

Upholstering a Parson's Chair with Nailhead Details and a Tailored Kick Pleat Skirt

From the dining room to the office, the transitional Parson's Chair can find its home just about anywhere. The upholstered Parson's chair from our Decorative Traverse Roomscape features a custom design detail on the outside back using decorative metal nailheads and a tailored, kick pleat skirt with a pop of color.



Upholstering a Parson's Chair with Nailhead Details and a Tailored Kick Pleat Skirt: Step-By-Step Instructions

Follow along as we disassemble this chair in two pieces to complete full upholstery fabrication, including reassembling the frame and bonus tips for a complex chair project.

Materials & Supplies

Rowley Products

Staple Puller Plier
 Magnetic Tack Hammer
 Utility Scissors/Shears, 8"
 Locking Hex Key Set, Metric
 Tape Measure, 120" Flat
 Spray Adhesive
 Polyester Batting
 R-TEC Upholstery Air Stapler
 71 Series Staples - 3/8", 1/2"
 Cardboard Tack Strip - 1/2"
 Upholstery Nail Template
 Upholstery Nails, Multi Facet, 7/16"
 Upholstery Nail Lock with Cap
 Flexible Metal Tack Strip
 Upholstery Regulator
 Double Nylon Head Hammer
 Side Cutter
 Upholstery Pins
 R-TEX Black Cambric
 Curved Needles
 A&E Upholstery Thread
 Cambridge Napped Sateen Lining
 Skirtex Stiffener
 Double Face Adhesive Tape - 1/2"
 R-TEX Medium Welt Cord - 1/4"

SKU

[MH41](#)
[MH12](#)
[CU8/U](#)
[DT08](#)
[DT8](#)
[AS30](#)
[PF76](#)
[NSG10](#)
[NS33/E, NS34/E](#)
[CS50](#)
[UN98](#)
[UN60/BN](#)
[UN11/B](#)
[CS60/M](#)
[MH34](#)
[MH16](#)
[MH18](#)
[TP32](#)
[PA40/](#)
[TP75](#)
[TU6K/](#)
[LNW48/](#)
[SKX55/](#)
[DF50](#)
[WC12](#)

Other Materials Used:

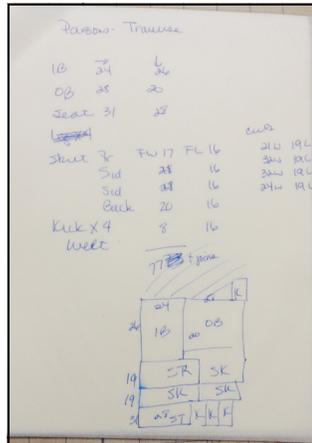
Acrylic Paint
 Needle Nose Pliers

Tearing Down the Chair:

- 1 Measure the chair for new fabric.
- 2 Remove all old Cambric, fabric and padding.
- 3 Inspect padding for age to see if you can use it again or will need to replace it altogether.
- 4 Pay attention to how the chair was upholstered.
- 5 Take photos as you go.
- 6 Remember to leave all assembly holes uncovered.

Making Your Cut Plan:

- 1 From your measurements, plot the pieces as best you can to stay within the width of your fabric.
- 2 Be sure to keep “ups” up and the “side to side” measurements running side to side.
- 3 Place pieces so you use the least amount of running yardage.
- 4 Plot for welt.



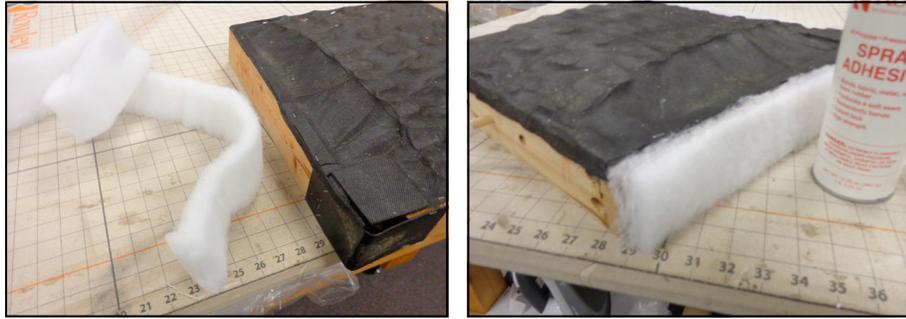
Cutting the Fabric:

- 1 Cut pieces according to the cut plan.
- 2 Mark each piece for location and for “up”.
- 3 Cut and make welt cord.

