

Rowley project list: **Parsons Chair**

The perfect, simple chair, Parsons Chairs are seen in every magazine and designer showcase today. Used in a group, Parsons Chairs create beautiful and comfortable formal seating for dining rooms, or used in pairs, can flank a buffet table or console for additional seating. This project guide will walk you through how to measure for needed yardage, how to lay out a cut plan and how to upholster a Parsons Chair adding unique design details on the outside back and banding. The decorative pillow step-by-step can be found in the Parsons Chair's Decorative Pillow Project List.



MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

Rowley Products

Flat Tape Measure
5/32" Medium Welt Cord
Chalk Marker
Fringe Adhesive
Regulator
Cambric
Flexible Metal Tack Strip
Rubber Mallet
Scissors
Upholstery Thread
Long Nose Stapler
3/8" Staples
6" Ruler
Fabric Stapler / Staples
Cardboard Tack Strip
Lining
Curved Needle
Polyester Batting

SKU

[DT8](#)
[WC10](#)
[WW12](#)
[FA10](#)
[MH26](#)
[PA40/](#)
[CS60/](#)
[MH44](#)
[CU22](#)
[TU6K/](#)
[NSG10](#)
[NS33/E](#)
[MR6](#)
[WW70 / WW71](#)
[CS38](#)
[LN52](#)
[TP75](#)
[PF66](#)

PARSONS CHAIR: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

All measurements, yardage calculation and steps are for two chairs. The Parsons Chairs have a pleated Nosing and a welt cord detail running down the Outside back.

Measuring for Fabric Yardage Needed:

- 1 Measure the widest and tallest part of the Seat. Don't forget to add for pulls and tucks.



- 2** Measure the widest and tallest part of the Inside Back. Don't forget to add for pulls and tucks.



- 3** Measure the widest and tallest part of the Outside Back. Don't forget to add for pulls and tucks. *No photo is shown for measuring width.*

- 4** Measure around the Banding area – this will include sides and front only.

- 5** Measure the depth of the Banding.

- 6** Write all measurements down, paying attention to the height and width measurements.

A. A sample measure chart is below. These measurements will only work for this chair!



Location	Abbr.	Width	Height	Notes
Inside Back	IB	25	32	
Outside Back	OB	27	28	Includes fabric for detail
Seat	ST	27	27	
Banding	BD	110	5	Will be pieced. Includes fabric for pleats
Welt	WT	288	2	Bias cuts – at least 6

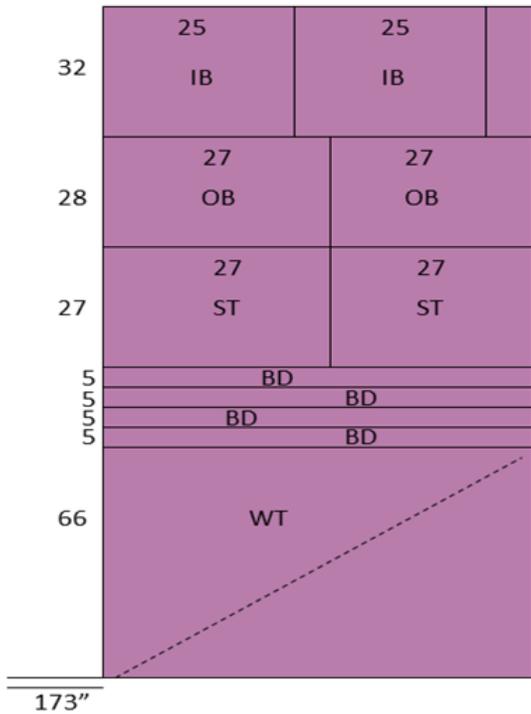
Completing a Cut Plan:

- 1** Plot all measurements on a chart, keeping the total widths used under the width of the fabric to be used.

- 2** Move the pieces as needed to utilize the least amount of fabric.

- 3** Once all the pieces are plotted, add up the lengths and divide by 36 to get the yardage needed.

A. A sample cut plan for two chairs is below. This cut plan will only work for this chair!



173 divided by 36 = 4.8 yards.

This cut plan does not include the fabric for the pillow.

Cutting and Marking the Fabric:

- 1 Roll the fabric out on a table.
- 2 Mark off the cuts needed.
- 3 Cut out the pieces.
- 4 On each cut piece, mark the abbreviation for the piece as well as the "up" direction.
- 5 Lay the cut pieces over the chair as a double check that all pieces are accounted for.

