

Upholstering a Wingback Chair – Adding Fabric

Add timeless style to any décor with the iconic wingback chair. Update this traditional chair frame with modern yet classic fabrics, add pops of color with different pattern styles in pillows and fabricate reversible cushion designs to create a one-of-a-kind statement piece.

Materials & Supplies

Rowley Products

Utility Scissors/Shears, 8"
 Upholstery Marking Chalk
 Denim Deck Cover
 R-TEX Polyester Welt Cord - ¼"
 R-TEC Upholstery Air Stapler - Long
 71 Series Staples - ⅜"
 71 Series Staples - ½"
 Cardboard Tack Strip - ½"
 Curved Needle
 Polyester Batting
 A&E Upholstery Thread
 Molded Tooth Zipper - #5
 Molded Tooth Zipper Slide - #5
 Flexible Metal Tack Strip
 White Rubber Mallet
 R-TEX Black Cambric
 Wraparound Safety Glasses
 Upholstery Regulator

SKU

[CU8/U](#)
[WW12](#)
[DK01/](#)
[WCP2/](#)
[NSG10](#)
[NS33/E](#)
[NS34/E](#)
[CS50](#)
[TP68](#)
[PF76](#)
[TU6K/](#)
[ETR52/](#)
[ETP5/](#)
[CS60/](#)
[MH44](#)
[PA40](#)
[SG03](#)
[MH34](#)



Upholstering a Wingback Chair – Adding Fabric: Step-By-Step Instructions

This how-to guide covers the steps to reupholster the wingback chair including how to pull face fabric to complete the chair. This is designed as a high-level guide and is not intended to be used as a detailed training reference. For more information, please reference our webinar: Upholstering a Wing Back Chair – Applying Fabric to Finish the Chair.

Prepping the Pieces:

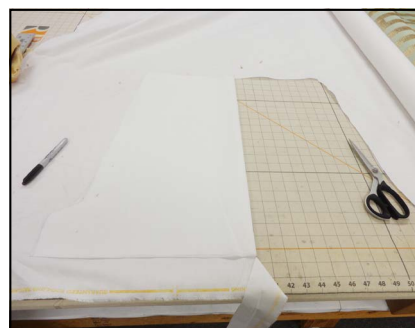
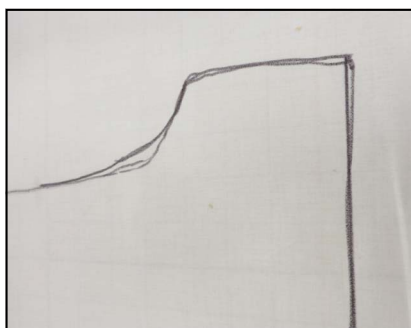


Cut all pieces needed for the project according to the layout on the cut plan.

- 2 Mark all pieces with location and fabric direction.
- 3 Double-check against the cut plan to ensure all pieces are cut and marked.
- 4 Cut and make welt cord.
 - A. If using welt cord, it will need to be added to the piece just stapled on, prior to adding another layer.
 - B. An exception to this rule is the inside wing. You can add the welt to the bottom of the piece prior to pulling and stapling.

Making the Cushion:

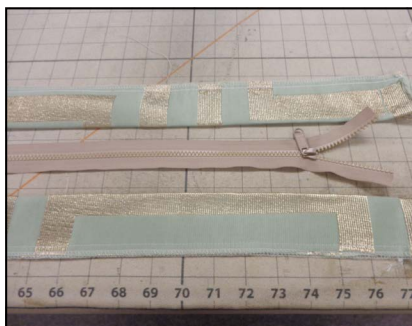
- 1 Trace around opening for cushion area to make a template.
- 2 Cut template out half way, fold in half and complete cutting.



- 3 Cut and make welt cord.
- 4 Cut the cushion top and bottom.
- 5 Cut the boxing and zipper strips.



- 6 Fold each zipper strip in half, lengthwise and press.
- 7 Sew zipper into prepared zipper strips.
- 8 Attach zipper to boxing.



