

Guide to Bespoke Lampshades

F L O R E N



Floren Bespoke Lampshades

Floren's hand-sewn silk and linen lampshades are made in England by our highly-skilled small team of artisans. Each lampshade is unique and entirely handmade using both rare vintage textiles and the finest designs sourced from suppliers around the world, including unique linens, silks and hand-blocked prints.

Our lampshades help create a wonderful ambience and sense of intimacy, blending effortlessly into their surroundings and helping to create a timeless look. The combination of tailored sizing, fine fabrics, precise pleats and an abundance of trims result in a truly bespoke product. Lampshades can be ordered online, with worldwide shipping.

There are many stages to creating these masterpieces and each lampshade can take up to 3 days to make. Firstly, the struts and ring of the lampshade frame are carefully wrapped with silk so that the steel is no longer visible. Our lampshades then have two or three layers of fabric, depending on the desired finish. The outer cover is either gathered, pleated or stretched and our seamstresses ensure attention to every detail, carefully stitching the outer fabric to the top and bottom rings, with seams barely visible. Depending on the chosen outer fabric, we occasionally add an intermediate silk lining to moderate the light. Lastly, we add the final silk lining to the inside the shade.

The finishing touch is adding a trim to the top and bottom of the lampshade. There are a number of options including self-trimming (using the same outer fabric) or pairing the outer fabric with a complimentary coloured silk trimming or braid. As an alternative to silk trims, we can also embellish our shades with fancy finishes from our extensive portfolio, such as ruche or herringbone pleats, bead or glass fringe.

We would be delighted to make a bespoke lampshade for you. Please note, pricing is dependent on the cost of the fabrics used, the size of the lampshade, the complexity of the design and the finishing required. Shades can be made gathered, pleated or stretched, to any size and with either Duplex fittings for the UK/EU or Harp/Finial fittings for our customers in the US. Please contact us to discuss your ideas and will be pleased to provide a quotation, along with a sketch so you can visualise the design of your new bespoke lampshade.

We also welcome new enquiries from the trade.

Please call Neil or Pratthana on 01202 238899 or email mail@floren.com



The Art of Lampshade Making



The frame is wrapped in a silk binding



Gathering the fabric with perfect spacing



Careful planning of the fabric cuts



Pinning the fabric to the frame



Joining the fabric by hand



Sewing the fabric onto the frame

Designing the Perfect Lampshade

Bespoke shades are usually designed to fit a particular lamp. Our custom-made lampshades can be constructed in pretty much any shape and size, from a classic empire shape, to one of our popular scalloped shades, or perhaps an elegant tapered square with scalloped corners.

Our durable steel frames are fabricated for us in a specialist workshop, allowing both our customers and designers to specify the precise size and shape to fit to the lamp for which it is designed. Every frame is carefully inspected for shape and balance, resulting in lampshades that are tight, neat and long lasting. We also make frames with brass fittings, if required. Below are some of the most popular shapes chosen by our customers. Not all styles and finishes are appropriate for every shape and we are happy to advise on what will work best.

Choosing the Right Shade

A good eye is the best thing to help determine the size and shape of a lampshade required. Typically, lampshades are selected or custom-made to work with a lamp base (lamps of course vary in shape and style). Here are some guidelines that might be of help to you.

Size

Proportion is certainly the key to choosing a lampshade that works in harmony with the lamp base. Generally, the taller the lamp, the larger the lampshade. However, one must also consider the width of the lamp base. Most importantly, the shade should be long enough to cover the socket of the lamp, so that the hardware is not visible. With shades that have a duplex fitting the height can be adjusted with a shade carrier, for US spider fittings, the harp can be changed or a riser added.

