Modern Updates That Sell: Automate Existing Roman Shades

Discover how to offer your clients a package to update their existing shades to enhance and modernize the look without having to invest in a complete home makeover.

Learn design tips and fabrication techniques from industry expert Donna Cash to refresh any interior on a budget.

Materials & Supplies

Rowley Products	Item #
Tubular Motor Shade Starter Kits	KITS
Encased Lift Cord	LIFT CORD
Lift Band	LIFT BAND
Weight Bar	WEIGHT BAR
Upholstery Air Staplers	NSG10, NS11
71 Series Staples	NS33/E
Staple Puller Plier	MH41
Upholstery Staple Remover	MH22
R-TEC Automation®	R-TEC

R-TEC AUTOMATION® by Rowley

Automate Existing Roman Shades: Step-By-Step Instructions

If you're looking for ways to help existing customers update and/or upgrade their existing soft furnishings, offering to add motorization or automation may be a great way to start. R-TEC Automation® products are meticulously designed to combine beauty, form & function with superior performance.

R-TEC Smart Controls offer modern design and lifestyle options with easy programming and integration. The hub and app integration allow shades to be controlled directly from a smartphone or integrated device while at home or away. Download the new R-TEC Automation® App:

GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store

Determine the Right Motor & Components for Your Shade

Understanding the basics of shade motorization will help ensure you select the right motor and components for the existing shade.

Below are the features of the different types of shade motors. Get to know these features and use as selling points for motorization.

2-Way RF Communication

Integrated radio frequency control allows for easy programming of individual, group or all control across window treatments.

Leveling Control

This feature allows for precise positioning of multiple window treatments, ensuring perfect alignment.

Preferred Upper / Lower Limit Settings

Electronic "autoset" limits accurately program preferred upper and lower settings.

Favorite Position

Allows a most used or favorite position to be set between upper and lower limit settings.

Adjustable Speed

Choose from three options to customize the open / close speed of the shade.

Quiet Operation

Powerful, smooth and quiet operation suitable for both residential and commercial environments.

Wand Features

Cord Lift Features

Wirefree & DC Features

Shade weight, length and width will help determine the correct motor and aluminum tube size.

You'll need a battery charger or power adapter to power the shade. Select the battery charger for the type of motor you are using.

Wirefree Tubular Motors (Li-ion Battery)

Item #	Motor Size	Style	Tube Dia.	Max. Size	Min. Shade Width / Roller Tube Length	Max. Load
RTML25	25 mm	Standard	1 ¼"	84" x 84"	21 ½"	15 ½ lbs.
			1 ½"	84" x 84"	21 ½"	13 lbs.
RTMLQ28	28 mm	Quiet	1 ½"	120" x 120"	28"	23 ½ lbs.
			2"	120" x 120"	28"	17 ½ lbs.
RTML35	35 mm	Standard	2"	120" x 120"	37"	26 ½ lbs.

Wirefree Tubular Motor Accessories

Item #	Description
RTMLBC	Battery Charger 12', .4 Amp, 12V
RTMLCXT48	Charger Cable Extender 48"
RTMLCXT96	Charger Cable Extender 96"
RTMSOLAR2	Solar Panel Battery Charger

R-TEC Automation® Component Combinations

For an easy guide to building Roller or Roman Shades using our R-TEC Automation® Shade Motors, use the QR Codes or links below:

Roman Shades

bit.ly/R-TEC-Roman-Components

Roller Shades

bit.ly/R-TEC-Roller-Components

Wirefree Tubular Motor with Attached Wand Control (Li-ion Battery)

Item #	Motor Size	Style	Tube Dia.	Max. Size	Min. Shade Width / Roller Tube Length	Max. Load
RTMLW25	25 mm	Standard	1 ¼"	84" x 84"	21 ½"	15 ½ lbs.
			1 ½"	84" x 84"	21 ½"	13 lbs.

Wands (sold separately)

Item #	Color	Length	Each
RTMW24/W	White	24"	$18.50
RTMW36/W	White	36"	$20.27
RTMW48/W	White	48"	$22.03

Shade location will also help determine the type of motor you choose. A Wirefree Tubular Motor with Attached Wand Control is a great entry level motor, or for shades in children's rooms as there is no remote that may be misplaced. The wands come in 24", 36" & 48" so these are not going to be used in second story windows.

