

# February, 2021

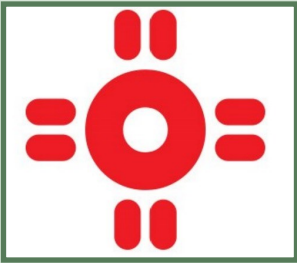
## THE KMA SPEC

Architectural Products & Furnishings  
www.kma.bz



The All About Shades Edition!

Bringing you up to date on KMA's unique architectural product collection!



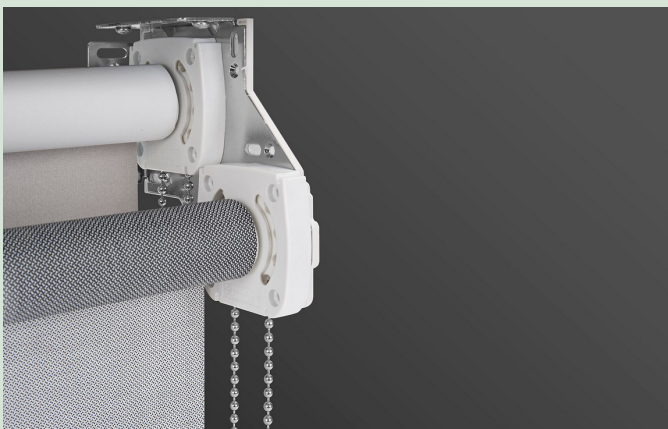
Hi there! KMA & Associates believes that all great projects start with good, solid specifications. But let's face it, some products just seem to be more complicated than others. In our effort to make specifying roller shades easier, we bring you this newsletter where we will take a step-by-step approach through the process of specifying that "just right" roller shade for your next project. **Let's start with looking at manually operated shades from Mecho!**

**STEP 1 - Choose a Bracket.** Mecho offers three bracket types. **#1 - The Urban bracket.** This is a smaller profile bracket. It's ideal for residential or light commercial applications, providing a 10 year warranty. When to choose? Urbanshade is great on windows approximately 8'x8' or less and when budget is sensitive. **# 2 - The Mecho 5 bracket.** The Mecho 5 bracket is the original and most specified Mecho bracket providing a 25 year warranty. Mecho 5 can handle windows up to roughly 10'x10' and offers more durability and low maintenance features. Great in most any commercial environment. **# 3 - Mecho 5X** - Mecho's newest bracket option, Mecho 5X, is a true innovation in manually operated shades. It's the ideal bracket for raising large sized and multi-band shades. It operates smoothly and with only 8 lbs of lift force. It's wonderful for assisted living and suitable for ADA requirements. Plus, the 5X bracket comes with Mecho's 25 year warranty. Mecho 5X can easily handle up to 260" wide shades you would otherwise have to specify for motorization! Wow-ee, that's a big shade!



**Above:** the Mecho 5 bracket has a self-lubricating hub which means low-maintenance for your client!

**Pull Chains** can be specified either on the right side or left side of the roller.



**Above:** The "Urban" bracket for a double shade! This bracket will allow you to have a both a blackout shade-cloth for nighttime privacy against the window glass, and also a solar shade-cloth for daytime views. This is a great choice for hospitality projects and light commercial!

**Right:** Cleanability has never been more important! Mecho offers the EcoVeil shade-cloth collections which may be cleaned and disinfected with the following solutions:

- Chlorine based
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Hydrogen Peroxide-peracetic acid combo
- Phenolic-based
- Quaternary amonium compounds.

Note: Hydrogen Peroxide meets the EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

### STEP 2 - Locate Construction Details.

A. Visit [www.mechoshade.com](http://www.mechoshade.com). B. Under the "Resources" tab, choose "Construction Drawings". C. Choose "Mechoshade, (Manual)". D. Select either "Single Shade" or "Double Shade". E. Select if you would like either "Shades above ceiling", or "Shades below ceiling". (Note: For shades below ceiling, you may wish to also specify a fascia and / or end caps.) F. Select your choice of "bracket" from Step 1. G. Download your appropriate construction drawing in either a pdf or CAD.

**STEP 3 - Selecting Your Shade-cloth.** This is where several things should be considered. Mecho offers both solar shade-cloth and blackout shade-cloth.

Solar shade-cloth is available in a variety of different opacity levels ranging from 1% to 10% depending on the amount of daylight you wish to admit from the window. A solar shade-cloth will permit views to the outdoors while minimizing glare. A blackout shade-cloth will assure 100% privacy and darken your interior.

On the Mechoshade website, you can view and understand all things shade-cloth on the "Swatches" tab. Here you may order shade-cloth swatches and download each shade-cloth's certifications, cleaning instructions, and more.

