

Upholstery

Materials

- Upholstery fabric
- Batting/flexible foam
- Upholstery tacks, 13 mm
- Curved needle, fine gauge
- Scissors
- Awl
- Tack claw
- Staple gun
- Upholstery thread
- Pins
- Tailor's chalk
- Tape measure
- Pliers



BEFORE



AFTER

FREE
DIY

Upholstery techniques:

Technique for covering a flat surface:



To upholster a flat surface, cut fabric with approx. 5 cm seam allowance. Use a stapler or tack the fabric into place. Start by anchoring the fabric at the centre of one side. Then anchor the opposite side. Anchor the fabric crosswise, as shown above, until about 10 cm from each corner, the fabric should be taut.

Technique for covering a corner:



At the corners, pull the fabric towards the back and fold tightly around the corner. Then staple or tack into place. Trim off excess fabric around the edge to give a good finish. To upholster a surface with a deep seat/edge, fold a 90° angle (see step 13) around the corner to give a good finish. To upholster a surface with a deep seat/edge, fold at a 90° angle (see step 13).

Blind stitching technique:



Here is an illustration of the blind stitching. After each stitch, drag the thread across the sewing to tighten the stitching. The stitches then become invisible. When you drag the thread across, you can also see where to make the next stitch. Weave the thread in firmly to finish.



1. To remove the original fabric from your furniture, use a tack claw.



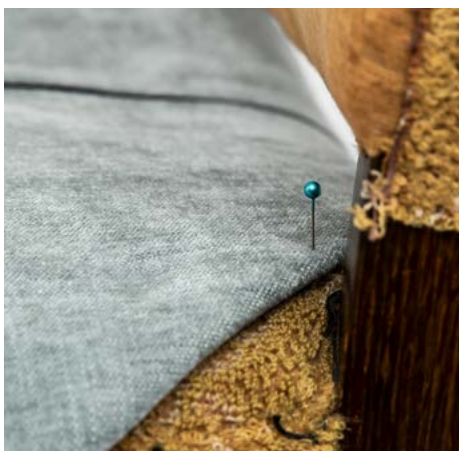
2. Remove all the staples. To remove any old stitching, use a seam ripper.



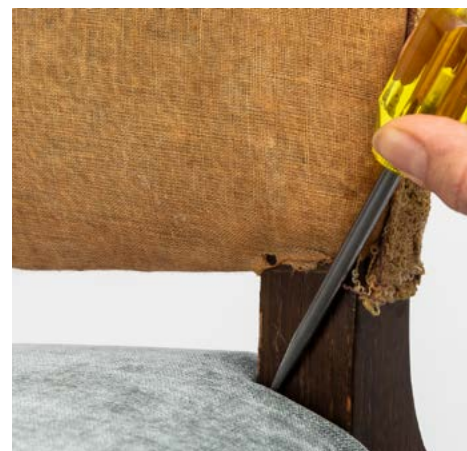
3. Place batting/flexible foam under the fabric for better seating comfort. It should extend slightly beyond the seat surface. For the new fabric, measure the seat width, length and height (if any) + 5 cm seam allowance on all edges.



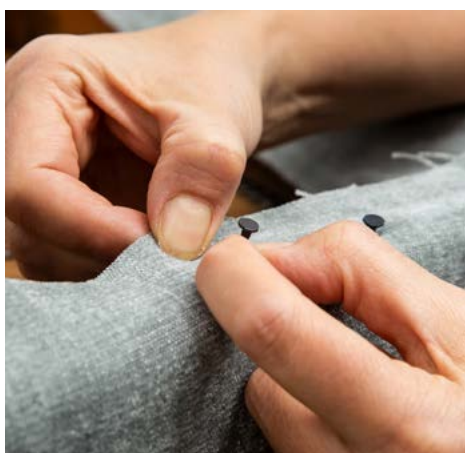
4. If using pile fabric (e.g. velvet, chenille), draw an arrow on the right side to indicate the direction of the nap. The nap should face the front edge of the seat to avoid seating marks.



5. Place the fabric over the seat. Adjust between the two legs. Use pins or tacks to anchor the fabric. Carefully snip the fabric to fit around the chair leg.



6. Make a fold in the fabric. Use an awl to ease the fabric into place. It should be smooth along the chair leg. Repeat on the other side.



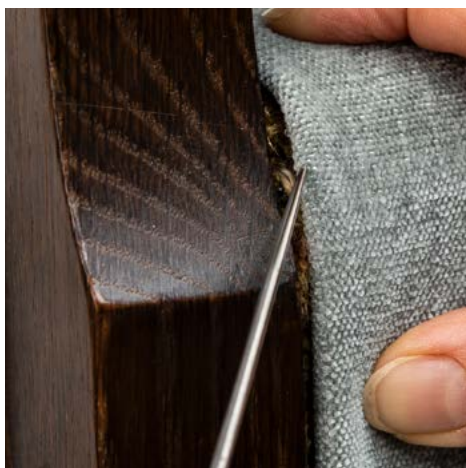
7. Use staples or upholstery tacks underneath the seat, as shown on the first page of general techniques. Start on one side, pull the fabric taut and then staple/tack on the other side. Repeat on the remaining sides.



8. Upholstery tacks are a good idea, especially in large projects. Use tacks to anchor the fabric before you use the staple gun. Once you have stapled, remove the tacks with pliers.



9. Make a fold around the chair leg. Pull the fabric taut and tap in upholstery tacks to keep the fabric in place. Do not tap the upholstery tacks all the way in. Remove them after you have stapled.