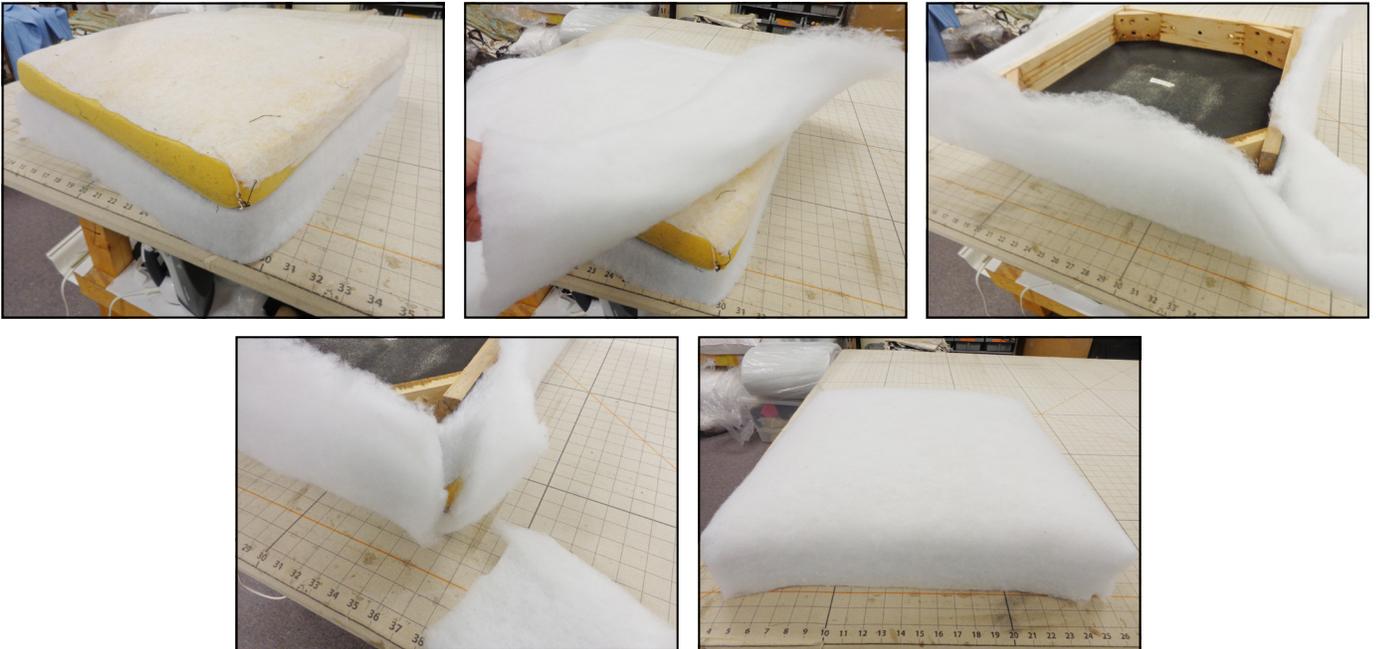


Preparing the Seat:

- 1 Build up the seat surround area if needed, using Batting and spray glue.
 - A. Only build up three sides to keep the back flat.



- 2 Replace original foam, spray-gluing to base.
- 3 Cover entire Seat with a layer of Batting, wide enough to cover top and all sides.
- 4 Remove excess from the corners.
- 5 Spray-glue in place.
- 6 Sparingly staple batting to frame sides.
- 7 Trim off any excess batting that would have wrapped to the bottom.