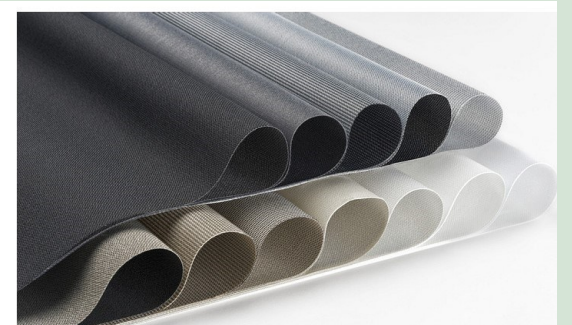
**Here's some tips:** The darker the color of shade-cloth, the easier it is to see the outdoor view! Go dark to maximize a nice outdoor view. Go light to minimize an un-desirable view.

Consider if your space is "Transient" or "Sedentary". Transient spaces are where people are continuously moving through. These spaces can tolerate more daylight penetration where the occupants will not likely be too annoyed by glare. For sedentary spaces, the occupants will benefit from a darker shade-cloth and reduced open-ness to prevent disturbing glare.



**EcoVeil Screens**  
0950, 1550, and 1350 Series

A Cradle-to-Cradle CertifiedCM, basket weave shade cloth with three density options making it a sustainable solution for solar protection



**EcoVeil Sheer**  
6850 and 6750 Series

Inherently flame-retardant shade cloth that is ideal for educational, residential, healthcare, and other health-focused spaces

## It's the Details that Count!

On the Mechoshade website, you'll find a construction detail for just about any type of shade application. Click the "Resources" tab and you're on your way.



## Shade-y Conversations!

Let's elevate your confidence in specifying roller shades by reviewing some terminology.

**Multi-Banded** - a single drive bracket that raises and lowers multiple shades side-by-side.

**Regular Roll** - a shade that un-winds from the shade tube towards the glass. (Think: Mullet hairstyle!)

**Reverse Roll** - a shade that un-winds on the side away from the glass. (Bangs over the forehead!)

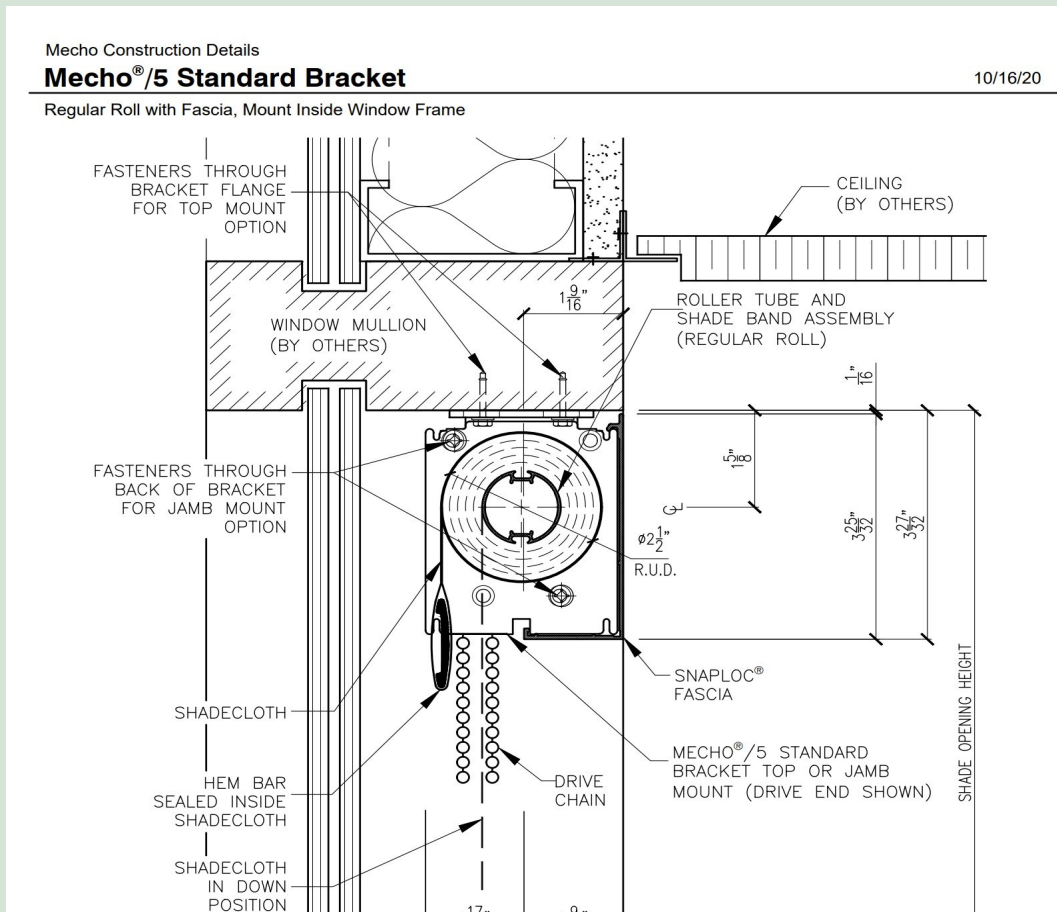
**Double Shade** - two rollers within one bracket. (See photo on page 1.) One roller is for black-out, the other for solar.

