

Repairing a Day/Night Shade made by Specialty Window Coverings

Introduction

Restranging a pleated shade can be exasperating hopefully the changes I made to the manufacturer's instructions will make the process a bit easier. The manufacturer assumes that the shade has been installed with some thought as to how it will be removed when it breaks. The problem is you will probably find as I did that the RV manufacturer did not take this into consideration when they were originally installed. I have wondered how some of mine could have even been installed the way they were but then maybe cabinets and similar items had not been installed previous to hanging the shades.

Before attempting the repair or buying replacement cord it is necessary to see whether the top rail can be seen (without cutting the remaining cords and dropping the shade) and specifically can the screws holding the shade up be accessed. If they cannot then you need to scrap the manufacturer's instructions and use mine. If you purchase precut cord from a supplier and you cannot access the screws holding the shade up you may have just wasted your money so make sure of this very first step before doing anything.

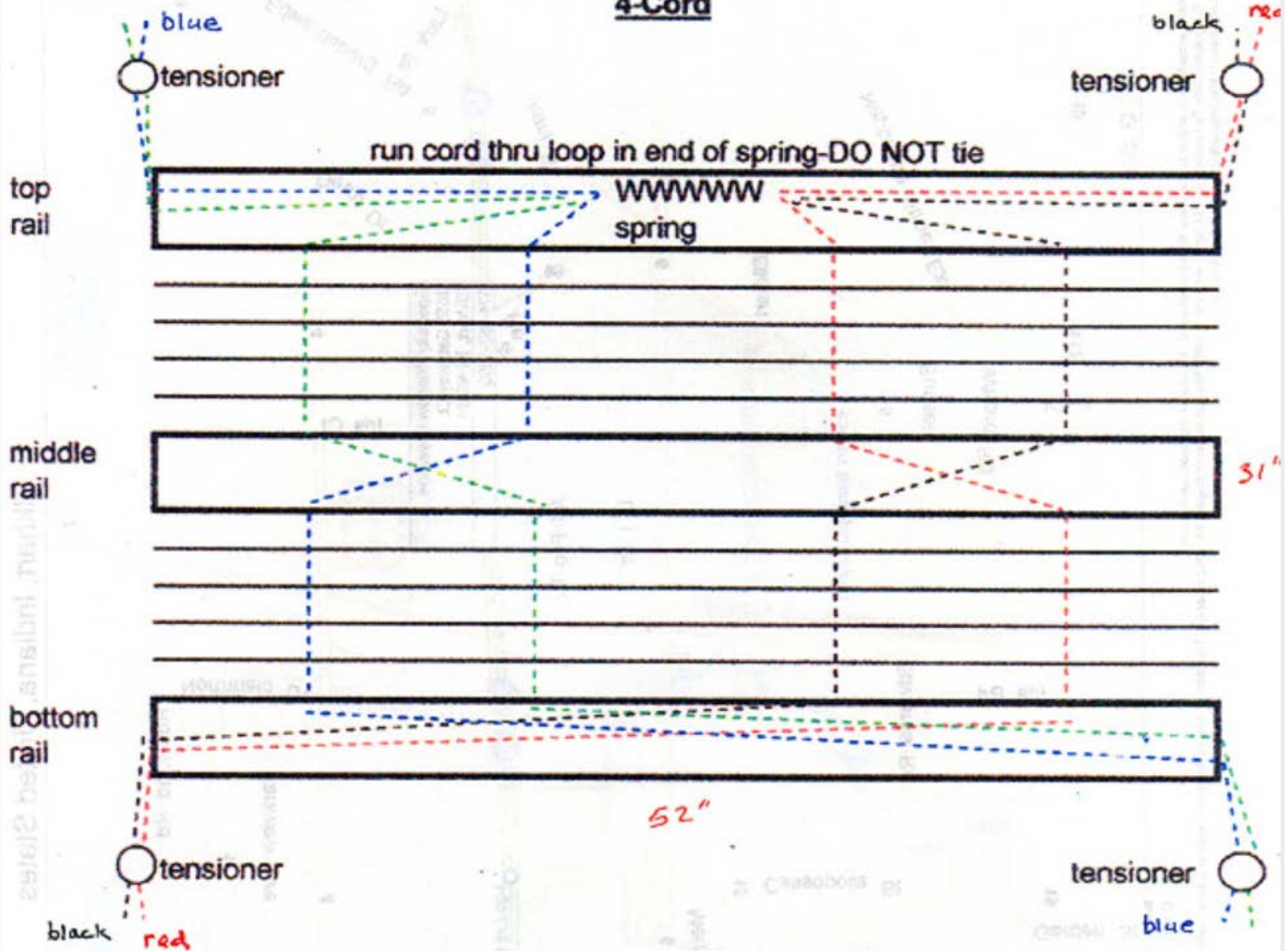
The second consideration is the shade itself. All of the shades in my coach had the eyelets installed upside down even the replacement shades purchased. Although the manufacturer says that this is all right I disagree and have never had a problem after I changed the eyelets. I can only assume that this is the reason that we all have so many problems with these shades and repair centers call them "an issue." I also decided to use another material for the cords and this made them glide up and down with ease a significant difference from the originals.