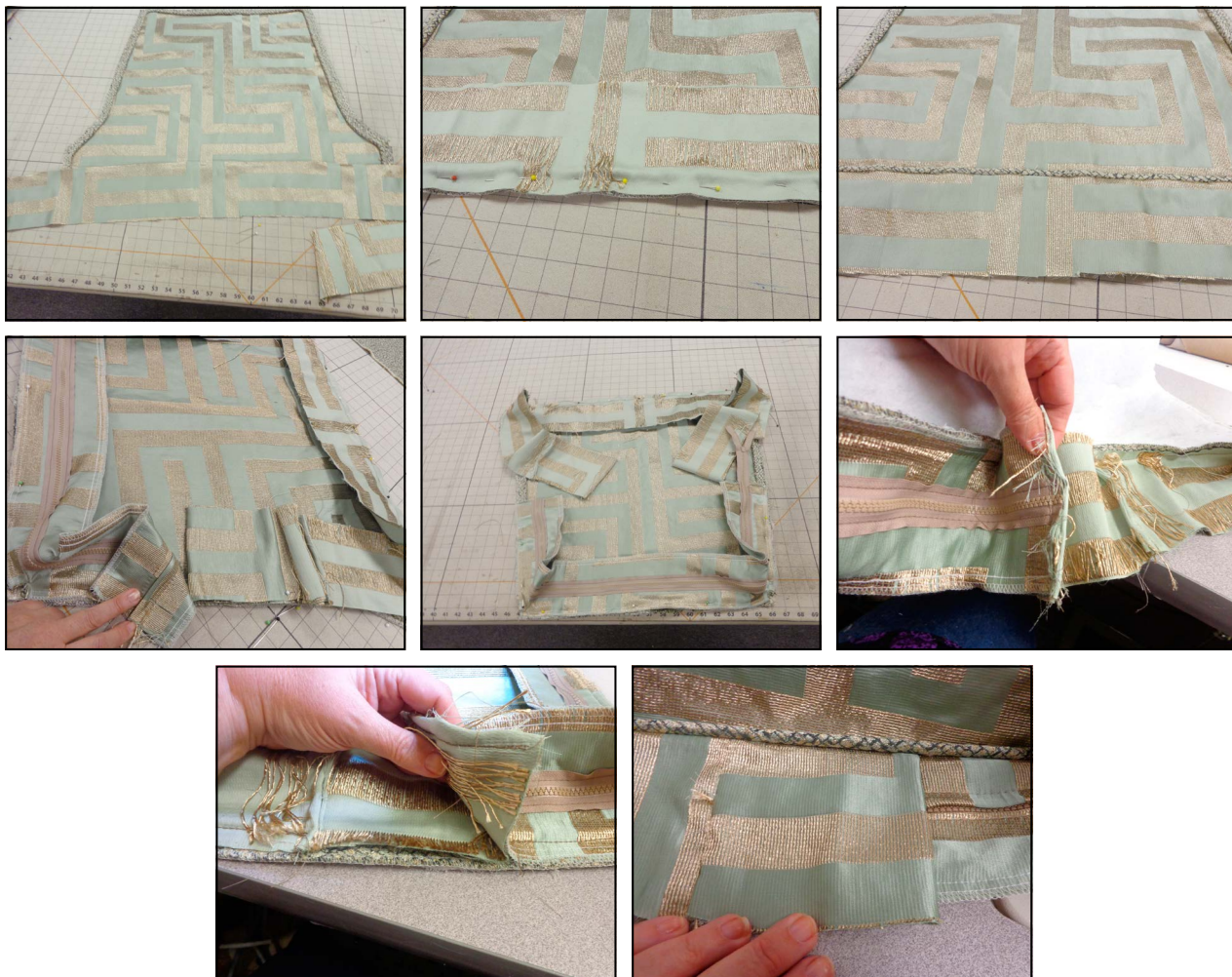
9

Sew welt to cushion top and bottom, making the join at the machine.



10

Sew boxing to cushion top, matching patterns on the front and putting in a parking garage.



11

Open zipper.

12

Sew cushion bottom to boxing, matching corners.

- 13 Turn right sides out and stuff.



Adding the Nosing:

- 1 Cut Nosing fabric.
- 2 Cut Decking fabric.
- 3 Sew the two together, centering Nosing on Decking.



- 4 Place on the chair seat area, aligning side to side so the face fabric starts 5" - 6" behind where the cushion will sit.



- 5 Make back relief cuts and staple back.

- 6 Make side relief cuts and staple sides.



