

Make A Slip Cover

Texas Agricultural Extension Service
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EASY SEPARATE-SECTIONS METHOD
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Leaflet No. 307

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Rosa M. Starkey, Extension Home Furnishings Specialist

A well-made, properly styled slip cover has a place in today's home decoration, for it can give a new and fresh appearance to a room.

The slip cover described in this bulletin is made in several separate sections. With this method the number of sections will depend on the structure of the chair. Usually the back is one finished piece, each arm one piece, the seat-base and seat-front one piece, and the cushion one piece, totaling five separate sections. Because this slip cover has separate sections, it is easy to make and easy to fit smoothly to the chair. When all the sections are completed, they are put on the chair and held in place with thread tacking, wood dowel, or steel tacks.

Consider Color and Design

Selecting a suitable material, of a color or design pleasing for your room, is even more important than the method chosen for making the slip cover. Take time to plan it. You may have it a long time.

If this is your first slip cover, you will be wise to select a plain color, a textured fabric, or an all-over pattern. It takes more time and patience to locate large designs and match stripes, and it also takes more material. For instance, a medallion-type design should have three repeats across the width of fabric to allow for centering the design.

Plain colors can be used on any piece of furniture in any room. They are especially good in rooms where there is already design in rugs, draperies, wallpaper, or upholstery. Water repellent and dirt resistant finishes on plain-colored fabrics make them serviceable for slip covers. Fabrics with these finishes can be purchased or chemicals are on the market that can be applied to a fabric to give these finishes.

Type of Chair To Slip Cover

A slip cover can be successfully made for a chair that is completely upholstered or padded, for a chair with open arms, for a chair with wood trim around the bottom, or for a chair with wood trim on the arm fronts. Occasionally wood trim can be removed from arm fronts without damage to the

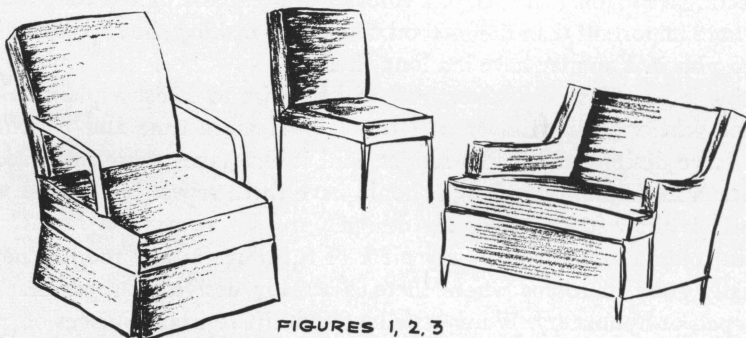
chair. A chair with a button-tufted back or a chair with much wood trim around the back and arms looks better upholstered than slip covered.

Before beginning to make the slip cover, be sure the chair padding and springs are in good condition. If the springs in the cushion are not firm and smooth, they can be reconditioned, or a spring unit can be purchased the size of your cushion. This unit is all ready to pad with upholstery cotton, foam rubber or rubberized hair. A foam rubber cushion may also be purchased.

Decide on Style

You have three choices:

1. The "flounce look." A flounce is usually tailored with pleats only at corners, but it may be pleated or gathered all the way around the chair. The "flounce look" takes more material and time than the "upholstered look."
2. The "upholstered look." A slip cover can be tailored to look almost like upholstery. It need not look like a slip cover.
3. The "solid look." Some chairs have very short legs. If the "upholstered look" is not used, the material may be brought down nearly to the floor without corner pleats.



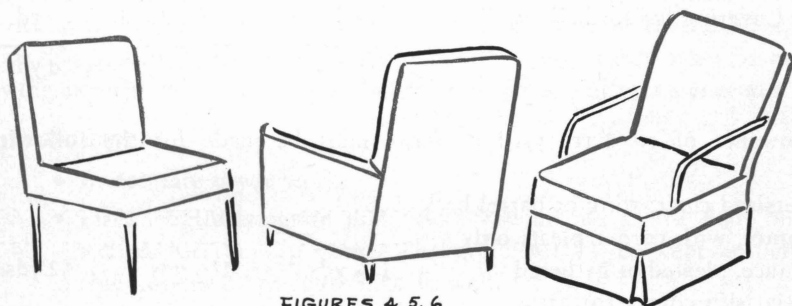
FIGURES 1, 2, 3

The location of the seams is very important to the styling of the slip cover. Study the lines and proportions of the chair. Place the seams where they will bring out the best structural lines and proportions of the chair. Pinning a cord to the upholstery along basic structural breaks will help you to properly locate seam lines. The seams which style the slip cover are trimmed, usually with cord. Those which shape the slip cover are the inside seams and do not need to be trimmed.

Each chair must be studied and the slip cover planned according to the structural lines of the chair.

To guide you there is usually a trimmed seam in these places:

- Across top of back, joining outside back and inside back of slip cover. (See figure 4.)
- Along both arms from front to back, joining outside arm and inside arm. (See figure 5.)
- Completely around top and bottom of removable cushions.
- Across seat at front edge of frame in chair without cushion.
- From back along side of seat, across front and again along side of seat to back of chair without arms or one with open arms, as in figures 4 and 6.