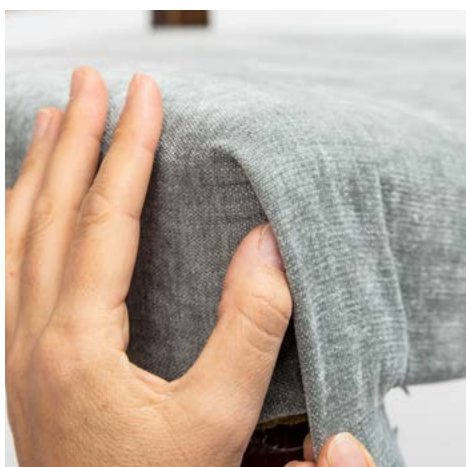
10. Use an awl or upholstery needle to coax edges into place.



11. If necessary, staple at the rear corners



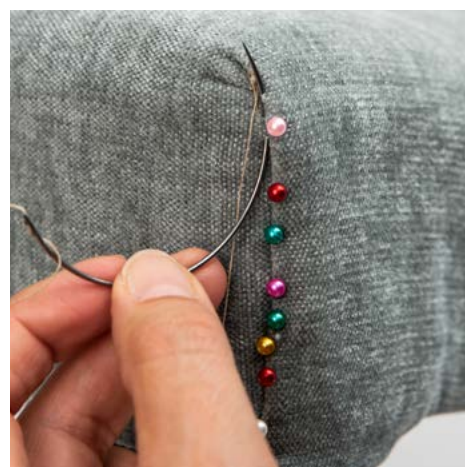
12. Snip the fabric at the corners. Carefully snip away a triangle of excess fabric.



13. Fold and pull the fabric tight. A 90° fold is shown here.



14. Use tacks to anchor the fabric. Fold the fabric underneath. It should be taut with no visible selvages. Repeat on the other side.



15. Thread a curved needle with strong furniture thread. Tie a knot at one end. Use blind stitching. This technique is shown on the first page with general tips.



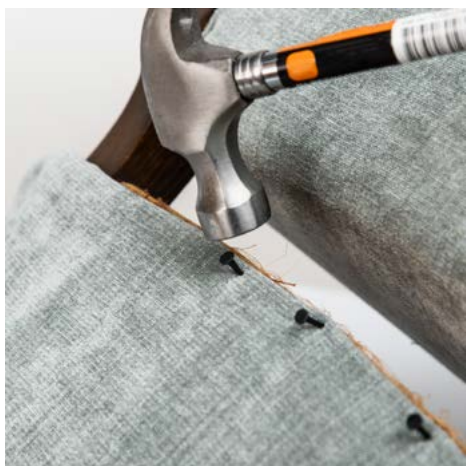
16. Blind stitching using a curved needle.



18. Measure the height and width of the backrest + 5 cm for turning.



19. Start by upholstering the back of the backrest. The front covers the staples. Turn the nap to face downwards.



20. Anchor the fabric at the bottom of the back of the backrest with upholstery tacks. Remove the tacks before mounting the front.



21. Follow the technique from the first page (technique for covering a flat surface).



22. Fold and pull the fabric tight. A 90° fold is shown here.



23. Trim off the excess fabric.



24. For the front, lay the fabric with the nap facing down towards the seat. Add about 3 cm for turnings. Adjust to fit between the two legs. Anchor the fabric with pins. If necessary, draw with tailor's chalk. Snip carefully.



25. Fold the fabric, anchoring it with needles on all sides to approx. 10 cm from the corners - as shown on the first page, how to upholster a flat surface.



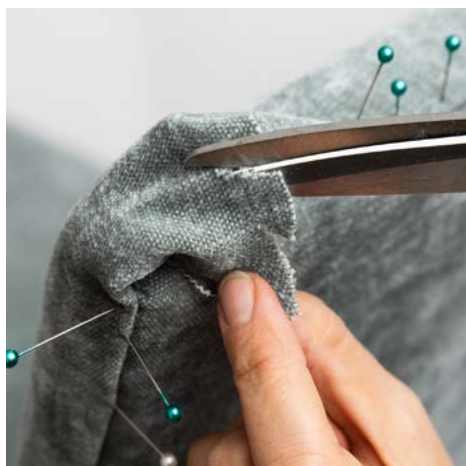
26. Fold and pull the fabric tight. Shown here: a fold that conceals the fabric edge.



27. Use pins or upholstery tacks.



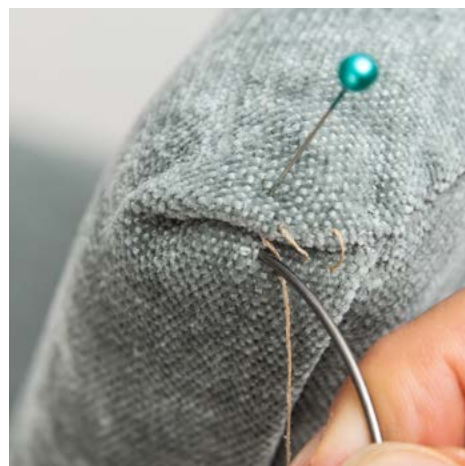
28. Remove the tacks at the bottom of the backrest. Anchor with pins.



29. Carefully cut off a triangular snip of excess fabric. Anchor with pins.



30. Fold and pull the fabric tight. A 90° fold is shown here.



31. Sew all the seams with blind stitching, removing the pins as you work.



32. Weave threads in firmly at seam ends.