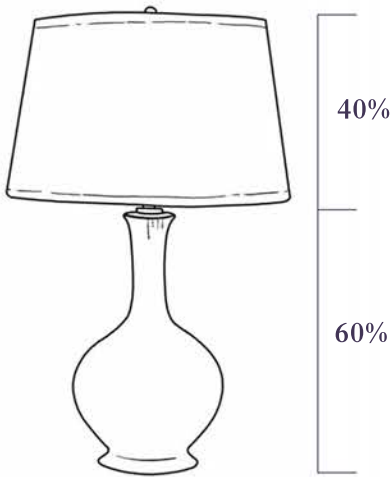
Below are some good rules of thumb for table lamps (excluding tall, thin lamps):

- Choose a lampshade with the ratio 40% shade and 60% lamp base.
- Or, the height of the lampshade should be about three-quarters the height of the base.
- The width of the lampshade should be roughly double the width of the lamp base.
- The diameter of the bottom of the shade should be roughly equal to the height of the lamp base (from the base to fitting).
- It is usually better to go for oversize, rather than undersize lampshades.
- When viewed horizontally, the bottom of the shade should be level with the bottom of the bulb socket. This will keep the shade from appearing as though it is draped over the lamp.

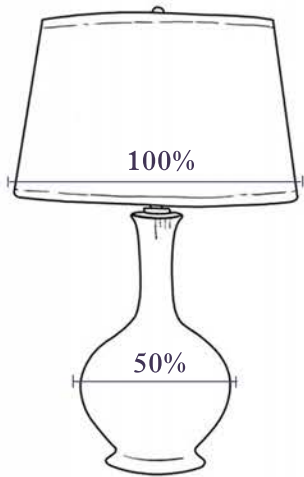


Lamp Anatomy & Lampshade Sizing

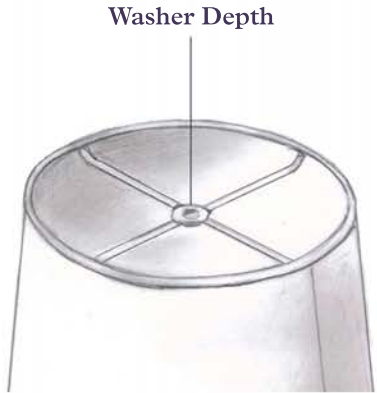
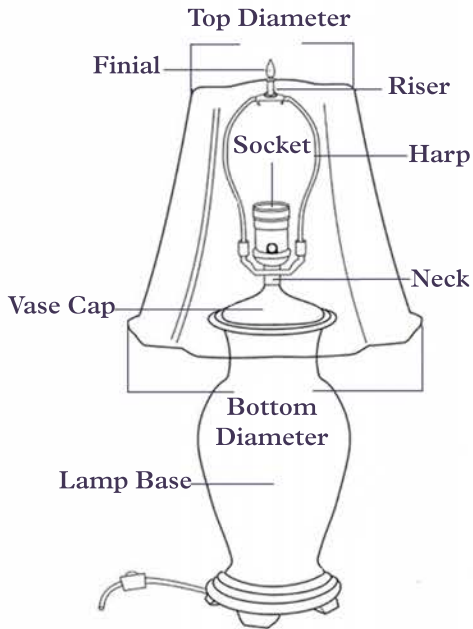
Ideal Height
Ratio: 40% Shade & 60% Base



Ideal Width
Base Width x 2 = Shade Width



When placing an order for a bespoke lampshade, we will need to know your requirements for the measurements (A-D) shown above, please.



Floren Lampshade Shapes

Once you have established the correct size of lampshade, you will need to decide on the right shape. From the classic proportions of an empire shade to the more modern drum shapes, there's a wide selection to choose from. A general rule of thumb is that you should aim to mirror the shape of the lamp base.

If the base is straight, square or rectangular, the lampshade needs to reflect the straight lines of the shape of the base. If the base is tapered or round, the lampshade should be sloping, or rounded. Column lamps are the exception to the rule as they generally suit any shape of lampshade.



Straight Empire



**Straight Empire
Scalloped Base**



**Straight Empire
Collar Top**



Bowed Empire



**Bowed Empire
Gallery Base**



**Bowed Empire
Scalloped Base**



**Bowed Empire
Scalloped Gallery**



French Drum



True Drum



Cannister Drum



Cone



Coolie



Bouillette



Oval



Bell



**Bell Double
Scalloped Base**



**Bell Double
Scalloped Gallery**



French Bell



Floren Scallop



Pagoda



Fancy Octagon



Fancy Hexagon



Tapered Square



Cut Corner Square



Waisted Rectangle



Empire Rectangle



**Cut Corner
Rectangle**



**Inverted Corner
Rectangle**

Floren Lampshade Styles

Soft-sided hand-sewn Shades

Lampshades are made using a variety of fabrics and materials including silk, silk blends, linen, cotton, burlap and paper. The key to the appearance of the lampshade and the quality of the glow it imparts to a room lies in the choice of material. Wonderful patterned designs, serene silks, and elegant vintage saris all make their individual statements. We are able to advise on which patterns, textures and colours work best and we also keep many plain silks in stock, including Habotais, Pongees and Shantung.

