

Upholstering an Accent Chair in Two Pieces with Button Details

Any chair can go from drab to fab with a few basic upholstery techniques. See how we've transformed a flea-market find and created an entryway show stopper with updated fabric, button details and renovated webbing and batting on the inside.



Upholstering an Accent Chair in Two Pieces with Button Details: Step-By-Step Instructions

This how-to guide covers the steps to re-upholster an Accent Chair. It will not cover steps for tear-down – for those steps please see our webinar “Upholstering an Accent Chair in Two Pieces with Button Details”.

Our project turned out to be a “first” in that the seat needed to be completely removed from the back in order to complete tear-down and re-upholstery. You may or may not run across this type of frame.

Materials & Supplies

Rowley Products

- Utility Scissors / Shears
- Straight Edge Ruler - 72"
- Upholstery Marking Chalk
- Pen Style Chalk Marker
- Jute Webbing
- Upholstery Jute Stretcher
- Spray Adhesive
- R-TEX Polyester Welt Cord - ¼"
- Cardboard Tack Strip
- Flexible Metal Tack Strip
- Upholstery Regulator
- White Rubber Mallet
- R-TEC Upholstery Air Stapler
- 71 Series Staples - ⅜"
- Denim Deck Cover
- R-TEX Black Cambric
- Polyester Batting
- Glass Head Straight Pins
- Crimp Button Forms - #36
- Cutter and Setter for Crimp Buttons - #36
- Grommet / Button Press
- Crimp Button Setter Adapter
- Extra Long Mattress Needle
- Curved Needle
- A&E Upholstery Thread

SKU

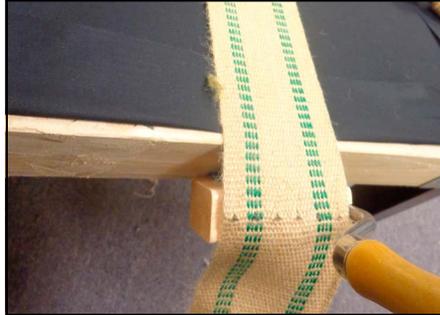
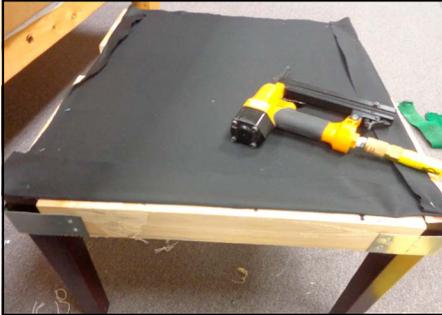
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Other Materials Needed:

- Needle-Nosed Pliers

Preparing the Seat:

- 1 Cover the seat opening with a layer of Cambric or Decking, stretched tight.
- 2 Stretch webbing front to back, stapling and then folding over the ends to staple again.
 - A. Be sure all webbing sits inside of the frame.
- 3 Stretch webbing side to side, weaving through the front to back layers, stapling to secure.
- 4 Fold back ends and staple again.



- 5 Replace foam on seat, stapling sparingly (or spray-glue).
- 6 Cover the Foam with a layer of Batting.
 - A. Be sure the batting covers the sides but does not cover any of the area where the seat needs to be joined to the back.
 - B. If the corners seem too curved, add a bit of batting to the corners, under the large piece of batting.
- 7 Staple to secure to the frame and then trim away any excess batting.



Covering the Seat:

- 1 Lay the seat fabric face down over the batting, aligning side to side and front to back.
- 2 Pin in place.
- 3 At each front corner, pull to tighten and pin, running pins up the frame leg.



4 Remove from frame and take to machine.

5 Sew on pinned line, curving the top of the seam by ½".



6 Cut away excess fabric in fold and clip seam allowance at folded corner.



7 Pull onto frame and staple.
A. The back of the seat will top-staple to the frame.
B. The rest of the seat will pull around to the bottom and be stapled.

8 Cut an angled cut for each leg, tuck under tab and staple.



Covering the Inside Back:

- 1 Over the foam with a layer of batting, being sure to cover all areas.
- 2 Poke through the batting to expose the button holes.
- 3 Staple to frame and cut away excess.

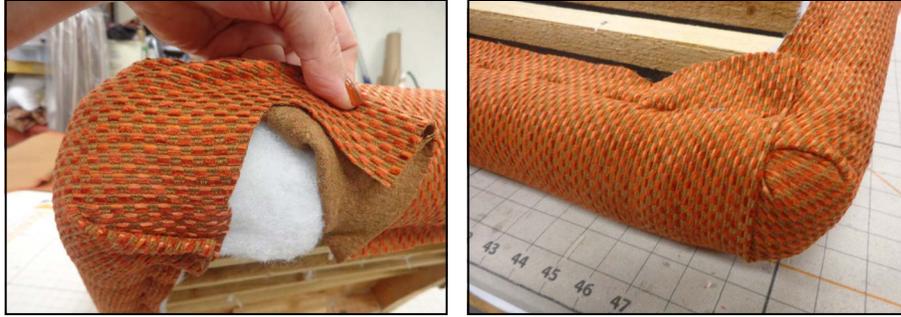


- 4 Staple fabric to the top back and flip over inside back area.
- 5 Staple at the bottom.



