

## Rowley project list: Upholstering a Non-Picture Back Chair into a Picture Back Chair

Transforming a plain dining room chair into a custom-designed picture back chair is a fun project that can easily be accomplished by upholsterers of all skill levels. This project guide covers the steps to upholster a dining room chair, covering the inside and outside back with decorative fabric to make a huge design impact.



### UPHOLSTERING A NON-PICTURE BACK CHAIR INTO A PICTURE BACK CHAIR: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

## MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

### Rowley Products

Pattern Paper  
Polyester Batting  
Upholstery Air Stapler - Long Nose  
3/8" Staples  
Fringe Adhesive  
Skirtex Stiffener  
Iron-On Adhesive Webbing  
Spray Adhesive  
Cardboard Tack Strip  
Flexible Metal Tack Strip  
Upholstery Regulator  
White Rubber Mallet  
Upholstery Nails  
Magnetic Tack Hammer with Nylon Tip  
Black Cambric  
Curved Needle  
Upholstery Thread

### Other Tools Used

Needle-nosed pliers  
Screw gun  
Scissors  
Markers  
2" Medium density foam  
Foam Saw  
6" ruler  
Iron

### SKU

[DYC18/](#)  
[PF72](#)  
[NSG10](#)  
[NS33/E](#)  
[FA10](#)  
[SKX55/](#)  
[FW30/](#)  
[AS30](#)  
[CS50](#)  
[CS60/M](#)  
[MH26](#)  
[MH44](#)  
[UN20/MB](#)  
[MH12](#)  
[PA40/](#)  
[TP68](#)  
[TU6K/](#)

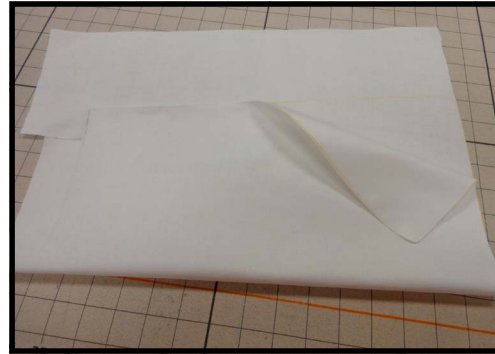
[CU22](#)

[DT42](#)

[MR6](#)

## Making the Pattern for the Seat:

- 1 Place a piece of lining over the seat and trace around all edges.
- 2 To make the pattern symmetrical, cut out half of the pattern fold it over onto itself then cut the rest of the pattern.



## Cutting and Prepping the Seat Fabric and Pattern-Matched Boxing:

- 1 Place the pattern, face up, on the face of the fabric.
- 2 Trace around pattern, adding seam allowances and cut on traced line.



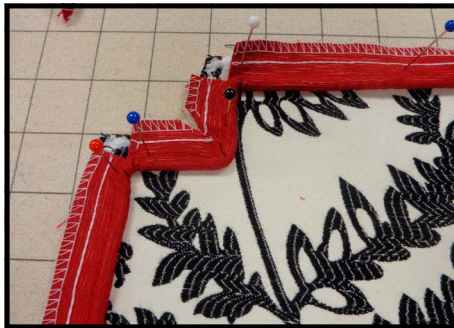
- 3 Cut and make enough welt cord to go around the seat, plus a few inches for joins.
- 4 To cut a pattern-matched boxing from the seat piece, lay the seat fabric on another piece of face fabric, face up, making sure you have a pattern match and enough fabric to cut the depth of boxing needed.
- 5 Fold the seat fabric seam allowance under once, then fold it under again.
- 6 Mark the larger piece of fabric where the folds stop.

- 7** Measure down the larger piece for the depth needed for the boxing. Mark and cut as many boxing pieces needed for your seat, plus seam joins.



- 8** Glue-baste welt to seat piece, making sure the join seam will fall to the back.

- 9** Sew on welt cord, joining the pieces as you come to it at the machine.