Wirefree Tubular Motor with Attached Wand Control Accessories

Item #	Description
RTMLWC6	Wall Charger for Wand 6' Cord

DC Tubular Motors

Item #	Motor Size	Style	Tube Dia.	Max. Size	Min. Shade Width / Roller Tube Length	Max. Load
RTMDC25	25 mm	Standard	1 ¼"	84" x 84"	14 ½"	15 ½ lbs.
			1 ½"	84" x 84"	14 ½"	13 lbs.
RTMDCQ28	28 mm	Quiet	1 ½"	120" x 120"	20"	23 ½ lbs.
			2"	120" x 120"	20"	17 ½ lbs.
RTMDC35	35 mm	Standard	2"	120" x 120"	22"	26 ½ lbs.

For narrow width shades, DC motors should be used. The battery is not within the motor, so the width of the motor is narrower. However, you will need an external battery tube or battery pack to power the shade. The useful chart above shows motor sizes, tube sizes, weight limits and shade size limits to get you started.

DC Tubular Motor Accessories

Item #	Description
RTMDCBT	Battery Tube for 25mm DC Motors (requires 8 AA Li-ion Batteries - not included)
RTMDCHCBP	High Capacity Battery Pack for 25 or 28mm Motors (requires Battery Charger RTMLBC or Solar Panel Battery Charger RTMSOLAR2)
RTMLBC	Battery Charger 12', .4 Amp, 12V
RTMSOLAR2	Solar Panel Battery Charger
RTMDC18/25	Power Supply for 25mm DC Motors 5'
RTMDC28/35	Power Supply for 28 or 35mm DC Motors 10 ½'
RTMDCXT48	Power Cable Extender 48"

Cord Lift Motor

- Requires Battery Tube, Battery Pack or Power Supply below.

Item #	Max. Size	Min. Shade Width / Cord Lift Track Length	Max. Load
RTMCLM	120" x 120"	22"	11 ½ lbs.

Cord Lift Motor Accessories

Item #	Description
RTMCLMAC	Cord Lift Motor Shaft Adapters & Clamps (2)
RTMDCBT	Battery Tube for Cord Lift Motor (requires 8 AA Li-ion Batteries - not included)
RTMDCHCBP	Cord Lift Motor Battery Pack (requires RTMLBC or RTMSOLAR2)
RTMLBC	Battery Charger 12'
RTMSOLAR2	Solar Panel Battery Charger
RTMDC18/25	Power Supply for Cord Lift Motor 5'
RTMDCXT48	Power Cable Extender 48"

See our Compatibility Chart below for R-TEC Smart Controls that coordinate with each type of shade motor.

		Motor			
		Wirefree Tubular 	Wirefree Tubular with Attached Wand Control 	DC Tubular 	Cord Lift 
Controller	R-TEC Hub & R-TEC Automation® App 	•		•	•
	Handheld Remotes (1, 5 or 15 channel) 	•		•	•
	Wall Box Mount Switch (5 channel) 	•		•	•
	Surface Mount Wall Switch (15 channel) 	•		•	•
	Internal Sun Sensor 	•		•	•
	ARC USB Signal Repeater 	•		•	•
	Solar Panel Battery Charger 	•		• (if using High Capacity Battery Pack)	• (if using High Capacity Battery Pack)

Why not get started with a shade of your own to become familiar with the process?

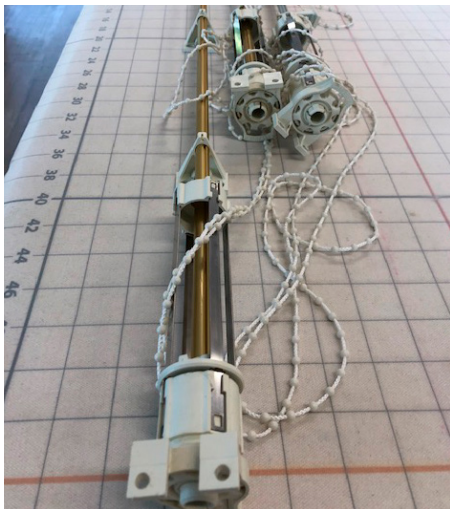
Tubular Motor Shade Starter Kits & Roman Shade Lift Kit Options are available and are a great way to make a new or update an existing shade of your own.