- 6 Staple sides, leaving top pleats for last.
- 7 At the leg area, cut small clips to get fabric to rest flat; trim away excess.

- 8 Pleat the top corners, cutting out excess bulk in the final fold.



Covering the Inside Arm:

- 1 Place IA fabric on arm with an inch or so tucked to the front.
- 2 Using a chalk marker, trace curve of arm, moving fabric as you mark to follow the curve.
- 3 Cut 1" above line, following the curve.
- 4 Clip the curve to the chalk line.
- 5 Dry-fit to chair and adjust if needed.



- 6 To cut the other side, place cut piece right sides together with second side, cut along cut line and then make curved cut lines.



- 7 Make welt.
8 Sew on a piece of welt to the chalk line on each IA piece.
9 Fit to chair and staple in place.
10 Make front folds / pleats and staple.



**If your chair needed to come apart to upholster, now is the time to put it back together!

Covering the Outside Arm:

- 1 Staple on a row of welt cord, running along the frame wood.
2 Cut out welt from casing at the start and stop locations.
3 Measuring for the same height placement, complete other side of chair.



4 Staple on a row of Flexible Metal tack Strip, tucking the staple side tight to the seam of the welt cord, stopping and starting short of the start and stop point of the welt cord.

5 Finger close the Tack Strip 1/2 way.

6 Add a layer of batting, keeping all batting within the tack strip.



7 Lay fabric over batting, aligning and adjusting as needed.

8 Staple back and bottom to keep location secure.



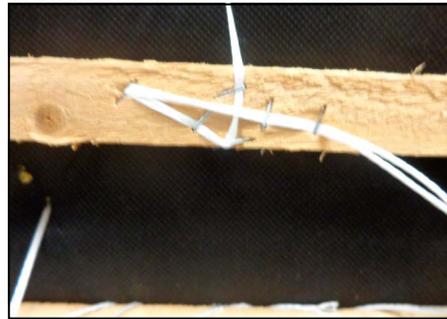
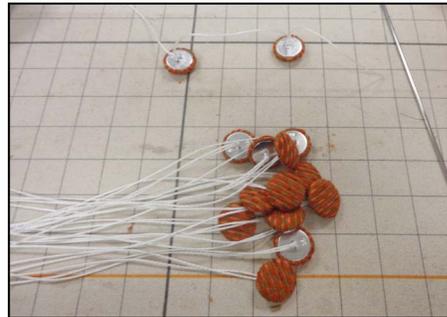
9 Place fabric into teeth of tack strip.

- A. Cut a small area (3" - 4" at a time) to the outside of the welt cord.
- B. Using a regulator, tuck allowance into teeth and finger close.
- C. Continue to work in small sections until OA is complete.
- D. Once everything is where you want it, hammer the teeth closed with a rubber mallet.



Adding Buttons:

- 1 Make enough buttons to complete button pattern on IB.
- 2 Tie each button to a length of twine.
- 3 Load a button into a long needle.
- 4 Pull buttons through holes.
 - A. If you are adding buttons to a chair that did not have buttons, measure and mark button placement first.
- 5 Pushing from the front, set button depth.
- 6 Staple twine to the back of the chair in a zig-zag pattern.



Covering the OB:

- 1 Close the hole with a layer of decking, burlap or Cambric.
- 2 Staple on a row of welt cord running up one side, across the back and down the other side.
- 3 Cut away cord just short of the bottom stop points and staple casing to the bottom of the chair.
- 4 Staple on a row of Flexible metal tack Strip to each side, stopping and starting short of the frame.
- 5 Finger close 1/2 way.



6 Position fabric so it is face down and just rests over the top of the chair.

7 Using cardboard tack strip, staple on fabric along the straight top edge, starting and stopping short of the corners.



8 Add a layer of batting keeping it within the teeth of the tack strip.

9 Pull fabric up and staple on bottom of frame.



10 Complete sides following the above steps for Flexible Metal Tack Strip.

11 At the very bottom, cut around legs and complete stapling.

12 Tuck in the corners to match the line of the welt.

13 Hand close corners.



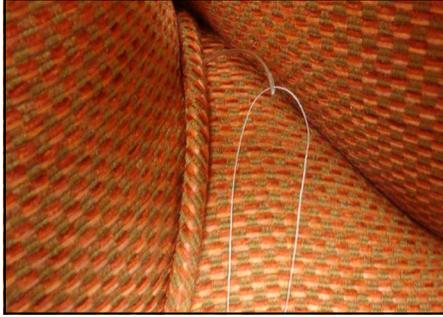
Finishing the chair:

1 Staple on a row of welt to the bottom of the chair, making the join in the back and cutting away for the legs.

2 At the corners, hand tack welt to chair fabric.

3 On the IA area, hand sew welt to arm, hiding all stitches in the welt seam.

4 Stretch and staple on a layer of Cambric to the very bottom of the frame.



**As always, be sure to steam your newly upholstered piece prior to delivery to help fill crevices and plump up the foam.

