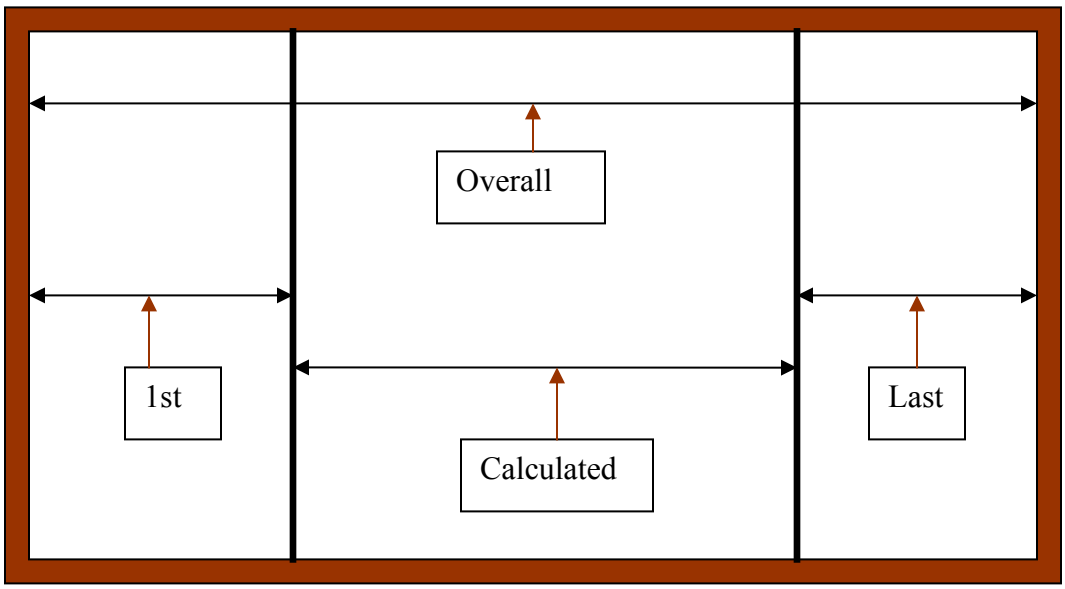
A problem with 45 deg bay windows is the large gap where the blinds meet. This is very noticeable with Timber blinds. When the blinds are down and open the slat nearly meet at the front giving little gap. When the blinds are closed the gap opens up wide. This is caused by the geometry of bay windows and nothing can be done.

5) Multiple blinds in one window:

All blind products have size limits. A combination of width and drop leads to increasing weight and stress on componentry, the bigger the blind the more the wear.

Also the operation of the blind is effected by size. The larger the drop on venetians and timber blinds the worse the closure. Blackout and sunscreen blinds are affected by width. Too large a width sees the tube sagging and folds develop in the fabric. The way to handle large window spans is to put in multiple, butting blinds.

It is important to consider the measurement point of butting blinds because of the gap created in butting. Measurements should be from window frame to mullion to mullion to window frame.



Make measurements as below. The same principle applies whether it is an outside fit or inside fit.

a) Measure the overall width of window
b) Measure first window to centre of first mullion.
c) Measure last window from centre of last mullion to end point.
d) The middle widow width is calculated as the difference between the overall less first and last measurements.
e) The drop is measured as normal.

Make sure that all measurements are taken at the head of the window.
It is possible to do large window spans using this method with many mullions. It is important to consider the spans between mullions and whether or not it can be done with one blind. With doors you will need to consider what side the control cords are on so the cords do not fall on an opening.

Deductions:

Only make the deductions that have been given. **Do not** make any other deductions for clearance or add any measurements to your blinds.

The measuring system you have been shown works in conjunction with the computer system of the blind supplier. This is where any deductions or additions and special cuts are calculated.

Configurations and Operating Mechanisms

Configurations are used to describe the location of various functions of blinds and to show which way blinds will close and open. The configurations used depend on the type of blind.

Operating mechanisms are cords, chains or wands.

a) Venetian Timber and PVC operation:

- The tilting of the slats is done using a wand on the 25mm Venetian blind and by cords on the Timber and PVC blinds.
- The lifting and dropping of these blinds is by lifting cords.

b) Vertical blinds:

- Turing of the vertical slat is done by operating chain.
- Movement of the fabric to one side is done by operating cord.

b) Blackout and Sunscreen blinds:

- There is only an up and down movement for these blinds. This is performed by an operating chain
- You can choose whether the fabric comes off the front of the roller tube or off the back. Coming off the back puts the fabric closer to the window glass and reduces gaps. In some cases you will need to choose front roll because there may be handles or something obstructing the fabric. Also the Premium fabric must be front rolled to prevent the thermal backing showing on the roll.

Configurations are:

a) Venetian, Timber and PVC:

- L = left hand side controls
- R = right hand side controls

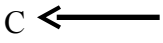
b) Blackouts and Sunscreen:

- L = Left hand side controls
- R = right hand controls

c) Vertical blinds.

These blinds are unique in configurations because the fabric is not going up and down but moving horizontally, being pulled off the window to one side or the other. Op means opposite

Right single draw RSD. Fabric pulled right control right



Left single draw LSD. Fabric pulled left control left

Head Rail Controls:

As mentioned the width of a blind has an effect on the controls used to operate the blind. Timber blinds, 50mm Venetian blinds and 25mm Venetian blinds are affected.

A) <u>Timber & PVC blinds</u>

When a timber blind width is 580mm or less then the configuration below come into effect.

580mm to 400mm wide

- control separated to each end
- The configuration L or R in this case refers to the tilter control while the lift control goes to the other end.
- The ladders start in at 80mm from both ends, not 150mm as normal

Note: The smallest Timber and PVC blind is 400mm.

B) **<u>25mm Venetian blinds</u>**:

When a Venetian blind width fall between 500mm to 300mm the configuration below comes into effect.

- Control are at one end as normal, select either L or R
- However the ladders are spread evenly over head rail, not 150mm in as for normal.

Note: The minimum width for a 25mm Venetian blind is 300mm.