Please also consider the purpose of the lamp and lampshade in your space. Do you need to add light to a dark space, or perhaps a gentle softness? Or is the shade to be used to compliment the interior, or bring additional textures and colours into the scheme?

This style of lampshade is generally lined in silk and the outer fabric can be pleated or nonpleated. They work well in both traditional and contemporary settings. We offer many styles as shown below and can even combine different pleating styles on the same shade.

Gathered or Shirred Shades

Lampshades are made by loosely gathering or bunching lightweight fabric, often cotton, linen or silk. An ideal finish where there is a pattern or stripe in the fabric design.

Side Pleated or Pleat Gathered

A straight tailored crisp fold, created by doubling the fabric back on itself with the width of each pleat perfectly spaced around the entire lampshade. Perfect for making neat silk shades.

Tailored and Stretched

This type of finish is particularly neat and stylish. It is typically used with shaped lampshades (such as bowed, square, rectangle etc) with the fabric pulled tight over each panel and stitched at the top and bottom. The various sections are seamed together and sometimes a trim is added where the joins meet.



Gathered



Pleat Gathered



Knife-Pleated



Stretched Panel

Floren Lampshade Styles

With the pleated styles below, plain silks are generally used for the outer fabric, although some patterned fabrics may also be suitable.

Box Pleated

A box pleat is created when a pleat or fold is formed on both sides of the fabric, and then the ends brought together underneath the flat piece of fabric. Another fold or pleat is made at the point where the fabric meets. The remaining fabric on both sides points outward and the above process is repeated around the lampshade.

Another type of box pleat is the 'English' style of box pleat whereby a box pleat is followed by an open space of the same width, followed by another box pleat, then open space, etc. With an Open Box Pleat the pleats are adjacent to one another across the top of the lampshade, but they open up at the bottom. This type of pleat is visually better when the bottom of the lampshade is larger than the top, as with a coolie lampshade or a larger empire lampshade. Fan Pleated shades are similar to the above, the difference being that the pleated sections are reversed, creating a chevron type effect.

Smocked pleated

The technique of smocking is essentially a type of double pleating and the finished result is spectacular when lit and also beautiful with the light off. The first layer of pleating is most often a box pleat, typically a closed box pleat and occasionally an open box pleat. The second smocked layer is created when the sides of the box pleats are brought together creating a diamond like pattern in the pleating. The light coming through a smocked shade is dramatic, whether the shade is made with a full smock or smocking at the top and bottom, or just one 'pinch' in the middle. A fully smocked lampshade has pinches in the pleating near both the top and the bottom of the lampshade.

Swathed-Pleated

A lovely finish where the pleats are angled in the same direction, creating an elegant movement around the shade. Waisted frames work best and chiffon silks are often used to add to the dramatic effect.

Bespoke Finishes

Side pleats can also be applied to lampshades in very creative and wonderful ways. With our cut corner shades for example, we stretch the fabric on the main panels and then alternate with side pleats on the corners.



Box-Pleated



Fan-Pleated



Smocked-Pleated



Swathed-Pleated

Floren Lampshade Linings

Silk Linings

Floren typically use fine silks such as Habotai or Pongee to line the inside of our lampshades. They offer wonderful translucency and a rosy warmth of illumination. By controlling the amount of light that passes through the lampshade, we can offer different illuminating effects.

An antique gold habotai, or pale pink pongee silk allow the shade to give off a warm glow when lit. More opaque lampshades direct light from the top and bottom of the shade and is often used to create dramatic mood lighting. The silks we select for the linings are also dependent on the thickness of the outer fabric and be either gathered or stretched to create the desired look.

Habotai Silk

A lightweight, shimmering silk that was once used for making silk Kimono. It is semi-sheer and is perfect for lining shades, especially when a soft ambient glow is required.

