

## Upholstering a Bench with Custom Pleated Skirt

An upholstered bench is a great way to break up traditional dining seating and provides flexibility for arrangements and seating options. From our Exquisite Dining Roomscape, we've taken a simple bench and reupholstered it to coordinate with our custom dining room and tablescape. Follow along and learn how to fabricate this unique bench with pleated bench skirt in a coordinating geometric pattern - harvesting an upscale look.

### Materials & Supplies

#### Rowley Products

W&I Cambridge Sateen Lining	<a href="#"><u>LNW44/</u></a>
Jumbo Wonder Clips	<a href="#"><u>QC42</u></a>
Skirtex Stiffener	<a href="#"><u>SKX55/</u></a>
Staple Puller Plier	<a href="#"><u>MH41</u></a>
R-TEC Upholstery Air Stapler	<a href="#"><u>NSG10</u></a>
71 Series Staples	<a href="#"><u>NSE32, 33</u></a>
Polyester Batting	<a href="#"><u>PF76</u></a>
Cardboard Tack Strip	<a href="#"><u>CS50</u></a>

### Upholstering a Bench with Custom Pleated Skirt: Step-By-Step Instructions

#### Tear Down:

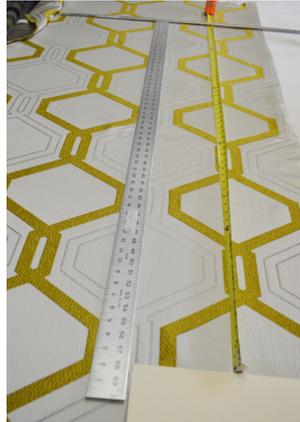
- 1 Remove fabric and all staples from bench.



## Preparing the Bench and Fabric:

1 Measure the bench and cut fabric.

- A. Measure the bench and figure fabric cuts for the bench skirt. The skirt sections have a half pleat on each side, so allow about 7" in addition to the width of the skirt for this. Cut lining the same size as the skirt and pleat fabric.



- B. Measure the bench top and cut the fabric for the bench top and the skirt pleats. Pattern match and seam the fabric for the bench top.



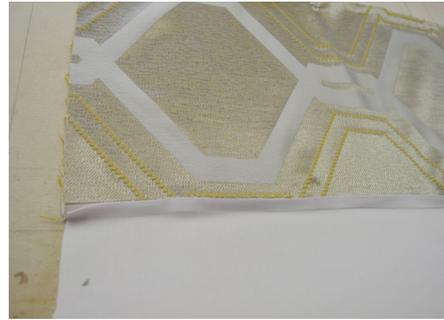
2 Glaze legs of bench.



## Making the Skirts and Skirt Pleats:

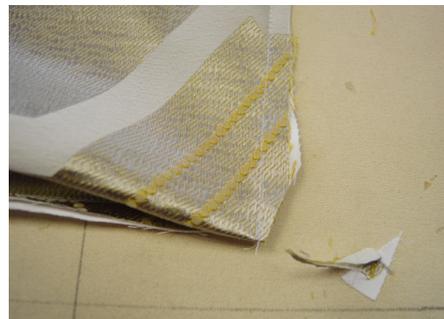
1 Pin bottom of skirt to bottom of lining and stitch a ½" Seam Allowance (SA).

2 Press the SA towards the face fabric. Don't forget to test the heat of your iron for the fabric you are using.



3 Fold the Face Fabric (FF) and the lining, wrong sides together, keeping the SA tucked into the bottom fold of the hem. This will turn the FF ½" from the bottom of the hem.

4 Now fold the FF and lining right sides together, keeping the hem crease at the bottom. Pin the side hems. Stitch a ½" SA. Clip corners and turn right sides out, press side seams.



5 Clip excess lining away from top edge of skirt.

6 Cut a piece of Skirtex the skirt length minus ¾" - 1" and about ½" less narrow than the skirt face. Place Skirtex inside skirt, centering the Skirtex. Mark top edge of skirt. Do not put Skirtex in the skirt contrast pleats.



- 7 With the Skirtex inside the skirt and the top of the skirt marked, pin, fold under half pleat at each end of the skirt, and then stitch at the finished length of the skirt to secure the Skirtex in place.
- 8 Serge the top edge of the skirt for a clean finish. Mark centers of each skirt piece.



## Stapling the seat and skirts to the bench:

- 1 Mark the center of the front, back, and sides of the seat piece. Staple the center front to the center front on the bench. Work out towards the corners, stopping a few inches from each corner. Repeat these steps to complete the top of the bench.
- 2 At the corners, pull the corner of the fabric down and staple just to each side of the corner of the bench. Fold the fabric to form a pleat on either side and staple in place. Trim away the excess fabric.



- 3 Add the skirt sections first and then the contrast pleats.
- 4 Mark the centers of the skirt sections and match to the center of the bench sections. Using the stitch line on the skirt, staple right sides together (the skirt will be up on the bench).
- 5 The contrast pleats will be attached in the same way. Center the corner of the pleat at the corner of each leg and staple in place.



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Add cardboard tack strip to create a clean line for the skirt to complete the bench.