The first 4 sheets of this instruction were supplied to me by the manufacturer. The stringing procedure is the same with either their instructions or mine. The balance of the instructions "by Dennis" include replacing grommets, how to size the string if you can't see the top rail and some pictures of the problems.

Good luck I hope this helps!

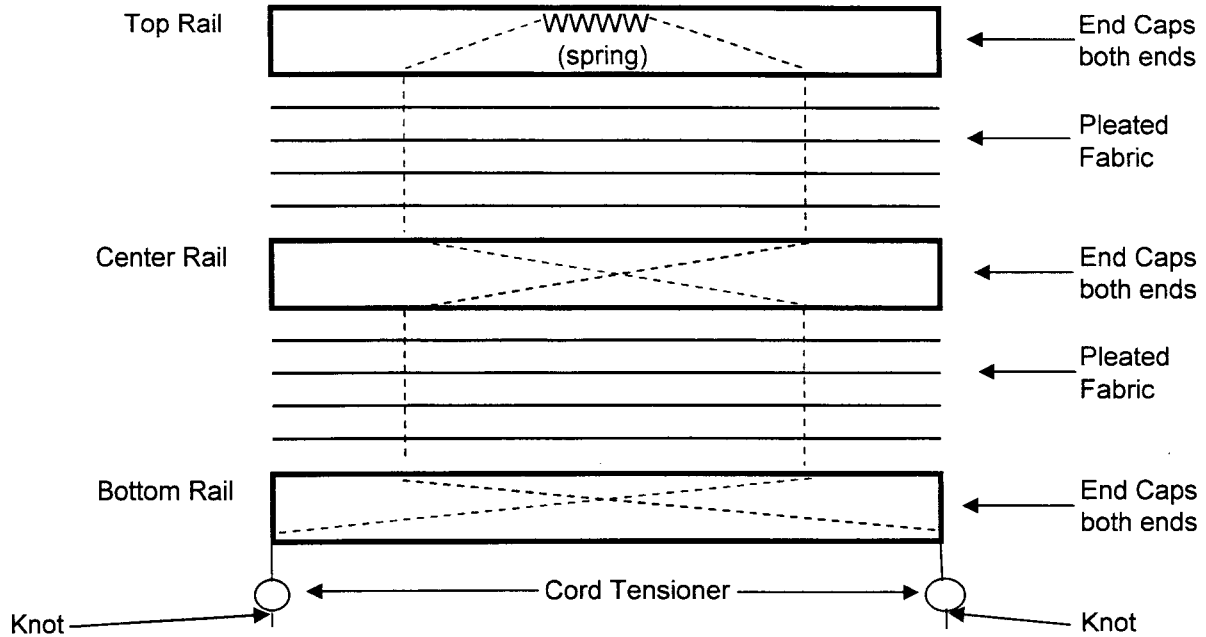
Free-floating Day/Night Shade Stringing

4-Cord

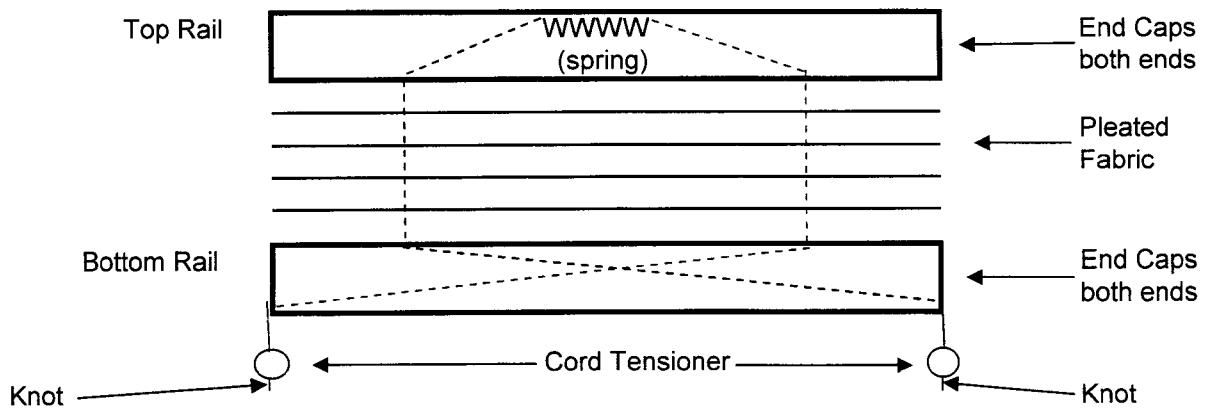


Pleated Shade Stringing Diagram

2- Cord Day/Night



2- Cord Night Only

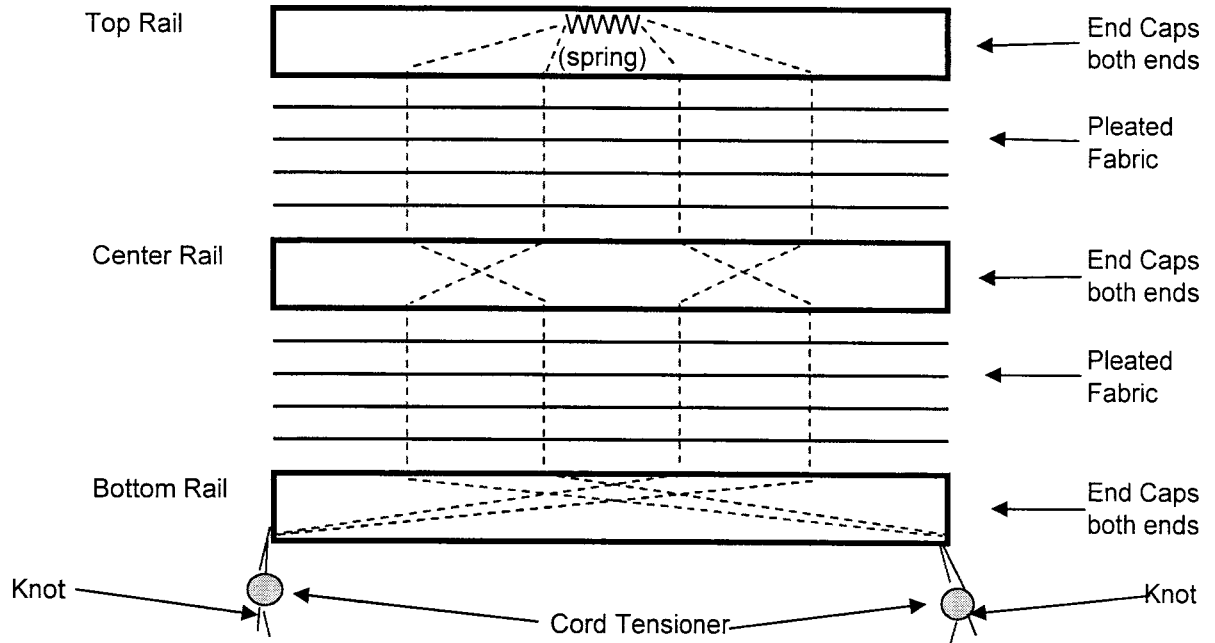


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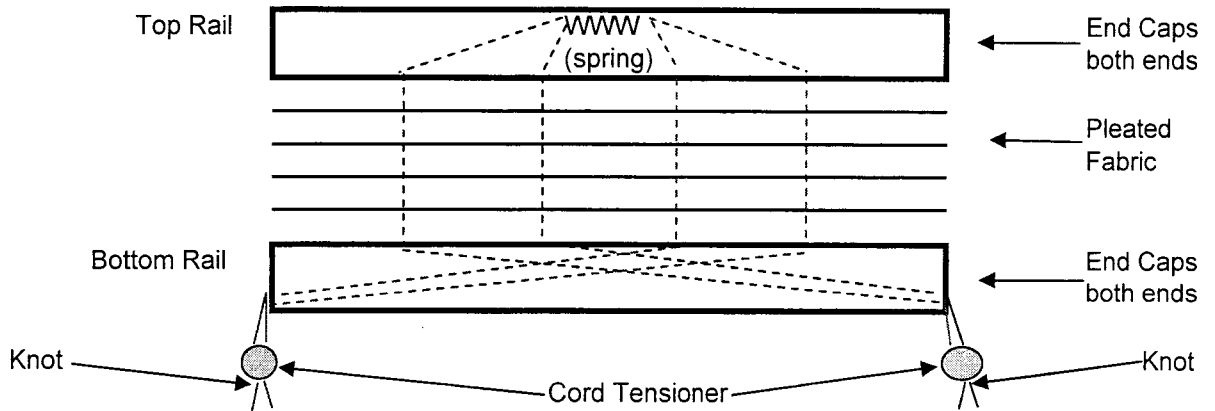
Pleated Shade Stringing Diagram