- 7 Fold Nosing back at seam line.
- 8 Pin and then sew in place, sewing up and down through all layers, tying off on the bottom.



- 9 Bring fabric back over batting and pull to final location.
- 10 Staple the front under the frame.
- 11 Staple the remaining side and legs after making leg relief cuts.
- 12 Fold in front corners and staple, trimming as needed.
- 13 Add decorative buttons to help pull down seam area, if desired.



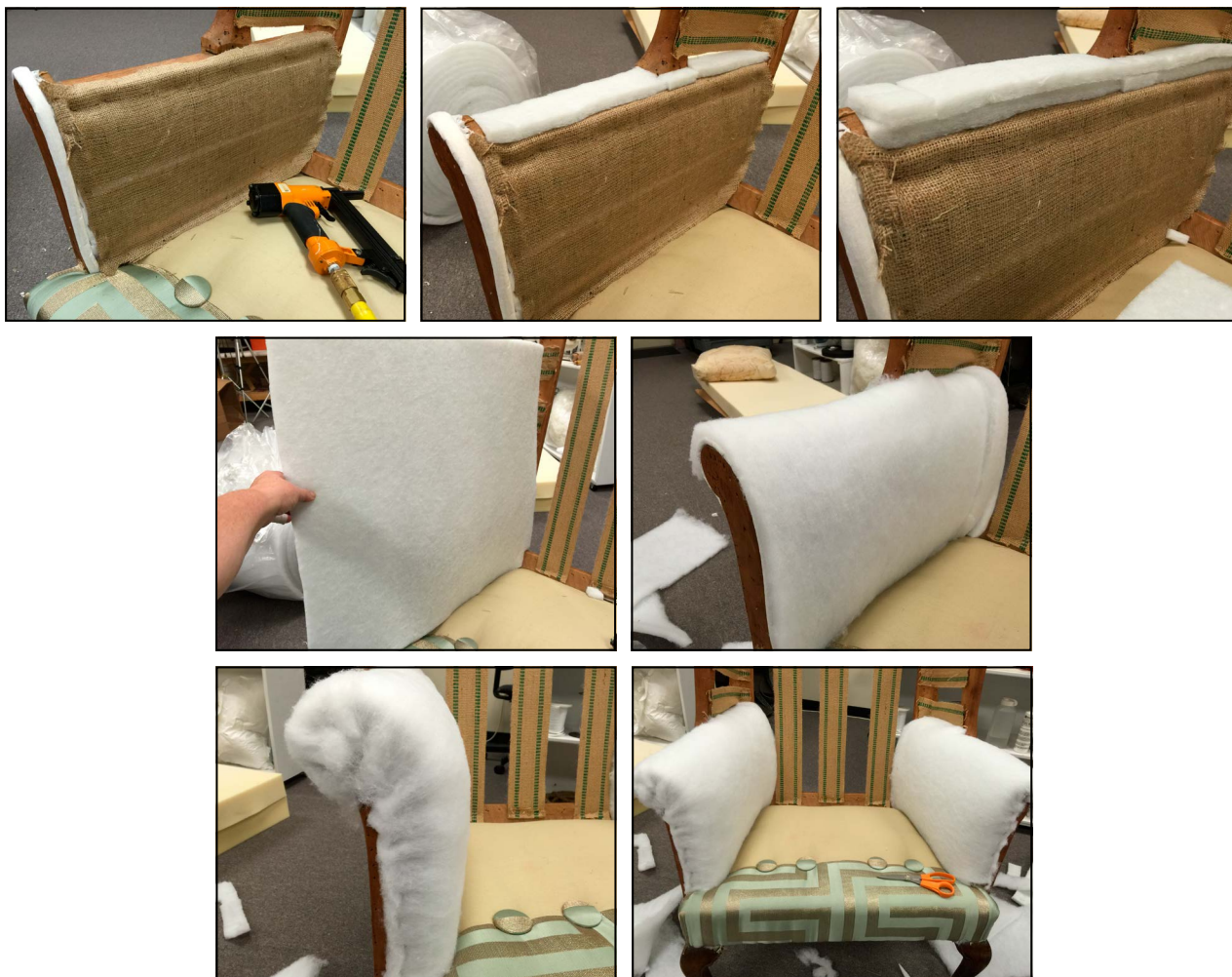
Adding Foundation and Padding to the Inside of the Chair:

NOTE: You can choose to do all foundation padding at once, or do it as you come to that area of the chair.