Pongee Silk

The finest, tightly woven silks which are noted for their smoothness and delicacy, including high-grade Honan silk. Antique gold, oyster and porcelain are colours that we frequently use.

Shantung Silk

A fine silk noted for its slubs, or threads of varied thickness. When illuminated, the variegated textures are particularly stunning.

Dupion Silk

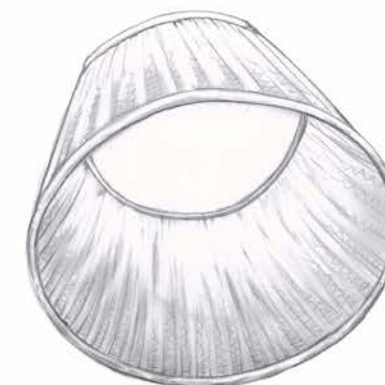
A plain weave, tightly-woven medium weight silk. It is similar to Shantung, but slightly thicker, heavier and with more texture. Dupion is often woven with differing colours of threads scattered through the warp and weft. This technique gives the fabric an iridescent effect, similar to but not as pronounced as shot silk taffeta.

Crepe Backed Satin Silk

Crepe back satin silk is a reversible fabric and is made using a satin weave and features a satin face and a crepe back. The front of the fabric is smooth and lustrous, whereas the back is slightly ribbed and pebbly.



Stretched Fabric Lining



Gathered Fabric Lining



Types of Lampshade Fittings

You can specify the type of fitting required for your lamp base or ceiling light. Below are some of the most popular options:

Duplex

Used with a shade carrier. Shade carriers come in various heights and with either a 42mm (ES) washer or a 28mm (BC) washer.

Finial

This fitting is used with US harps or a finial rod system. The fitting on the lampshade is often set straight across or dropped down slightly on the lampshade. Please stipulate how high you would like the 10mm washer to be set.

Fixed Gimble

Wired from the top, these fittings sit on top of the lamp base socket. A threaded ring (supplied with your lamp base) screws on top of the washer to keep the fixed gimble fitting in place. Washers can be 42mm (ES), 28mm (BC or SES) or 20mm (SBC). Please stipulate how high you would like the washer to be set.

Base Fitting

The same principle as a fixed gimble, but wired from the bottom. Washers can be 42mm (ES), 28mm (BC or SES) or 20mm (SBC). Please stipulate how high you would like the washer to be set.

Top Fitting / Ceiling Pendant

As fixed gimble and base fitting, but wired at the top. Washers can be 42mm (ES), 28mm (BC or SES) or 20mm (SBC). Please stipulate how low you would like the washer to be set.

UNO

Typically used in the US, these fittings sit directly inside a specialised light bulb socket, secured by a threaded ring held in place by the light bulb. They require no additional parts to attach light to shade. A threaded ring attaches around the light bulb base, either facing upwards or downwards. If your lampshade is for a ceiling light, the threaded ring and spokes will be situated at the top of the shade and if it's for a table lamp, they will be on the bottom. * Euro or European fitters (ES) are 4.2cm or 1 9/16" in diameter, whereas UNO fitter lampshades have a smaller inner fitting and should measure 3.2cm or 1.25" in diameter.

Candle Clip Fitting

Can be set straight across the top or dropped down as required.

Duplex



Finial



Base Fitting



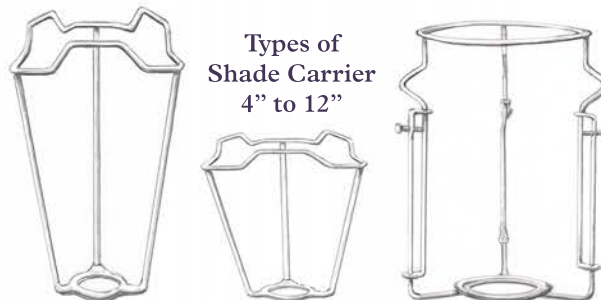
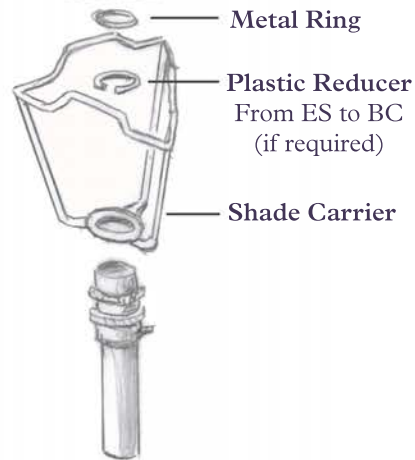
Duplex Lampshade Fittings