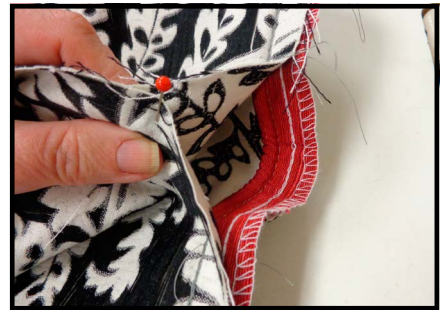
- 10** Match the patterns at the front of the seat, pin or glue-baste in place.

- 11** Sew the front of the boxing to the front of the seat.





- 12** When you come to the join area, stop a few inches short of the actual join.
- 13** Flip the entire piece over and finish sewing on the boxing, stopping a few inches from the join area.
- 14** At the join area, walk the two ends of the boxing to the needed join spot, pin to mark the join spot.
- 15** Fold the fabrics out of the way and sew the join seam.
- 16** Open the join seam and finish sewing on the boxing.



## Upholstering the Seat:

- 1** Remove the seat from the chair frame.
- 2** Cut foam from the original seat pattern.
- 3** Wrap foam, on all sides, with upholstery batting and whip-stitch closed using a curved needle and upholstery thread.



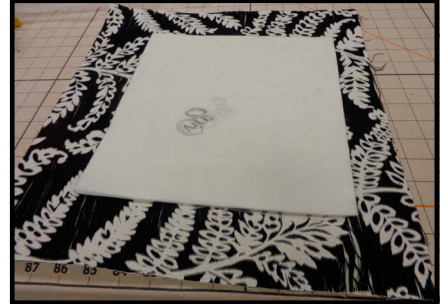
- 4 Place the covered foam on the seat wood and cover with the prepared fabric.
- 5 Pull evenly and staple to the bottom of the wood.
- 6 Cover the bottom of the seat with a layer of Black Cambric.
- 7 Replace upholstered seat to frame and replace screws.



## Upholstering the Outside Back:

- 1 Make a pattern for the opening using paper or lining scraps.
- 2 Cut three pieces of Skirtex and two pieces of Iron-On Adhesive Webbing the size of the outside back pattern.
- 3 Layer the Skirtex and Iron-On Webbing and iron to join all pieces into one thicker piece.
- 4 Cut the outside back fabric, cutting at least 4" larger all the way around.
- 5 Spray-glue the fabric to the prepared Skirtex piece.

- 6** Fold the fabric around the Skirtex and crease with an iron.



- 7** Cut and place a piece of batting inside, next to the Skirtex.

- 8** Place the piece on the outside back of the chair and mark for relief cuts to get around any rails, if needed.



- 9** Unfold the extra fabric to the inside of the chair and staple.

- 10** Using a row of cardboard tack strip, secure the outside back piece to the chair frame getting a nice tight, straight edge.



## Upholstering the Inside Back:

- 1** Make a pattern for the inside back.
- 2** Cut the fabric at least 2" larger all the way around than the pattern.



- 3 Place the fabric on the inside back of the chair, folding at least 1" of the fabric under at the top.
- 4 Holding the fabric in place, flip it up and out of your way.
- 5 Using cardboard tack strip, secure the fabric to the chair.
- 6 Place a piece of batting over the wood rails.



- 7 Staple on lengths of Flexible Metal Tack Strip, starting and stopping short of all corners.
- 8 Finger-close the FMTS ½ way.



- 9 Tuck 2"-3" of fabric into the ½ closed FMTS to secure pattern placement, trimming as needed, at the bottom and both sides.
- 10 Finish tucking fabric into the rest of the FMTS using a regulator for a tight fit and trimming as needed.
- 11 Close the tack strip the rest of the way.
- 12 Once all tack strips are filled with fabric and closed, pound them closed using a rubber mallet.

- 13 Place and pound in upholstery nails to hold the corners closed.