- 1 Web the Inside Arm area.
- 2 Staple on a layer of Burlap to “close the hole”.

3 Add layers of padding to bring area to desired shape and stiffness.

4 Finish padding with a layer of batting.



5 Place fabric on Inside Arm, aligning patterns and grain as needed.

6 Staple outside to outside arm under the frame of the arm.

7 Pull through seat and staple to frame.

8 Make back relief cuts and staple to back of frame.

9 Make front pleats and staple, or leave pleats for later.

10 Complete other arm.



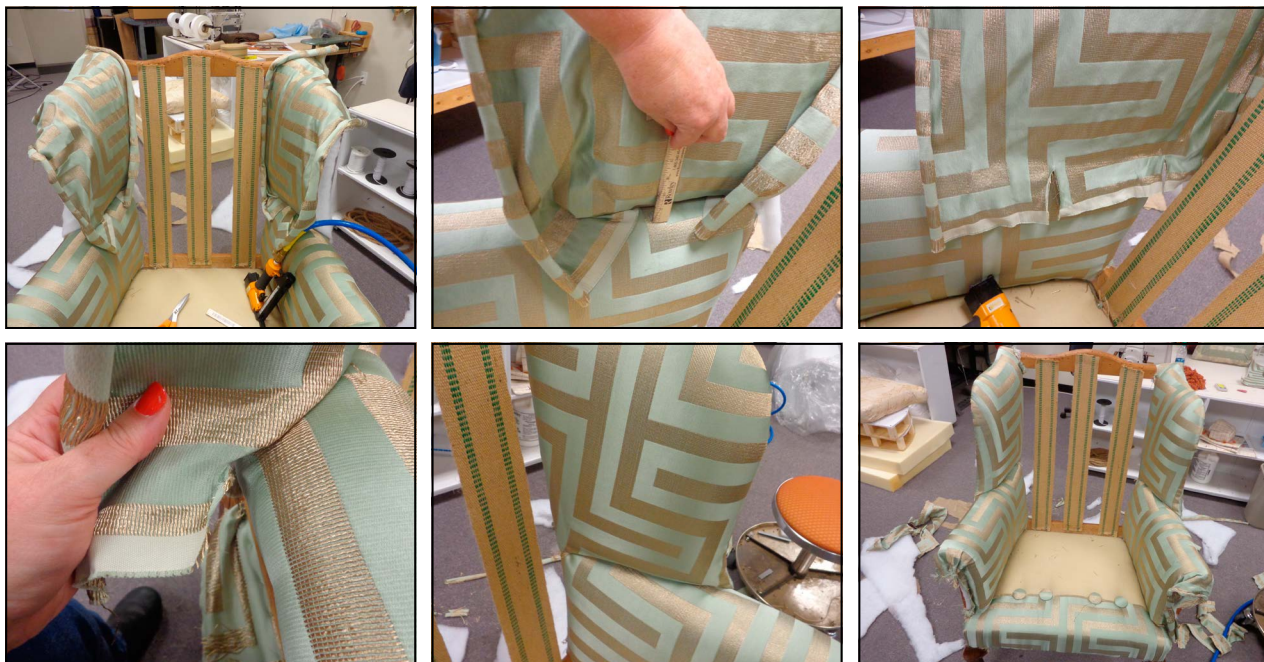
- 11 Follow the above foundation steps (1 - 4) for the inside wing.



- 12 Add fabric to wing, matching patterns.

- 13 Make relief cuts as needed.

- 14 Staple to back of frame.



Completing the Inside of the Chair:

- 1 Follow the above foundation steps for the Inside back (1 - 4).



- 2 Add fabric, aligning patterns and making relief cuts as needed.