FOR SHADES MANUFACTURED AFTER 3-1-06

4- Cord Day/Night



4- Cord Night Only

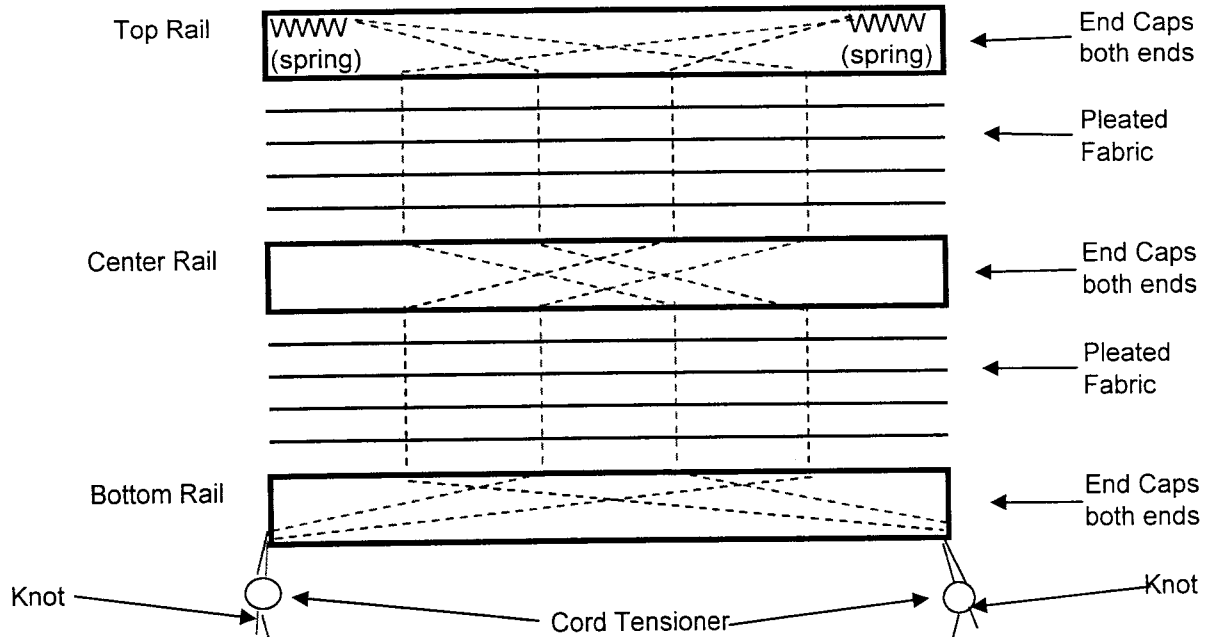


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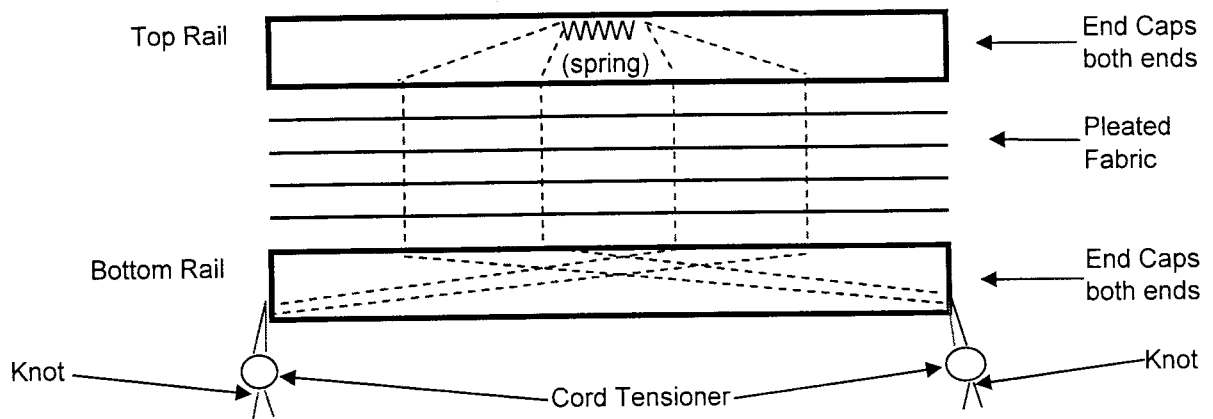
Pleated Shade Stringing Diagram

FOR SHADES MANUFACTURED BEFORE 3-1-06

4- Cord Day/Night



4- Cord Night Only



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Pleated Shade Restranging Instructions

1. Remove all end caps from rails by prying loose. The end caps on the head rail of a four string shade may have a spring attached. The end caps on the bottom rail must have the cord tensioner removed from the cord .
2. Remove all knobs (if shade is the type with pull knobs)
3. Slide the head rail off of the PVC insert that the fabric is fastened to.
4. Remove the old cord from the rails and the pleated fabric.
5. Slide the center rail off of the PVC insert that the fabric is fastened to. (Night shade does not have a center rail.) NOTE: One of the fabrics will be riveted to the middle rail and cannot be removed.
6. Slide the bottom rail off of the PVC insert that the fabric is fastened to.
7. Securely tie the new cord to the springs. Allow enough cord so you do not end up short when finished. (See **cord sizing formula** at bottom of page.)
8. Follow the Stringing Diagram for cord placement. String all locations before re-assembling the rails.