Duplex Fitting

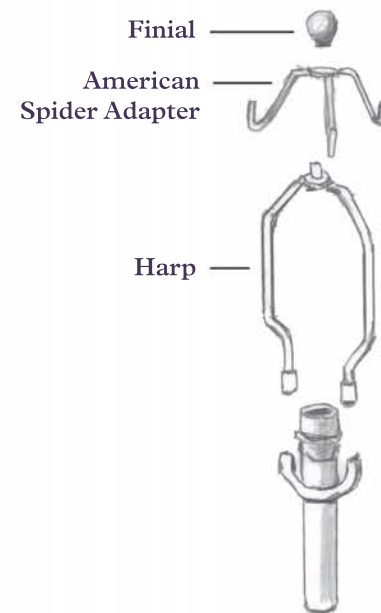


14" shades or larger
Duplex fittings used for table or floor lamps. Height of shade can be adjusted with shade carrier (UK/EU) or Spider Adapter (US)

Duplex Fitting (UK/EU) Use Shade Carrier



Duplex Fitting (US) Use American Spider Adapter



American Spider Adapters

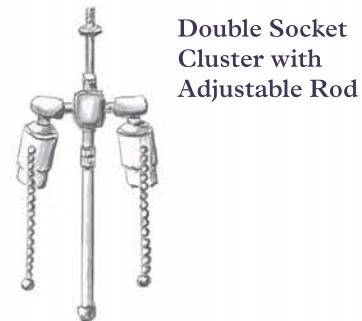


Finial Fittings

Finial Fitting



Mainly used in the US
The shade sits on top of a harp or adjustable rod lamp fitting. Finial screws on and keeps everything in place.



Types of Finials



UNO Shade Ring Adapter



Finial
To Tighten Shade on to Harp

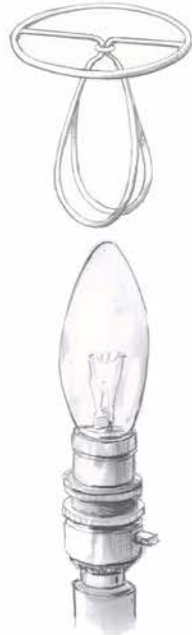


UNO Adapter
E27 Threaded Hole
(1.65 Inch Hole)



Other Lampshade Fittings

Candle Clip Fitting



7" shades or smaller
Often used for wall lights or chandeliers. The fitting clips directly onto the lightbulb.

Fixed Gimble Fitting



12" shades or smaller
Often used for table lamps or floor lamps

SBC, BC or ES Washer

Base Fitting



12" shades or smaller
Often used for table lamps or floor lamps

SBC, BC or ES Washer

Top Fitting



Pendant
Often used for table lamps or floor lamps

SBC, BC or ES Washer



Finial (US Fitting)
10mm Internal Diameter



SES (Small Edison Screw) BC (Bayonet Cap) or British Standard
28mm Internal Diameter



SBC (Small Bayonet Cap)
20mm Internal Diameter



ES (Edison Screw / European Standard)
42mm Internal Diameter

These washers surround the bulb holder and are part of the gimble fitting.

Please specify the size required. ES washers can be used in the US with a Shade Ring Adapter.

Placing an Order for a Bespoke Lampshade

Outer Fabrics

Floren carefully select the most stunning linen and cotton fabrics from the world's top design houses, such as Fortuny, Arjumand, Robert Kime, Sibyl Colefax & Fowler and many others. Our archive vintage fabrics have softened beautifully over time and include cotton & silk saris and a wonderful array of patterns such as ikats, florals and paisleys. We also stock a large selection of the finest silks used to dramatic effect, from makers such as Tassinari & Chatel and Rubelli. Silks are often chosen by our customers and can be used with any shape, pleating style and trim combination. There is a multitude of colours to choose from - anything from bright hues to subtle bisque or ivory shades. Our specialty finishes (herringbones, ruffles, ruches and fringes) work particularly well with silk.