Or, you may also use Custom Solutions to build your motorized headrail for you!

For more information on selling the right motorization to your customers, watch the following recorded webinar:
Motorization Basics + Selling the Right Solution to Your Customers

Prepare the Existing Shade for Automation

1. To automate your existing Roman shade, remove the old system. If your shade board is too small for the new shade brackets, also carefully remove the shade from the board.

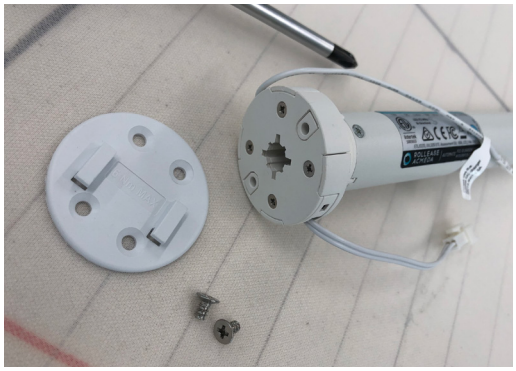


2. If replacing the board, cut the board and the aluminum tube for the shade.

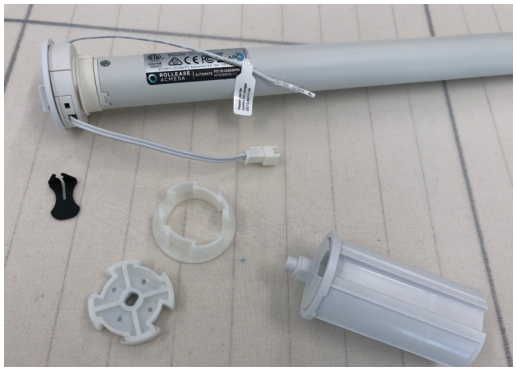
3. Cover the boards with fabric.

4. Put the motorized shade tube together.

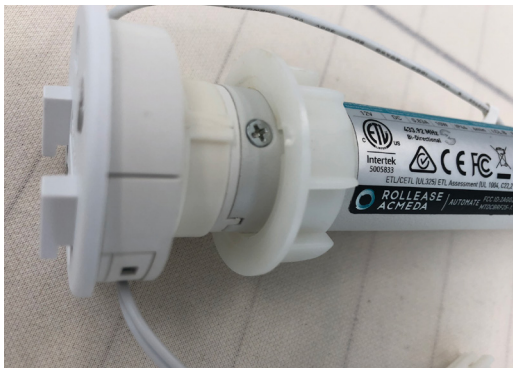
5. Attach the motor adapter to the motor.



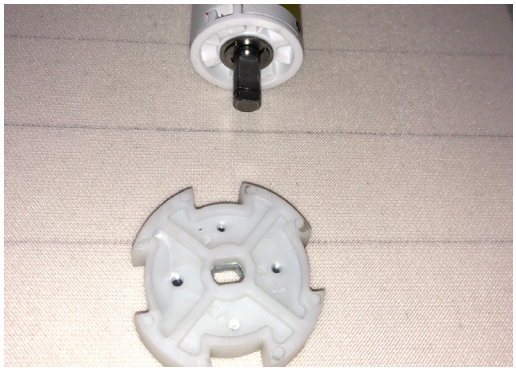
6 Assemble the crown & drive and idler pin.



