Introduction

The Soft Shade Roller Clutch System manually raises or lowers soft shades by using Roller-Clips to attach the lift cords to the roller. The total weight of the shade should be less than 8 lb for RC3; and 15 lb for RC4 clutch. Compared to our Soft Shade Clutch System, this system is easier to fabricate. This system also raises and lowers the shade much faster, however the pulling force required to raise the shade is much higher. In addition this system has a shade length limitation of 10 feet or less. Longer lengths may not raise evenly. Fig. 1 shows the back view of an assembled soft shade roller clutch system with 4 Roller-Clips on the roller when the shade is all the way down.

Encased Lift Cord Shroud Tape Arrangement (see Fig. 1): The shade can be made with Encased Lift Cord on the edge or well inside the edge of the shade. It is important to consider Encased Lift Cord location and spacing before you attach Encased Lift Cord to your shade. Recent industry child safety guidelines recommend a 2" space between the edge of the shade and the edge row of Encased Lift Cord. The topmost Encased Lift Cord Tape on the shade should be no more than 8" below the dust board. The cord should exit the encased lift cord tape just above the last track.

Roller Clip Arrangement (Fig. 1): Roller clips should be ¾" offset from the lift cords. Roller clips should be mounted to the left and right of the lift cords alternately across all inner lift cords. Otherwise shade may creep to one side when raised.

Shade Stops: Every row of Encased Lift Cord must be threaded through a shade stop prior to being clipped to the roller. Shade stops should be placed in line with Encased Lift Cord so that the flat side runs along the back of the shade fabric.

The Basic Components of this system are shown in Fig. 2.

1. Clutch Unit RC3 (16 lb) and RC4 (24 lb) includes Clutch and End Plug.
2. Bracket Sets RC23 and RC24 include Clutch Side Bracket and End Plug Side Bracket. (Fig 3)
3. Soft Shade Roller Clip RWRC3
4. Aluminum Tube RC60 (1⅝" diameter) in 4', 6', 8' and 12' lengths.

Fabrication

Step 1. RC3 clutch needs a dust board at least 3" wide, while the RC4 clutch requires a dust board 4" or wider. Cut the dust board to the shade width. You may either paint the dust board, wrap it with fabric, or leave it bare. Staples or Hook/Loop may be used to secure fabric to wood. Lay dust board on the work table with bottom facing up.

Step 2. Cut your aluminum roller 1¼" or more shorter than your shade width.

Step 3. Insert bead chain into the clutch as shown in Fig. 4.

Note: Safety standards require a Universal Drive Tension Device for each bead chain, to reduce the chance of a child entangling in the drive bead chain loop. If you’re using bead chain by the roll and chain connector to form the chain loop, multiply the finished shade cloth length by 1.6 for RC3 and 2.2 for RC4 to determine minimum bead chain length.
Step 4. Install the brackets on the wood board according to Fig. 5, if the clutch is on the right end of the shade. If the clutch is on the left end of the shade, reverse the brackets, left and right.

Step 5. Insert the clutch and the end plug in the roller as shown in Fig. 6.

Step 6. Push the roller clutch straight onto the blade of its bracket. The bottom of the clutch should always point straight down. Lower the lug of the end plug onto the “V” of its bracket. The roller should fit in the brackets securely, with just a little free play. Rotate the riveted retainer arm to lock the lug in position (See Fig. 5 and 6).

Fabrication - Using Encased Lift Cord Shroud Tape

Step 7. 0.9 mm Encased Lift Cord Shroud Tape is recommended on this system. Cut all rows of Encased Lift Cord Tape 10" longer than the shade length. Just above the last tack on the shade, pick the lift cord out of the casing/shroud and thread it through on of the side holes in the clip. Tie the cord onto the clip. Do this for all rows of Encased Lift Cord.

Step 8. Put the roller clips on the roller. When looking down the roller, be sure all clips are aligned and every roller clip is offset alternately from its corresponding lift cord by ¾” as shown in Fig. 1. Once the clip is attached to the roller it will not slip or pop off the roller. You may insert a screw driver underneath the clip and lift it slightly for small positioning adjustments.

Step 9. Temporarily install dust board to the wall. Pull the control bead chain so that the clips are at the bottom of the roller as shown in Fig. 1. Tie the other end of each lift cord to its corresponding bottom ring. If necessary adjust the cord tension by re-tying the cord to the bottom ring or use an orb for easy leveling/adjusting. Run the shade up and down several times, and check for either too much tension or slack on the lift cords when shade is all the way down. Finally take off orb, if used, and tie off cord through the bottom ring. Trim off excess cord.

Step 10. Final installation in the window can be either inside or outside mount with angle irons.

Fabrication - Using 10” Lift Band

Step 7. Pull the Lift Band material up through the shade so that the lift bands run between the back of the shade and the fiberglass ribs. Roll the lift band around the roller from the back (next to the shade lining) to the front. Mark the area the left bands cover on the tape. Gently remove the tape cover, exposing the tape in that area only.

Step 8. Level the shade by adjusting the Lift Band until the shade is correct. Stick the Lift Band material to the exposed tape on the roller tube. Cut away any excess lift material.

Step 9. Temporarily install your dust board to the wall. Run the shade up and down several times, and check for either too much tension or slack on the lift bands when shade is all the way down. Adjust as needed by gently releasing the lift material from the tape and repositioning. Once the shade is leveled, place a piece of tape over the area of the roller where the lift material is attached to secure.