Upholstering the Seat:

- 1 Lay fabric over seat, adjusting as needed to cover area and to keep pattern running true.
- 2 Staple North-South-East-West to keep fabric from shifting.

3 Complete stapling, leaving the corners for last. Fold in perfect upholstery corners, removing bulk prior to final staple.

4 Trim away excess fabric to expose assembly holes.



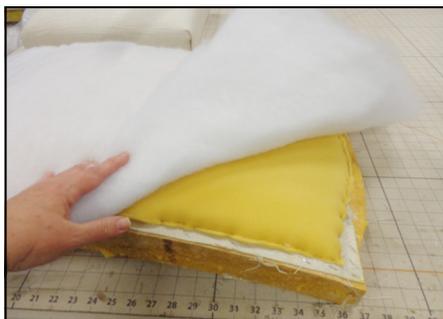
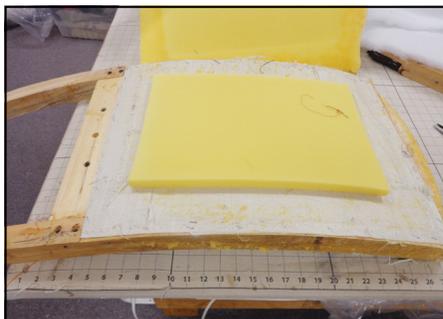
Completing the Inside Back (IB):

1 Replace original padding.

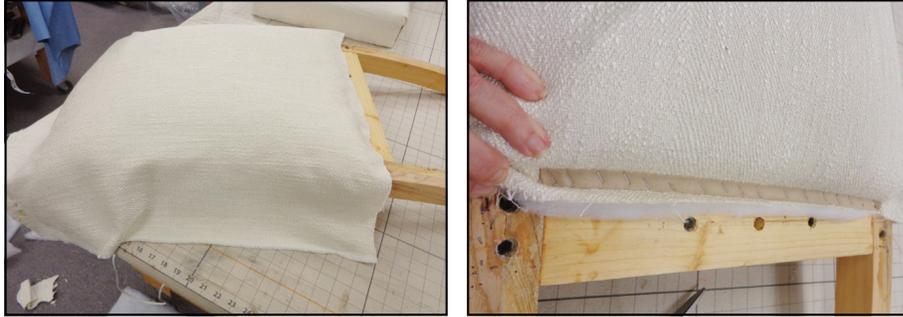
2 Spray-glue a layer of Batting to IB, wrapping to sides.

3 Staple sparingly.

4 Trim away any excess that may have wrapped to the back.



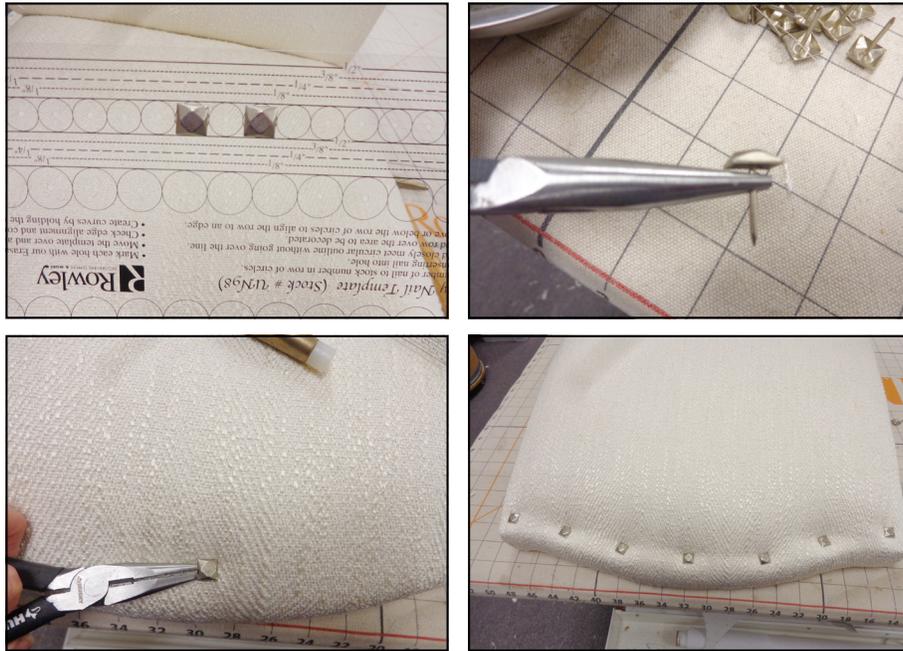
- 5 Place fabric over padding, adjusting as needed.
- 6 Staple N-S-E-W to keep fabric from shifting.
- 7 At the bottom, use a layer of Cardboard Tack Strip to ensure a straight, tight line.
- 8 Complete stapling.
- 9 At the corners, fold in a perfect upholstery corner, removing bulk prior to the final fold.