9. Re-assemble the PVC inserts into the rail. Be very careful to keep the cords inside of the channel in the center of the PVC insert. Failure to do so will keep the cords from moving and the shade will not operate.
10. The 2-cord shade has a spring in the center of the head rail. Also, the 4-cord shades manufactured after 3-1-06 will have a spring in the center of the head rail. It is important that this spring is centered when the shade is re-assembled.
11. Replace the end caps. NOTE: The cord must be threaded through the hole in the bottom rail end caps.
12. Measure from the top of the head rail the distance the shade is to drop and tie the knot at that distance. On a single cord tie a double knot, on a double cord a single knot is sufficient.
13. Attach the cord tensioners by snapping the 2 pieces around the cord just above the knot.
14. Re-install knobs, if applicable.
15. Re-install the head rail into the brackets.
16. Screw the cord tensioner to the wall. If you have the New adjustable 2-pc. tensioner, do not tighten the screw all the way. Repeat with the other tensioner. Now pull on the knotted end of the cord to snug up the cord and finish tightening the screw in the tensioner causing the cord to be securely fastened. Repeat with the other tensioner.
17. DO NOT tighten the cords too tight. They should be tight enough so the shade stops where you put it. The tighter the cords the harder the shade operates. Too tight of cords cause wear and breakage of the cord and then you will have to go back to step 1.(Someday)