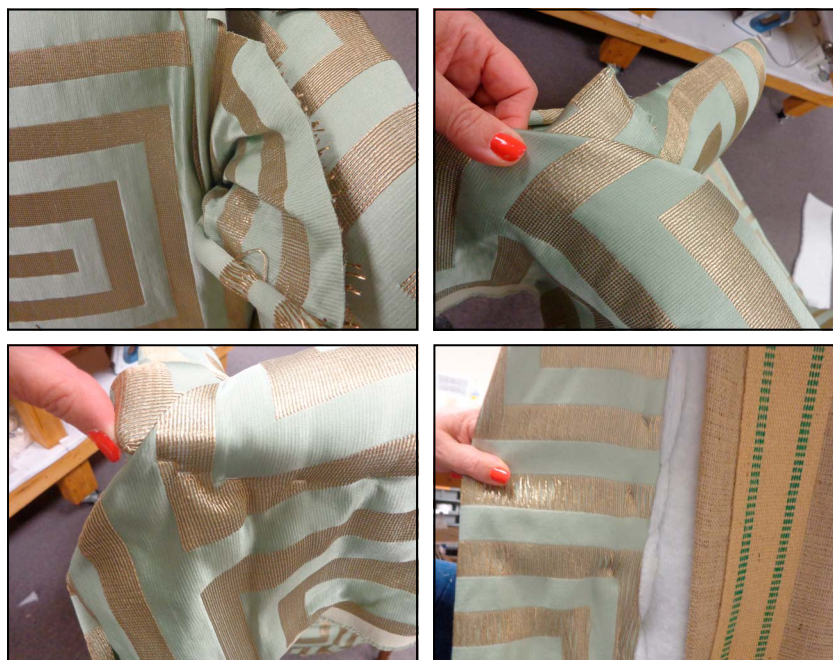
3 Staple to back frame to close the hole left from the inside arms and the inside wings.

A. If additional padding is needed to fill out the IB, add it in from the back.



4 At the top corners, fold under fabric to make the chair angle, trimming as needed.

5 Staple to back of chair.



Adding Foundation and Padding to the Outside of the Chair:

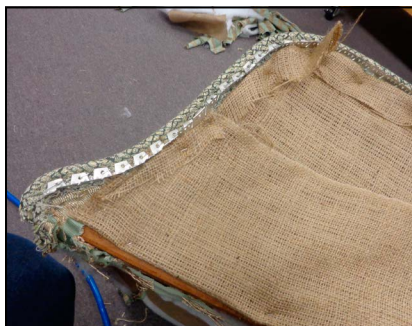
NOTE: You can choose to add foundation and padding to the entire outside of the chair now or you can do it as you come to that area of the chair.

Outside Wing

- 1 Add a layer of Burlap to close the hole.
- 2 Staple on welt cord, making a good stop at the top and removing cording from the casing as it comes to the under arm area.



- 3 Staple on a row of Flexible Metal Tack Strip around the curved area.
- 4 Finger close the tack strip 1/2 way.

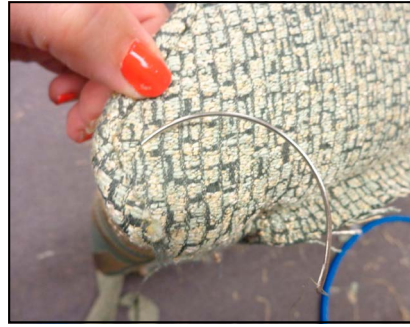
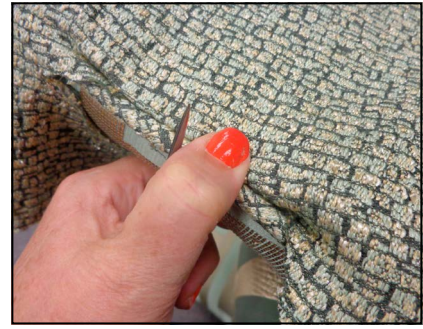
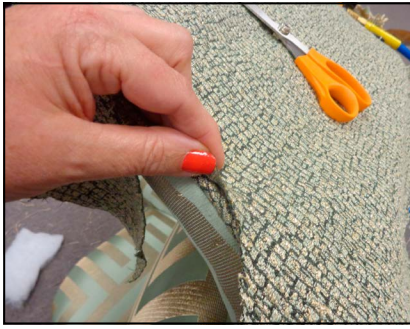


- 5 Add padding as needed, keeping all padding within the teeth.
- 6 Position fabric.



- 7 Trim and push fabric into the teeth of the tack strip and staple the bottom to the frame.
- 8 Pound shut with a rubber mallet.

- 9 Fold in the top corners, remove excess fabric and hand close.