- 10 Replace the seat onto the frame to mark where the IB fabric needs to stop on the sides to match the seat.
- 11 Mark and trim.
- 12 Tuck under and staple to front and back.

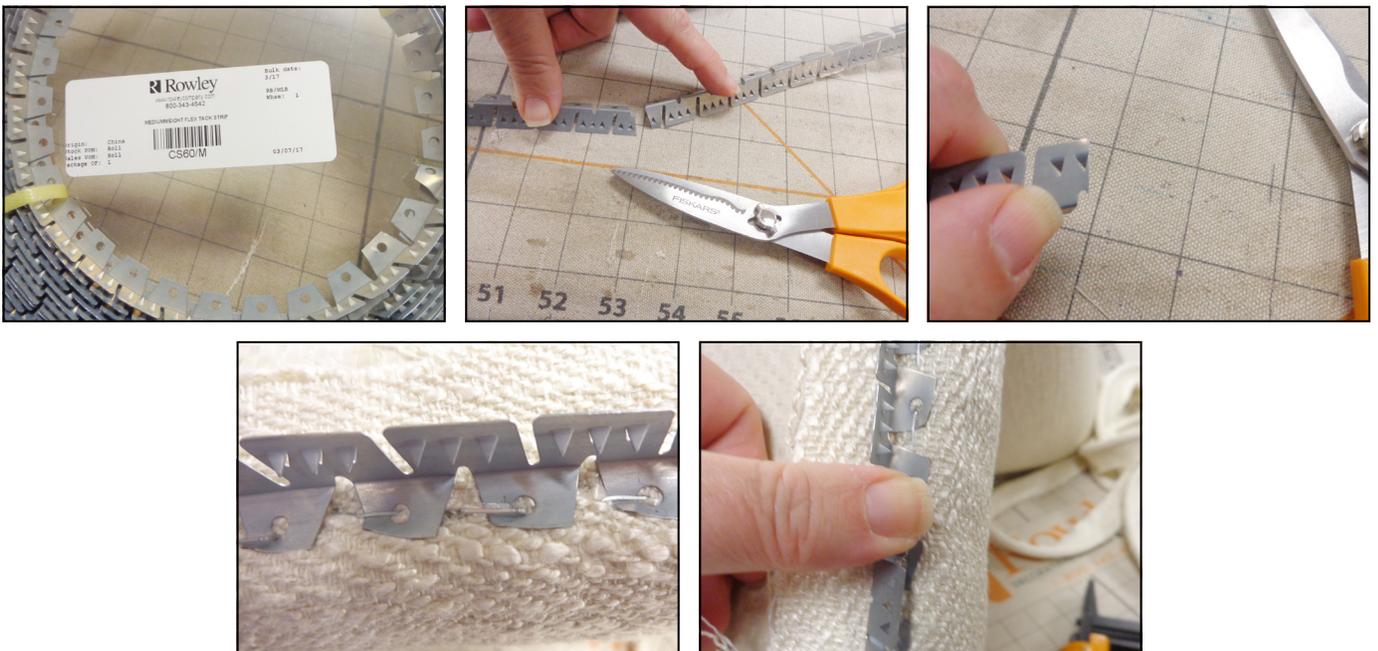


- 13 Decide on your decorative nail design, using nail template to ensure correct spacing.
- 14 Nail in nails to complete your design.
- 15 Replace all bolts of chair to fully re-assemble.