Cord Sizing Formula

2-cord Night shade Width + ½ Width + Length(drop) = ____ x 2 = total

Example 40 x 30 (40 + 20 + 30 = 90 x 2 = 180" cord)

2-cord Day / Night shade add 15" to Night shade cord size. (Example = 195" cord)

4-cord shades = Double the length of the 2-cord cord and tie spring in middle of cord.

Repairing a Day/Night Shade by Dennis

The following repair guide is for the two and four cord assemblies manufactured by Specialty Window Coverings of Indiana. Blinds are assembled using clear 50# test fishing line and the eyelets are replaced using a two piece eyelet in the correct direction which is the cause for the continual breakage of these blinds. The results of the repair are a blind that glides up and down with ease and no further breakage. An added benefit is almost invisible cords.

Required tools and materials:

- You will need to go to a store like Michael's Crafts and purchase 3/16" two-sided eyelets; 6 required for the 2 cord and 12 for the 4 cord blind. Also they have a small eyelet die set for a couple of dollars.
 - Spool of clear 50# test.
 - Awl to open to punch holes in fabric if required.
 - Drill motor and drill bit to open the holes for the new eyelets or a Dremel tool. The Dremel will allow you to grind which will be required also.
 - Darning needle
- 1) The first step assumes that at least one of the cords is still holding the blind assembly together, meaning the shade assembly still is partially compressed together and NOT TOTALLY STRETCHED OUT. Attempt to look up at the top rail and see if you can see the screws. If you can easily you are ready to cut the remaining cords and remove the assembly. If you cannot you need to check two things:
 - a) If the screw holes are not easily accessible because they are on the window side but would be visible from the interior side then go to step 2 after removing the blind.
 - b) If it is still difficult to see either side of the top rail because the folded blind takes up most of the area of the valance then cutting the remaining strings will allow visibility of the top rail after pulling the blind out to stretch it flat. Cutting and lengthening to remove the blind though causes a major problem if you have purchased a set of cords from a supplier the correct length for the blind. Understand that if the blind needs to be extended to see the top rail it will also need to be extended to replace the blind. If you have installed the precut new cords and now have a finished blind that is compressed and will not lay flat it will not be possible to see the screws to remount. If this is the situation go to step two (2) and then step four (4) skip step three (3).
 - 2) Using the awl, punch a hole through the first fold of the Night shade closest to the top rail so the screw will be accessible from the interior side. Go to step 3.
 - 3) Measure the length and width of the blind. This will be the length required for each individual cord. For ease of installation add an additional foot to the cord. Example: 5 foot wide by 4 foot in length equals 9 foot plus add additional 1 foot for installation ease or 10 feet.

OR

- 4) Lay out the blind on a flat surface and pull out flat. Now measure the blind length and width. Example: The blind you have is 5 foot wide and 8 foot extended plus 1 foot for installation ease or 14 feet in cord length (5+8+1=14.) This step will allow you to assemble the blind and pull out flat when installing allowing visual access to the top rail. If as in the example you have a two cord blind you would have 2-14 foot lengths of cord. If you are repairing a 4 string unit then it

is necessary to double the final length of both sides. The 4 cord blind will be rethreaded with two 28 foot cords. Each separate length will when tied at the middle to the end of the spring will result in 4 cords 14 foot in length.