Outside Arm

- 1 Close the hole with a layer of burlap.



- 2 Place fabric wrong side up so the top is resting in the staple area.

- 3 Apply fabric under the roll using cardboard tack strip.

- 4 Add a layer of batting.

- 5 Pull fabric down and staple under frame.

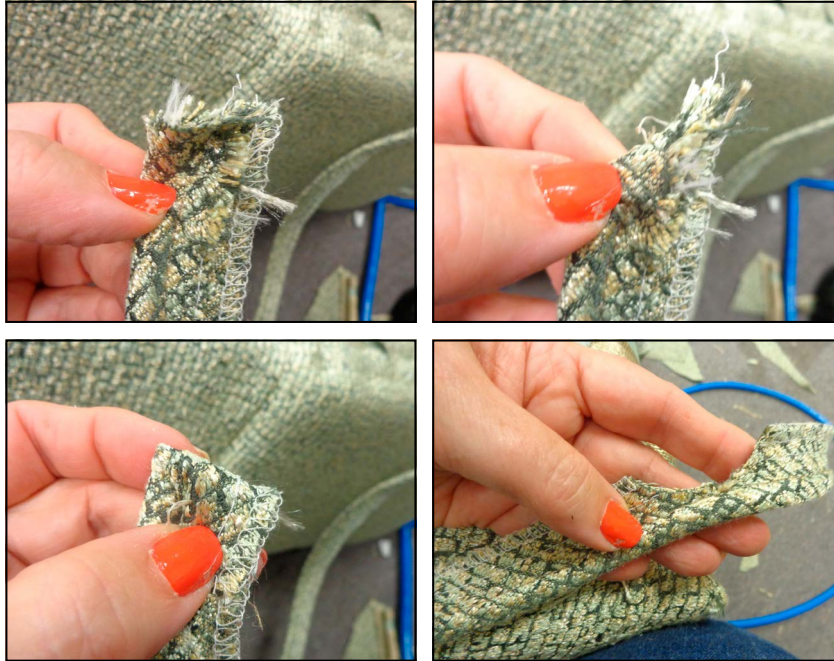
- 6 Pull back to back of frame and staple.

- 7 Pull front to key area and staple.



Adding Fabric to the Outside Back of the Chair:

- 1 Stretch Burlap to close the hole.
- 2 Staple on one continuous row of welt, making good stops at both bottoms and removing the lip at the corners.



- 3 Staple on three rows of Flexible Metal tack Strip to each side of the Outside Back and to the top, running top to bottom, tucking it tight up to the welt cord. Finger close it half way.
 - A. The tack strip should start and stop short of the very top and the very bottom and at the sides on the top.
- 4 Cut a piece of batting that fits inside of the flexible metal tack strip and stops at the bottom of the frame.
- 5 Put batting onto chair, stapling sparingly, if at all.



- 6 Place fabric and staple at the bottom, under the frame, making relief cuts for the legs.
- 7 For the top, start in the middle and cut a small area (3" - 4") to just outside of the welt cord, tuck it into the teeth of the metal tack strip and close using your fingers.
- 8 Continue working side to side until you run out of top tack strip.
- 9 Leave the corners for last.
- 10 For the sides, start in the middle and cut a small area (3" - 4") to just the outside of the welt cord, tuck it into the teeth of the metal tack strip and close the rest of the way with your fingers.
- 11 Complete each side, doing a little spot at a time.

- 12 For the top corners, trim and tuck in raw edges to form to the welt cord. Hand close using Upholstery Thread.



Completing the Key:

- 1 Figure out pleating pattern and pleat both arm roles.
- 2 Trim fabric and remove any batting in the key area.



- 3 Add a row of welt cord to the edge of the wood of the key area.
- 4 Make a pattern from the first side for welt placement on the second key.



5 Add a thin layer of batting and fabric, tucking in raw edges and pinning.

6 Hand close key.



Finishing the Chair:

1 Add bottom welt, cutting away welt lip around legs.



2 Hand tack any areas where one piece of welt meets another.

- 3 Staple on a layer of Black Cambric.



NOTE: It's always a good idea to steam pieces prior to delivery.



For steps on how to add foundation padding and tie springs, please see our how-to guide on Upholstering a Wingback Chair – Cut Plan Through Springs.