7 Add the crown to the motor.

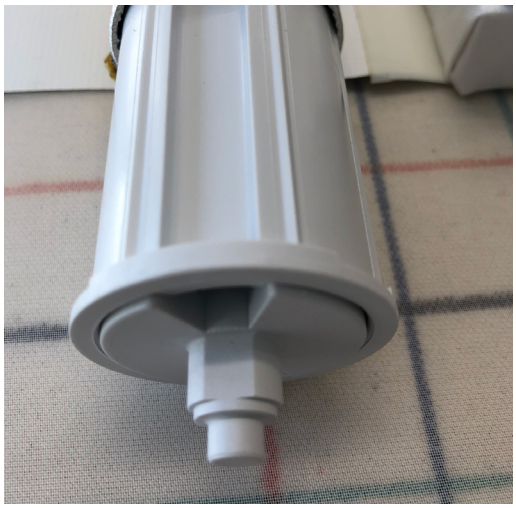


8 Add the motor drive.



9 Attach the motor drive clip.

10 Insert the silent pin motor idler.



11 Insert the prepared motor into the tube.

12 Staple the shade to the shade board. Attach the brackets

13 Complete the shade in your method of choice. Insert the prepared shade tube into the brackets. Add the cord clips to the shade tube.

Watch this video on:
How to Assemble an R-TEC Automation Shade Tube

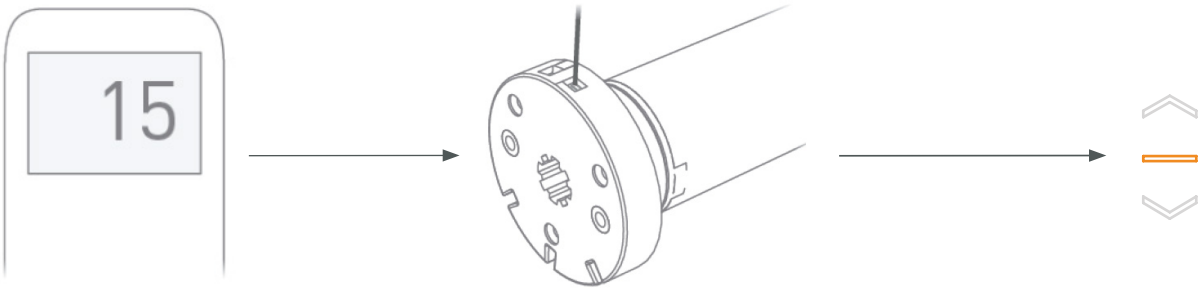
Programming Your Shades In 6 Easy Steps

1 Pair the Shade Motor to a Remote Control

If using a 5 or 15 channel remote control, first select a channel on the controller.

Insert a paper clip or something small into the P1 button on the motor head. The shade will jog one time and beep one time.

Within 4 seconds, hold the STOP button on the controller. The shade will jog twice and beep three times.



IMPORTANT
Consult your user manual for information on selecting channel.

Motor Response

RELEASE P1

Approx. 2 SECS JOG X1 EXT. BEEP X1

Motor Response

Approx. 2 SECS JOG X2 BEEP X3

IMPORTANT
Motor is now in step mode and ready for setting limits.

2 Check the Travel Direction of the Motor

Press UP or DOWN on the remote control to check the direction of the motor.

Quick Press = Step

Long Press = Continuous Travel

If the motor direction needs to be changed, hold UP and DOWN at the same time until the motor jogs. This will change the direction of the motor.

Motor Response

IMPORTANT
Damage to window treatment may occur when operating motor prior to setting limits. Attention should be given.

IMPORTANT
Reversing motor direction using this method is only possible during initial set up.

You are now ready to set your limits. Before the limits are set, a light tap on the up or down button will allow the motor to move in small steps. This allows you to fine tune the limits. A long tap on the remote up or down button will provide continuous travel. You must press the stop button for the shade to stop.

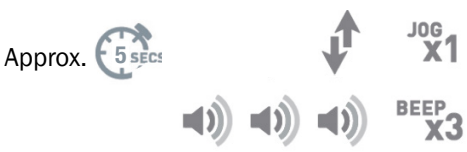
3 Set the Shade Upper Limit

Move the shade to the upper limit by pressing UP. Then, press STOP.

To save the upper limit, press and hold the UP and STOP button at the same time until the shade jogs once and beeps three times.

IMPORTANT
Cycle shade up and down prior to setting limits to settle fabric
Initial set up is now complete.

Motor Response



IMPORTANT
After setting limits, motor will automatically exit from initial set up mode.

4 Set the Shade Lower Limit

Move the shade to the lower limit by pressing DOWN. Then, press stop.

To save the lower limit, press and hold the DOWN and STOP button at the same time until the shade jogs once and beeps three times.