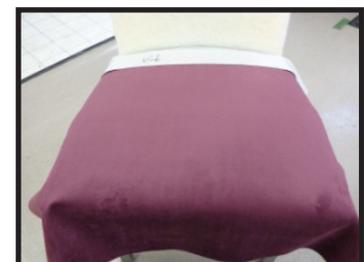


- 6 Cut and make all welt needed for the chair.
 - A. It's a good general rule of thumb to make one extra cut of welt. That way you can adjust the welt as you apply it so no seams fall to the front or top of the chair.

Upholstering the Chair:

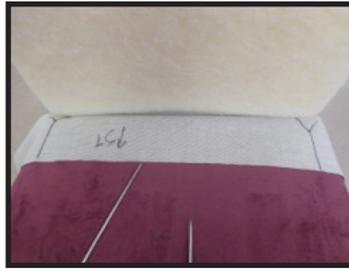
Upholstering the Seat:

- 1 Place the Seat piece over the chair seat, making sure you have enough fabric to tuck on all sides.
 - A. Tuck the fabric tight into the back.
- 2 Fold the back fabric back onto itself.



3 Find the frame area that will not allow you to push the entire piece of fabric through to the back.

4 Mark and make relief cuts for the left and right side.



5 Push fabric through to the back.

7 Pull fabric to front and staple on the front of the frame, lower than where the banding will be.

6 Staple fabric, on the back, straight down to the seat frame.



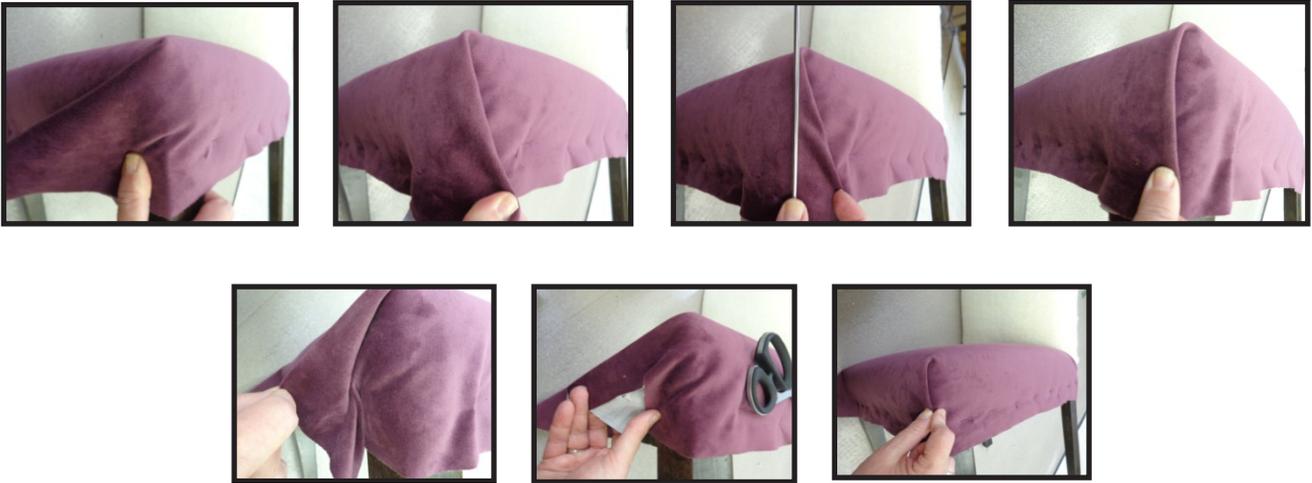
8 Pull and staple the sides.

9 At the back corner, angle fabric and staple to the side of the frame. Cut away any excess.



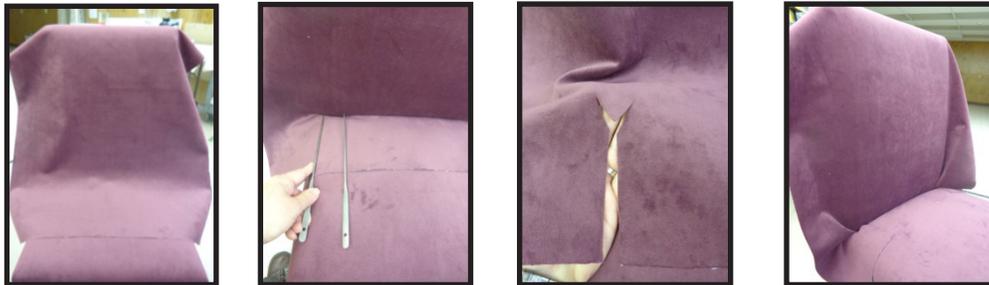
10 At the front corners, fold in a pleat so that the pleat opening faces the sides, eliminating bulk as needed. Staple.