- 5) Disassemble the blind. Mark your rails so you know top, bottom, window side etc.
- 6) Tie your new cords to the ends of the springs. If a 2 string unit install one length of cord to each end of the spring. If a 4 string unit tie a double length piece on each end of the spring so you now have 2 cords on each end. See Illustration 5 & 6 respectively.
- 7) When tying the fishing line double tie the knot so it does not unravel. See Illustration 4.
- 8) Note the direction of the eyelets now installed in the two lower plastic strips and the metal center divider. The manufacturer's eyelet is installed with the crimped end on the bottom. See picture 1. The original cord passes over this sharp crimped portion and frays the cord. When installing your new eyelets install the peened over side of the eyelet on the top. The cord passes through this part first and straight so will not catch on the peened over part of the eyelet. The new cord will pass and bend over the smooth side of the eyelet effortlessly without catching on anything. Remove each eyelet and replace with a new one in the correct direction. There is no need to change the eyelets in the top rail even though they are backwards. The cord does not bend here but drops straight down into the Night shade. It will probably be necessary to grind off or remove the ridges next to the holes on the underside of each plastic rail so the base of the die will lay flat when installing the new eyelet, this depends on the size of the die and you will have to judge for yourself if this will be necessary.
- 9) Fold up the night and day shades of the blind and rubber band together.
- 10) Using your darning needle feed the cord through the Night shade of the blind see manufacturer's diagram.
- 11) String the cords using the darning needle through the Day shade of the blinds see manufacturer's diagram.
- 12) Carefully slide the upper plastic strip into the bottom of the rail. Note the direction of the folds on the rails. Illustration 12 shows a blind with the Day shade installed backwards. Illustration 13 shows the same blind with the direction of the first fold correctly installed on the bottom of the metal rail. Slowly feed the plastic strip through while constantly pulling the cords tight. Go slowly so the cords do not tangle. Finish by placing the end caps on the metal rail.
- 13) Tie the two cords together on the right and left sides.
- 14) Cross the right cords to the left and the left cords to the right. Slide the bottom metal rail over the lower plastic strip keeping tension on each set of cords until the rail is in the final position. Pull each set of cords through the end caps and install the end caps on the rail see manufacturer's diagram..
- 15) Take the completed assembly and re-install.
- 16) Pull each set of cords down and place a knot stop at the lowest position where the adjustment retainer will be installed.
- 17) Install the retainer at the bottom and turn to tighten each set of cords just enough to hold up both sets of shades.



Picture 1 – The eyelet shown is the crimped over part of a 1-piece eyelet installed by the manufacturer. The cord after passing through the top has to pass over this rough part of the eyelet with considerable tension. In every set of blinds with frayed cords this will be found.

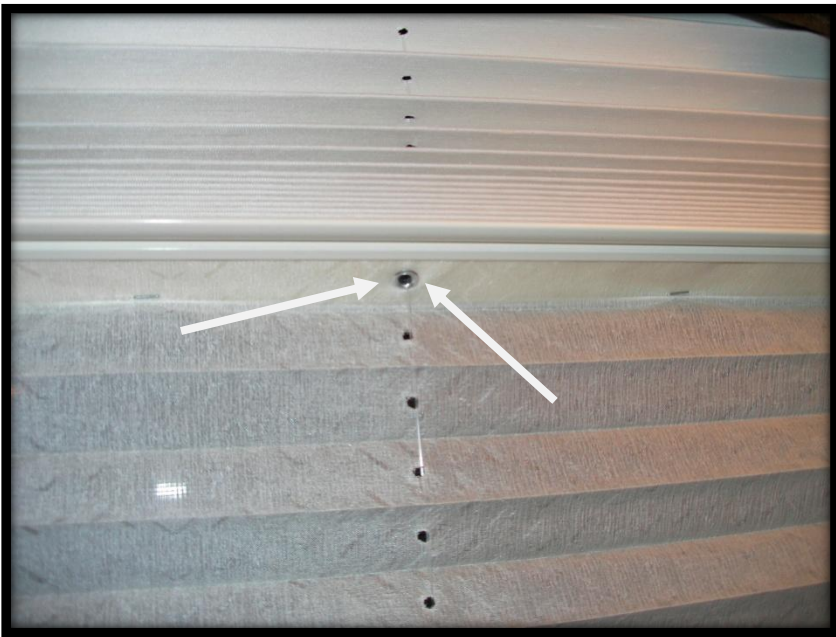


Illustration 12

The eyelet shows because the Day Shade is installed backwards. See Illustration 13



Illustration 13

The eyelet is not seen through the first fold of the Day Shade.