**Snap Lock Spline** - Mecho roller tubes have a spline embedded so that the shadecloth "locks in". This is for ease of replacement of a shadecloth should there ever be a need. *Pssst:* Beware! Some other mfgs use tape to apply the shadecloth to the tube. Not good for the long term! Take our word for it!

**Black-Out Channel** - Optional side channels for blocking out light gaps between the shadecloth and the sides of the window.

**Railroading**: - The shadecloth is used at a 90 degree angle from the bolt. Railroading will be implemented during manufacturing if your choice of shadecloth is not available in the width required to make your shade.

**Visual Light Transmittance (Tv)** - The amount of light in the visible portion of the solar spectrum that passes through the shadecloth. The higher the Tv, the more visible light will pass through the material.



## How Shadecloth Yarns Affects Light Transmittance.

When making your final selection of shadecloth, consider the type of yarn that makes up the composition of the shadecloth as this will influence the amount of light transmittance through the window.

Don't rely on open-ness alone when considering a shadecloth!

Example: An opaque yarn such as a vinyl coated polyester or a thermoplastic olefin will only allow light transmittance from the open-area of the shade.

On the other hand, a shadecloth with translucent yarns such as filament polyester will allow light transmittance from both the yarn itself and the open space combined. (See illustration at right.) So even with the same openness factor between two different yarns, the performance of your shadecloths will be different!

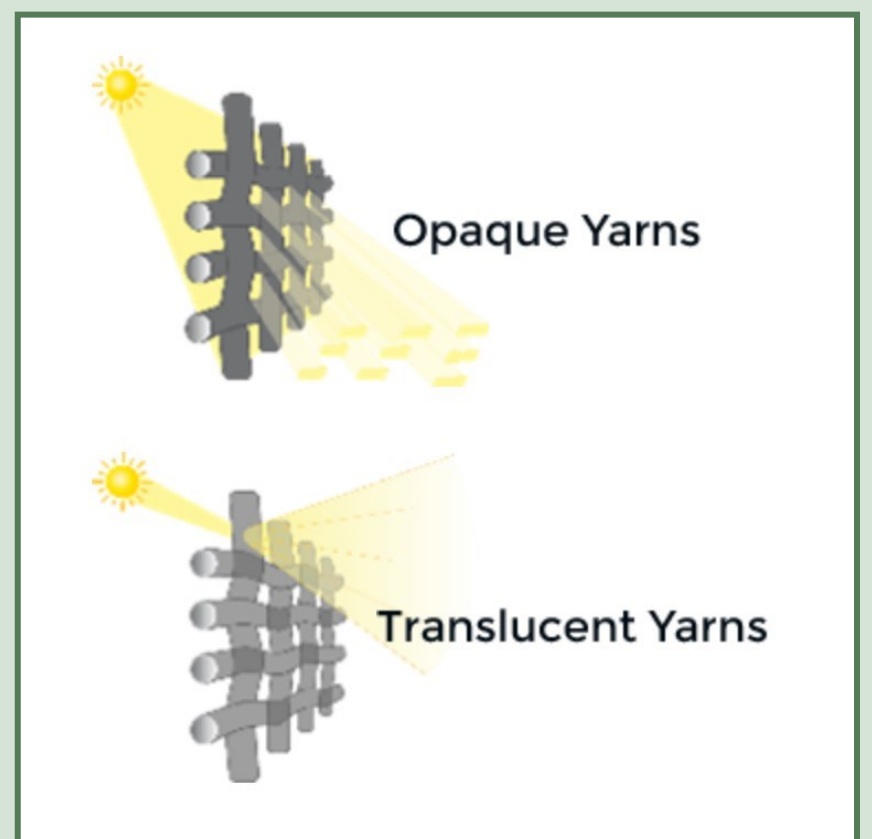
**Below:** You'll may also find these tools helpful when specifying Mechoshade.

RESOURCES > SPECIFICATIONS

# Specifications

**ARCAT**  
[View complete specifications on ARCAT](#)

**BSD SpecLink**  
Also available on BSD-Spec.



KMA & Associates strives to be your # 1 resource when it comes to specifying roller shades. In upcoming newsletters we will be discussing motorized and automated shades. Please reach out if we can assist with your next project.

**KMA & Associates**

\*\*\*Please check out our website at [www.kma.bz](http://www.kma.bz) and like us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **LinkedIn** to see all the latest and greatest news from KMA!\*\*\*