- A.** Pull the fabric around the side to the front corner. Hold in place or staple.
- B.** Bring the excess back toward the side corner. Find the break point of the fabric (where the top of the pleat starts) and find the true frame corner.
- C.** Fold under fabric until these two points align.
- D.** To remove bulk, pinch the final fold and bring fabric away from the frame.
- E.** Cut away any fabric that will not show in the final fold.
- F.** Refold and staple.



Upholstering the Inside Back (IB):

- 1** Place the Inside Back (IB) fabric over the inside back, making sure you have enough fabric to tuck on all sides.
 - A.** Tuck the fabric tight into the back.
- 2** Find the frame area that will not allow you to push the entire piece of fabric through to the back.
- 3** Mark and make relief cuts for the left and right side.
- 4** Tuck the fabric through to the back.



- 5** Staple the fabric on the outside back, right on top of the fabric from the seat.
- 6** Pull and staple top and then the sides.
- 7** At the bottom sides, decide on the final angle of the fabric folds. Tuck in excess fabric, eliminating bulk as needed. Staple.
 - A.** Make the right side angle match the left side angle.



- 8** At the top corners, fold in pleats, eliminating bulk as needed.
- A.** Fold in the pleat as you did on the front seat corner.
 - B.** Pleats should face out to the side.
 - C.** When doing the final fold, fold it slightly in from the actual frame. This will help eliminate bulk at the corner for the next steps.

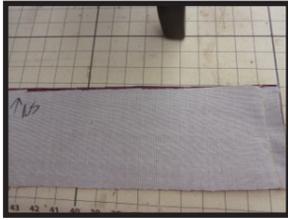


Pleating and Upholstering the Banding:

- 1** Staple on welt cord to the top of the banding area.
- The welt will run along the sides and front only.
 - You will need to cut the cord out of the casing as the casing wraps to the back for stapling.
 - Staple sparingly as you have more layers to go over this same area.



- 2** Seam Nosing pieces together.
- 3** Fold in center pleat, hiding the join seam.
- 4** Using the fabric stapler, staple the top and bottom of each side of the pleat.



- 5** Find the center of the front and the center of the sides. Put a pin in the chair to mark the centers.
- 6** Apply the banding to the chair using cardboard tack strip.
- 7** Fold in additional pleats as you get to the corners and center marks.
- 8** Once the banding is all stapled on, fold it up onto the seat and pin to hold.

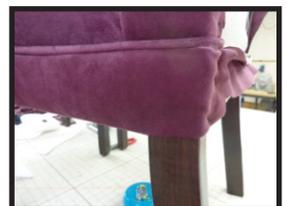


- 9** Apply a thin layer of batting under the cardboard tack strip, cutting it even with the bottom of the chair. Staple sparingly.
- 10** Flip the banding down and staple under the frame, stapling the center of the pleats first.
 - A.** Dress the pleats as you staple.



Finishing the Bottom of the Banding:

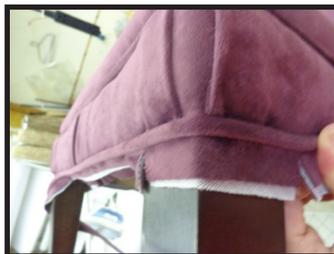
- 1** At the back legs, make a relief cut to free fabric to tuck under the frame.
- 2** Trim and tuck under remaining fabric. Pull tight and staple to the back only.



- 3** At the front corners, trim and tuck under the center of the pleat first.
 - A.** Staple off to the side where the fold will hide the staple.
- 4** Trim and tuck under remaining fabric, eliminating bulk as much as possible. Pull tight and staple to temporarily hold in place. You will come back to these pleats later.