IMPORTANT
Cycle shade up and down prior to setting limits to settle fabric
Initial set up is now complete.

Motor Response

Approx. 5 SECS

IMPORTANT
After setting limits, motor will automatically exit from initial set up mode.

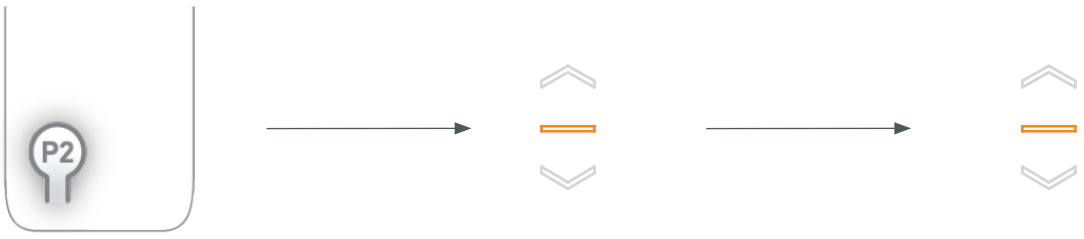
5 Set a Favorite Position

Move the shade to the desired position by pressing the UP or DOWN button on the controller. or

Press P2 on the controller.

Press and hold STOP on the controller. The shade will jog once and beep once.

Within a few seconds, press STOP again and hold. The motor will jog twice and beep three times, indicating the favorite position has been programmed.



Motor Response

Motor Response

Motor Response

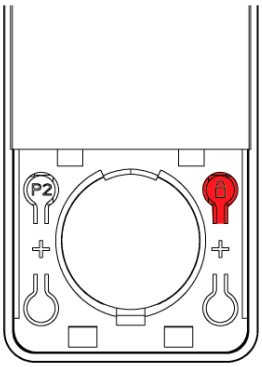
6 Lock the Remote (Disable the Limit Setting Function)

Finally, lock the remote control so that the programming is not accidentally changed.

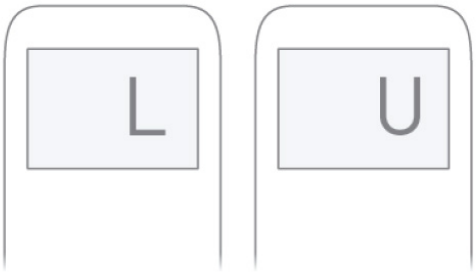
IMPORTANT

This mode is intended to be used after all window treatment programming is completed. User Mode will prevent accidental or unintended changing of limits.

Remove the battery cover on the back of the remote control. Hold the LOCK button for 5 seconds.



On a 15 Channel remote, the LCD displays “L” when locked and “U” when unlocked.



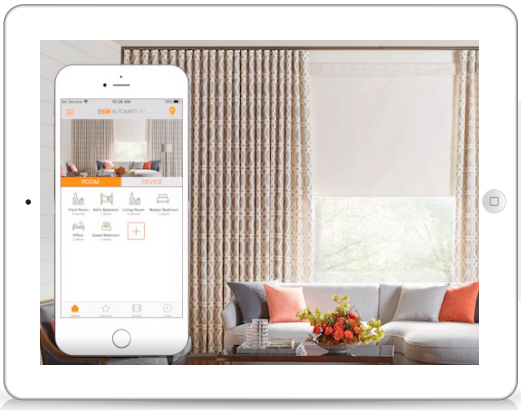
Response
LCD displays “L” when locked
LCD displays “U” when unlocked

On a single channel remote, the LED on the front of the remote will be solid when locked, and blinking when unlocked.

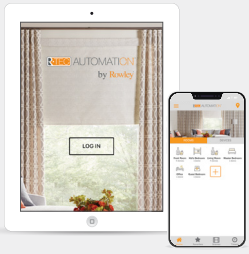
Response
LED solid on when locked
LED blinking when unlocked

IMPORTANT

It is still possible to add or delete channels and perform P2 functions, while the lock function is enabled.



For more information on programming for motorization, watch the following recorded webinar:
Installation and Programming for Motorization



Our R-TEC Automation® App enables simple, intuitive control and system configuration from your smartphone or tablet.

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store