For bespoke shades, we will need to know the following measurements and are happy to advise on what will work best:

- A. Top diameter
- B. Bottom diameter
- C. Length of slope (or slant)
- D. Vertical Height
- E. Depth of duplex or washer (spider) fitting, or position of the ring

Customers Own Material

We are delighted to use fabrics and trims supplied by our customers. We have accounts with the leading fabric companies and can order the fabric you specify, generally giving you a cost saving. If your material has a pattern or requires symmetry, we can recommend pleating styles and place the designs/seams to create the effect you require. To determine how much fabric is required, please refer to the following calculations: (More fabric is required for Ikats & Saris due to the fabric width).

Amount of Material Required (for pleated shades)

Bottom Diameter	Material Required
6-9" / 15-23cm	1.5 yards / 1.25 metres
10-14" / 25-35cm	2 yards / 1.75 metres
15-18" / 38-45cm	2.5 yards / 2 metres
19-22" / 48-55cm	3 yards / 2.5 metres
24" / 61cm	3.5 yards / 3 metres

Bespoke Finishes

Side pleats can also be applied to lampshades in very creative and wonderful ways. With our cut corner shades for example, we stretch the fabric on the main panels and then alternate with side pleats on the corners.



Lampshade Trimmings

Trims

Our hand-sewn soft lampshades are trimmed at the top and bottom. For a clean, classic look we recommend using the shade fabric to create a binding called a self-trim (self-fold). Another option is to use a self-trim on the top of the lampshade and more decorative trim at the bottom. With our more contemporary laminated shades we often roll the fabrics over the edges so that they are seamless.

Alternatively, a bespoke trim adds the finishing touch to a fine lampshade. Whether paired with a simple silk ribbon, a contrasting fabric or cord, a braid or a fringe, the trim ties together the decorative elements. We source trimmings from the leading passementerie purveyors including Samuel & Sons, Houles, VV Rouleux, Haywood Trimmings, Brian Turner Trimmings, Turnell & Gigon and Colefax & Fowler.

With thousands of different types of cords and ribbons and a myriad of colors, Floren can help you decide on the perfect trim for your lampshade. We are happy to send you samples for your approval.

Amount of Trim Required

To calculate the amount of trim required, please use the formula below. If trim is to be applied to both the top and bottom of the shade then please measure both the top and bottom diameters.

Metres needed = diameter (cm) x 3.5 / 100

Yards needed = diameter (inches) x 3.5 / 36



Hardback Lampshades

Hardback shades

These lampshades are made by laminating a fabric onto a PVC liner. The laminated fabric is attached to both the top and bottom rings of the frame and then glued on one or more sides, forming the seam. The inner PVC liner can be translucent or opaque, and colours include white, gold, silver, champagne and copper. The outer fabric can be linen, silk, satin, muslin, burlap or one of many different types of parchments or paper.

Hardback shades are generally non-pleated and work well in more contemporary and modern settings, giving a clean-lined look. One of the attractions of a hardback lampshade is that when the lampshade is lit, the surface is smooth and the struts of the frame are not visible. Edges on the top and bottom of the laminated shade can be either traditional folds with or without trims, or the fabric can be rolled over the edges so there is no fold at all.



Rubelli Silk Fabric
with Beautiful Gimp Braid



Tessitura Luigi Bevilacqua
Fabric from Venice



Lightbulbs

Choosing the Best Lightbulbs

Your new lampshade will look even better when lit with the best bulb. Floren favour using LED lightbulbs from reputable makers such as Osram and Philips. LED bulbs offer significant energy savings, lower heat generation and a warm white light.

To further enhance the glow of your lampshade, dimmable bulbs allow you to control the light source and gold bulbs bring out the best in the silk lampshade lining.

With soft-shades, care should be taken to choose the right lightbulb in order to reduce heat generation. Generally, the smaller the lampshade the lower the bulb wattage (e.g. 25-40w or 4-5.5w LED).

Larger shades, with a distance to the lining fabric of over 7cm can take bulbs with a wattage of 50w or 60w (7-8w LED).



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