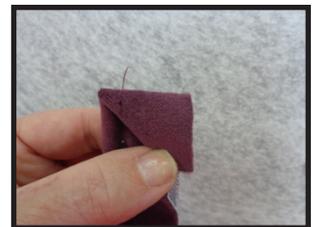
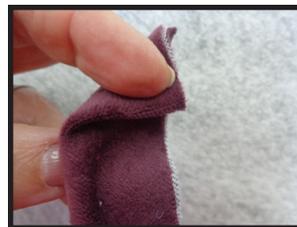


- 5** Staple on the bottom welt, trimming the lip away at the corners.
 - A.** Be sure there are no seam joins at the front of the chair.
 - B.** Leave enough to go around to the back and join.
 - C.** At this step, you will only be stapling the bottom welt on the front and two sides, leaving tails for joining once the Outside Back is on.



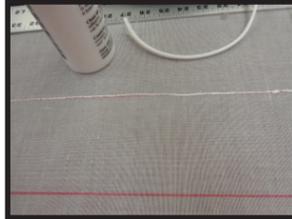
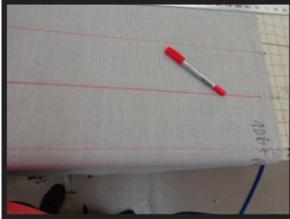
Preparing the Outside Back (OB):

- 1** Staple a row of welt around the sides and top of the outside back.
 - A.** Cut a triangle out of the lip at the top corners to eliminate bulk.
 - B.** Make a "Good Stop" at both bottoms.

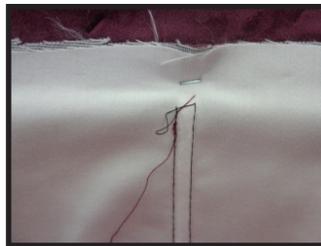


- 2** Prepare the OB fabric by marking the fabric for the welt detail design.
 - A.** Be sure to center the design.

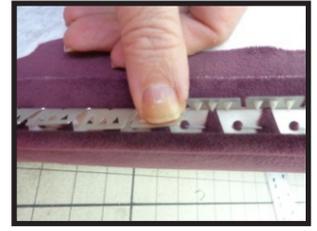
- 3 Glue a strip of pre-cut welt cord to the marks. Pin to dry.
- 4 Glue a small piece of lining over the exposed cords. Pin to dry.
- 5 At the machine, sew both sides of the welt to make the design.



- 6 Clip the welt out of the casing at the top, cutting at least $\frac{3}{4}$ " off the cord.
- 7 Find the center of the OB and the center of the detailed fabric.
- 8 Place the fabric on the OB, flipping it up, with right sides together. Staple to hold.
- 9 Using cardboard tack strip, staple on the rest of the top of the OB fabric.



- 10 Pre-cut a length of Flexible Metal Tack Strip.
- 11 Staple it to the side, tucking it tight up to the welt cord seam.
 - A. Stop and start the tack strip short of the entire length of the OB.
- 12 Finger-close the tack strip half way.



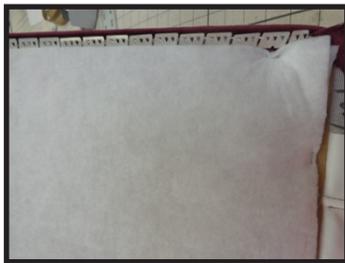
13 Complete the other side as above.



14 Lay in a layer of batting, making sure no batting gets in the tack strip teeth. Staple sparingly.

15 Keeping the pattern centered, pull the fabric down and staple under the bottom frame.

16 Complete the legs as you did earlier.



17 On the sides, trim the fabric to just outside the welt, trimming only 5 or so inches at a time.

18 Using a regulator, tuck the fabric into the teeth of the tack strip. Finger-close tight.

19 Complete both sides.

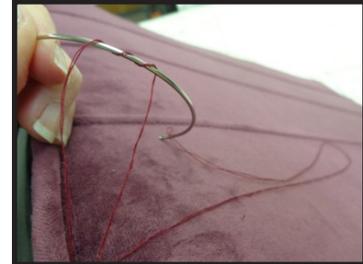
20 Once everything is in place and finger tight, complete the closing by hitting the tack strip with a rubber mallet.



21 Complete the rest of the bottom welt, joining slightly off-center.

Final Steps:

- 1 At the corners, attach the trimmed welt to the pleats and secure the folds of the pleats by hand sewing using a curved needle and matching thread.
- 2 Hand-close the OB top corners.



- 3 Staple on Cambric to the bottom of the chair.

