

Upholstering a Leather Bench

Using leather to cover an upholstered piece does not have to be intimidating. Natural and durable, leather is easy to care for and can be a great addition to your upholstery portfolio. This how-to guide covers the steps to upholster a decorative bench, including how to figure hides and special tips for working with leather. For additional tips and tricks, see our webinar titled “Upholstering a Leather Bench”.



Materials & Supplies

Rowley Products

Cardboard Tack Strip - ½"

Polyester Batting

R-TEX Black Cambric

Decorative Nails

Magnetic Tack Hammer
with Nylon Tip

R-TEC Upholstery Air Stapler

71 Series Staples - ⅜"

R-TEX Polyester Welt Cord - ¼"

Scissors

Upholstery Staple Remover

SKU

[CS50](#)

[PF76](#)

[PA40/](#)

[UN20/B](#)

[MH12](#)

[NSG10](#)

[NS33/E](#)

[WCP2/](#)

[CU22](#)

[MH22](#)

Other Products Used:

Needle-Nosed Pliers

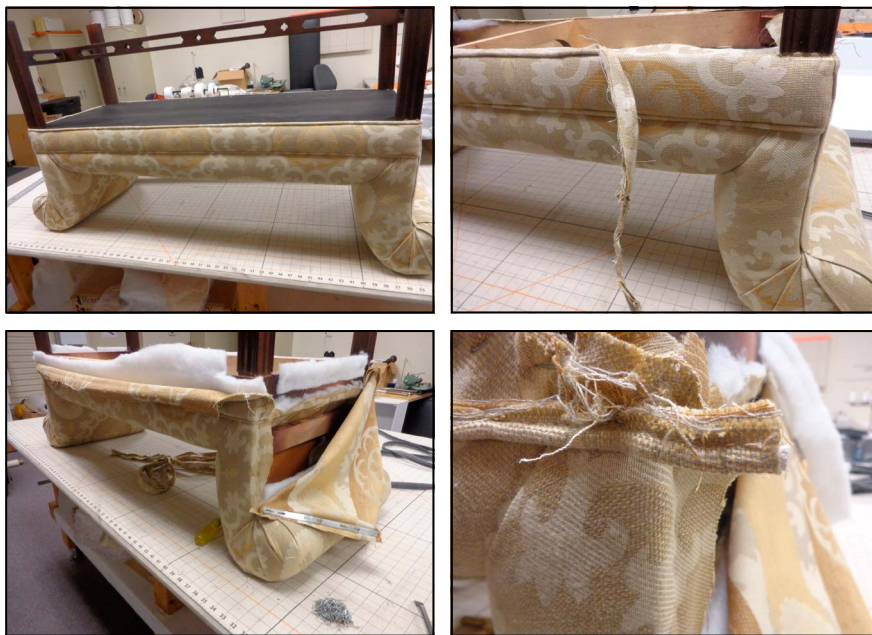
Upholstering a Leather Bench: Step-By-Step Instructions

This how-to guide covers the steps to upholster a bench in leather, using decorative upholstery nails as both functional and decorative elements.

Tearing Down the Bench

- 1 Starting with the exposed staples on the Cambric, remove Cambric.
- 2 Remove bottom welt cord.

- 3 Loosen Nosing bottom staples and outside arm bottom staples.
- 4 Remove Nosing and Outside Arm.
- 5 Remove any additional welt cord.
- 6 Remove Seat and Inside Arm pieces.
- 7 Keep padding on the Inside Arms and Seat, but remove all other padding as you will need to replace it as you re-upholster the bench.
- 8 Check for any stray staples or pieces of staples that could snag your new fabric / leather – remove them.



Cutting Pieces:

- 1 From your cut plan, lay the measurements out on the hides and cut, using the hides to their best.
- 2 Cut and mark each piece.
- 3 Make enough welt cord to cover the areas you want to use welt, plus a few inches for joining.



Upholstering the Seat:

Working in the opposite order from which the bench was torn down, add fabric pieces in their correct location, make relief cuts and staple to secure.

- 1 Lay the Seat piece out, folding back the sides to expose the frame.
- 2 Mark and cut a Peace Sign relief cut to get around the leg.
- 3 Make a relief cut for each leg, cutting from the frame join to half way through the leg, at an angle.
- 4 Pull fabric through to outside and staple.
- 5 Tuck under flap and staple; Staple other side of leg cut as needed so no staples will be exposed at the end of the project.
- 6 Complete other side of Seat.
- 7 Staple Back under the frame; Staple the front within the Nosing area.



Upholstering the Inside Arm:

- 1 Lay the fabric over the arm so all areas are covered.
- 2 Fold it back so it rests on the Seat to expose the frame.
- 3 Make Peace Sign relief cuts at the legs.
- 4 Pull through and staple on top of the Seat fabric, within the Arm frame.
- 5 Pull the top fabric over the curve of the frame and staple.

- 6 Fold in and staple pleats on all four arms, removing bulk as needed.



Upholstering the Nosing:

- 1 Staple on a row of welt cord, making good ends on both ends.
- 2 Add the Nosing fabric using cardboard tack strip to get a tight, straight line under the welt.
- 3 Fold the ends of the Nosing fabric back onto itself at the outside edges and staple to secure.
- 4 Add a layer of padding to the exposed area.
- 5 Pull fabric down and staple under frame.
- 6 Make relief cuts for legs and staple.



Upholstering the Outside Arm:

- 1 Lay the fabric piece right side down over the roll of the arm and position so ½" is in the staple area.
- 2 Staple using cardboard tack strip for a straight, tight edge.
- 3 Stop the tack strip at the outside of the arm and fold the fabric back over itself for a clean side fold.
- 4 Close the hole by stapling any material over the hole.
- 5 Add a layer of padding.
- 6 Pull the fabric over the padding and staple under frame.
A. The sides will not be stapled for this project.



Finishing the Bench:

- 1 Staple on a row of welt to the bottom of the frame, cutting away the welt lip around the legs.
- 2 Staple on a layer of Cambric to the bottom.
- 3 To close the sides of the Outside Arms, add decorative nails in the pattern of your choice.