Preparing the Outside Back (OB):

- 1 Cut strips of Flexible Metal Tack Strip slightly shorter than the area to be covered.
 - A. Be sure to remove any sharp edges left from the original cuttings.
- 2 Place strip on side of OB so the holes are to the outside and the teeth face away from the middle of the chair.
- 3 Staple to secure.
- 4 Finger close halfway.

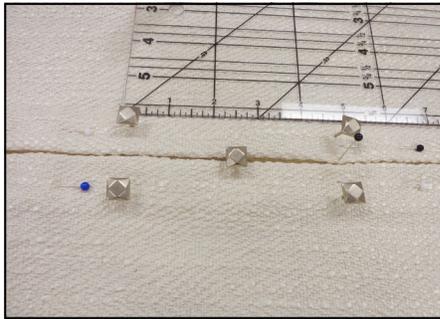


- 5 Complete both sides and the top, finger closing all three sections.
- 6 Cut a layer of batting to fit inside the teeth.
- 7 Staple to back, sparingly.



Preparing the Fabric for the OB:

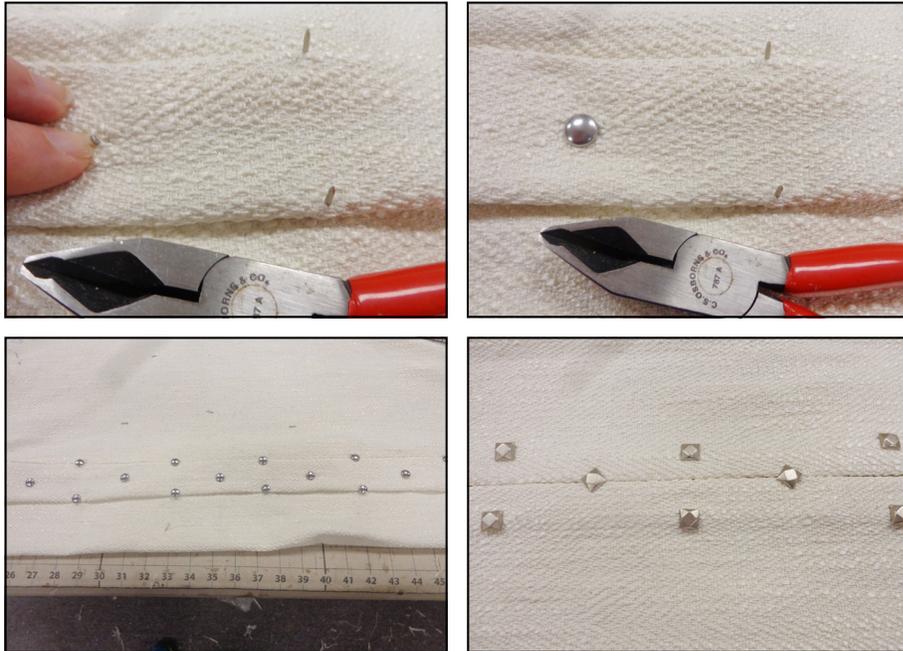
- 1 At the center, fold in an inverted box pleat.
- 2 Press.
- 3 Decide on your nail pattern.



- 4 Sew through all layers at the fold join areas that will be covered with nails.
- 5 Press nails through all layers.



- 6 Carefully turn work over.
- 7 Clip nail shanks to 1/8" and press on nail locks with caps.



