

# DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

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**Kathy Maddox** owns Draperies Plus, Inc, a home-based fabrication studio in Charlottesville, VA. She has operated her business, along with her husband, for thirty-two years. Kathy's skills and experiences range from window treatment design consultations to upholstering walls for home theaters. She joined the CHF Instructor team in 2010 to expand the upholstery training program and to share her passion for hands-on education.

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**Laurie Medford** is the customer engagement manager for Rowley Company. Before joining Rowley Company, Laurie owned Centsible Creations, a professional design, fabrication and installation company for both wholesale and retail customers. Laurie is an instructor for Custom Home Furnishings Academy and is a member of WCAA and WFCP.

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**Donna Cash** operates a workroom in Flowery Branch, GA. She's a 20-year veteran of the window coverings industry and has an associate degree from the Art Institute of Atlanta. She's a WFCP Associate, and a member of WCAA, DraperyPro and the Designers Workroom Council in Georgia. Donna is the pillow and bedding instructor at CHFA and also a certified yoga instructor.

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**Anita Boetsma** has been involved in the interior design and window treatment business for over 26 years. Anita has taught at the Custom Home Furnishings Academy. She writes for several industry publications as well as presenting seminars and webinars. Anita is currently the Director of Education for Helser Brothers.



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# How to Use a Bead Chain Connector Tool

By Laurie Medford  
Charlotte, N.C.

**W**e use metal bead chain mostly for clutch-driven Roman shades. Generally the standard lengths work fine, but for times when you need a non-standard length of continuous bead chain, the bead chain connector tool is your answer (Photo 1 at right). This tool is available for the two most-often used metal bead chains: sizes 8 and 10. With a little bit of planning and some hand strength, you can get any length of continuous metal bead chain.

**Step 1** Use a standard cutter to cut the metal bead chain off the roll.

**Step 2** Place one end of the chain in the front of the tool, aligning the small opening of the ball with the metal spike.

**Step 3** Press the handle together to un-crimp the ball.



**Step 4** Partially open one end of the chain (left), but completely open and remove the ball on the other end of the chain (right).



**Step 5** When you're ready to join the two ends, place the partially opened ball in the tool's back "cup" so that the opening of the ball is facing the front of the tool.



**Step 6** You'll need to have access to the opening for the next step. Using gravity as a third hand, rotate the tool so that the chain is hanging down.



**Step 7** Carefully guide the "pin" end of the chain into the "ball" opening and crimp shut.



**Step 8** If necessary, rotate the partially closed ball and re-crimp to get a fully crimped ball. ✕