Finishing the OB:

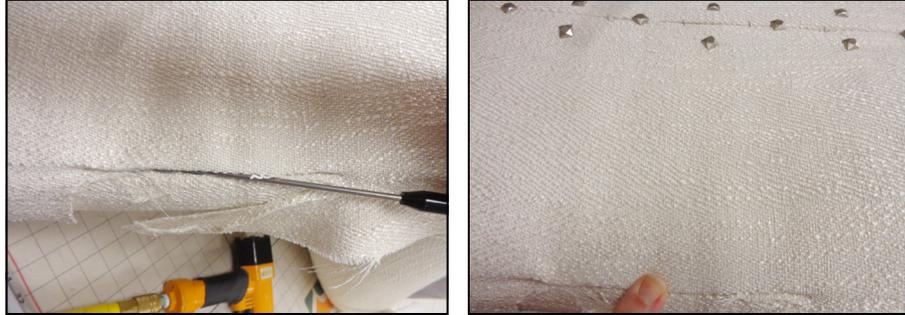
- 1 Place prepared piece on OB, aligning as needed.
- 2 Staple the center of the bottom to secure.



- 3 At the top, trim a few inches to 1/2" past the partially closed teeth of the Flexible Metal Tack Strip.



- 4 Tuck into teeth using a regulator.
- 5 Press closed.
- 6 At the sides, do a small section to secure sides from shifting.
- 7 Complete sides and top.



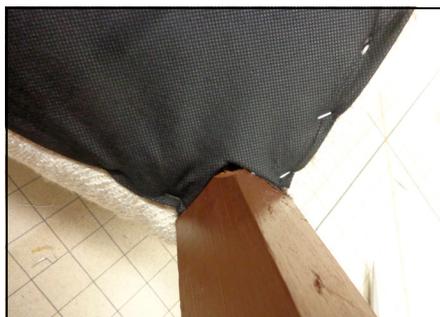
- 8 Complete stapling bottom, cutting relief cuts for the legs.
- 9 Re-check all tucks.
- 10 When you are happy with the OB, pound the teeth closed using a rubber mallet.
- 11 At the top corners, trim and tuck under fabric to make a nice fold.
- 12 Pin to remind yourself to close this later.



- 13 Hand close all folds/corners on the chair at this time.

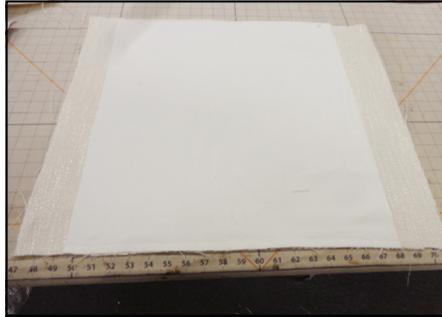
Finishing the Chair:

- 1 Staple on a layer of cambric to the bottom, cutting away for the legs.

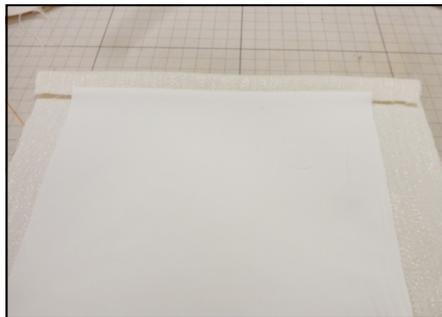


Preparing the Four Skirt Pieces:

- 1 Cut skirt pieces and lining according to your cut plan.
- 2 With right sides together, align the bottom of the lining to the center of the back of a skirt piece.
- 3 Sew lining to skirt piece.



- 4 Turn right sides out, folding up a 1 1/2" bottom hem.
- 5 Press.
- 6 At the top, trim lining even with face fabric.



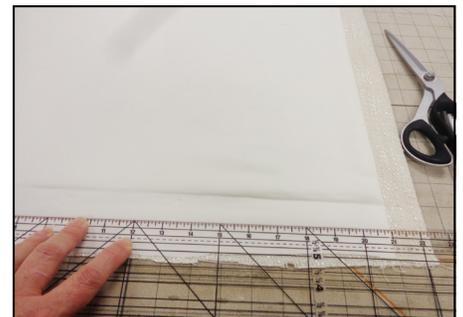
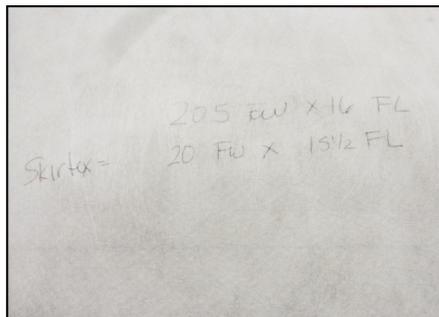
- 7 With wrong sides together, align tops of lining and face and pin.
- 8 Sew sides from top to original hem seam.
- 9 Turn right side out and press the corner well.



- 10 With the fabric turned wrong sides out, find both press lines in the hem.
- 11 Mark from their intersection to the edge of the original hem seam (this will be an angle).
- 12 Sew on angled line to create a mitered corner.
- 13 Trim off excess and clip the fold open.
- 14 Turn right sides out and press.

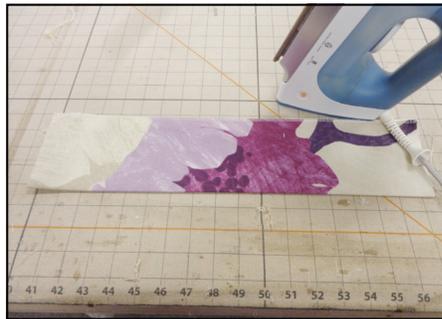


- 15 Cut a piece of Skirtex 1" less wide by 1" less tall than FL and FW.
- 16 Slip Skirtex into skirt sleeve, tucking it tight at the bottom hem.
- 17 Mark for FL and mark 1/2" above FL.
- 18 Serge at top mark.
- 19 Press at FL.
- 20 Complete all four sides of the skirt according to the above steps.



Preparing the Kick Pleats:

- 1 Cut face fabric and lining to size.
- 2 With right sides together, sew bottom hem.
- 3 Turn right sides out and fold up a 1 1/2" bottom hem.
- 4 Press.
- 5 Surge across tops and sides.
- 6 Fold in half, lengthwise, and press.

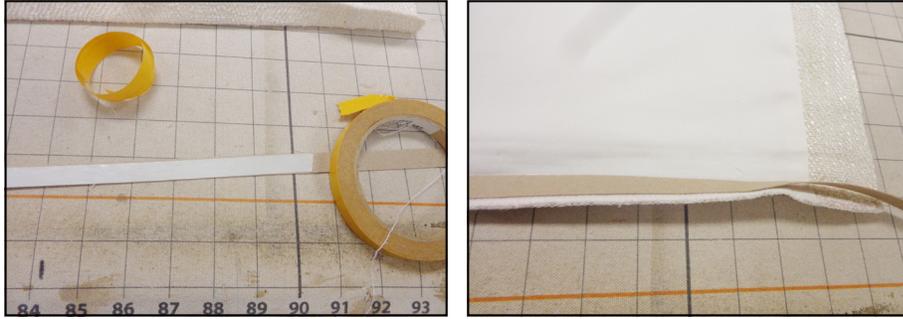


Finishing the Skirt:

- 1 Measure and place welt cord on chair.
- 2 Staple on welt, making a clean join at the back of the chair.



- 3 Apply a layer of double face tape to the back of each skirt piece and stick a layer of cardboard tack strip to the tape, so the tape sits just above the FL mark.



- 4 Position skirt on chair, flip skirt up and out of the way and staple through tack strip and all layers of fabric.



- 5 Complete all four sides.

- 6 For the kick pleats, double face tape two separate pieces of cardboard tack strip to the FL, so the fold is clear.

- 7 Position on chair, flip up and staple.



8

Flip down completed skirt.

9

Re-check all pieces for proper length and placement, adjust if needed.

TIPS:

- For transportation, be sure to flip the skirt up and shrink wrap.
- Use a steamer on site to relieve any wrinkles in the skirt and chair.