FIGURES 4, 5, 6

Select Fabric Carefully

A chair is likely to get more use than almost any other item of home furnishings. Select a fabric suitable for the wear which the chair will receive. A **FIRM, CLOSELY WOVEN FABRIC** usually tailors well, is easy to handle, holds its shape, stops dust from sifting through, and gives a smarter effect.

Pull the fabric diagonally. If it springs back into shape quickly, the slip cover will hold its shape. If the fabric has a good snapping sound, it means there is little or no sizing in it—another point in favor of its holding its shape.

The design of the chair is also important when choosing the fabric. If the chair has decided curves, select a material that will mold easily. For instance, glazed chintz does not have good molding quality. **AVOID FABRICS THAT RAVEL EASILY.** Long threads on the surface are likely to snag.

Consider more than the number of dollars a cover may cost. The dollars represent the initial cost only. There are other values to consider, such as length of life and cost of upkeep. No fabric is a "bargain" if it fails to look well, wear well or clean well.

Table for Measuring Yardage

Before shopping for material, measure the width across the widest part of the chair back. Some chairs require a wider fabric than 36 inches.

These are approximate allowances for a chair of average size:

	If it is 54" material	If it is 48" material	If it is 36" material
For Inside back allow	1 yd.	1 yd.	1 yd.
For Outside back allow	1 yd.	1 yd.	1 yd.
For Inside arms allow	2 yd.	2 yd.	2 yd.
For Outside arms allow	1 yd.	1 yd.	1 yd.
For Cushion allow	1 yd.	1 yd.	2 yd.
For Covering for cord allow	1½ yd.	1½ yd.	1 yd.
	6½ yds.	6½ yds.	8 yds.

Allowance of an extra yard or more must be made for the following:

Oversized chair, wing or barrel back	.....	.....	.....
Flounce, with corner pleats only	.....	.....	.....
Flounce, pleated or gathered	1½ yds.	1½ yds.	2 yds.
Partial slip covers for arms	.....	.....	.....
For matching design	.....	.....	.....
Total yardage for chair	.....	.....	.....

LOOK FOR LABELS. Look for "Vat-Dye" printed on the selvage. Vat dyes are resistant to fading. Some man-made fibers are being developed with the color "locked-in" against fading. **FIND OUT IF THE MATERIAL CAN BE WASHED OR IF IT SHOULD BE DRY CLEANED.** If material is washable, be sure it is pre-shrunk. If fabric label has no guarantee, buy a little and test it for shrinkage before purchasing full amount of yardage.

Ask the salesman about guarantees on fabrics before you buy. A 1% shrinkage guarantee means a little less than 1/2 inch per yard. A 1% shrinkage guarantee is safe. A fabric carrying a 2 per cent or more guarantee must be shrunk before using. A 5 per cent shrinkage will shorten a 36-inch skirt 2 1/2 inches. Think what it would do to a slip cover!

If a fabric does not carry a definite guarantee, or if you are uncertain of its behavior, test for shrinkage. To do this, baste mark a 12-inch square at one corner of the fabric. Sponge and press this corner. If the margin of this square looks drawn, or measures 1 1/4 inches or less, the fabric should be shrunk before cutting the slip cover.

How to Shrink Fabric

Shrink fabrics yourself unless you prefer to pay for this service. To shrink, fold fabric with right sides on the inside. However, if it was purchased folded, leave it "as is." A bathtub is ideal as a container for soaking. Fold the fabric to fit flat on the bottom of the tub.

Soak thoroughly in cool water. Be cautious on length of time allowed for soaking colored fabrics and prints. If color starts to bleed, remove fabric from water immediately. Loop it smoothly and evenly over three or more clothes lines and let it drip until nearly dry. **DO NOT WRING**. Inspect a corner to see if pressing is necessary. Press fabric before it is entirely dry if this improves the texture. (Some fabrics will be too stiff if not pressed.) Otherwise, let fabric dry thoroughly.

The secret to a tailored, professional-looking slip cover is in the anchoring device used in hard-to-fit places and in the snug fitting of the fabric to the chair. No basting is necessary with this method. No pattern need be made. Sewing experience is not essential, but time, patience and persistence are.

It is important to:

- Be accurate as you work.
- Place lengthwise grain of fabric perpendicular to the floor on all sections of the slip cover. The grain **MUST** be kept at perfect right angles if the cover is to fit well.
- Be sure the up and down pattern of a fabric is always in the right direction on the chair.
- Center the pattern of a fabric which has a definite repeat, being sure it is balanced in all inside and outside sections of the chair, cushion tops and boxings. A medallion-type design should have three repeats across the width of fabric to allow for centering of the design.
- Match stripes and design of fabric at seam lines and in piecings.
- Place pins at the exact fitting lines.
- Finish and press all seams which join other seams **BEFORE** they are connected at structural points.

Materials Needed for Slip Cover

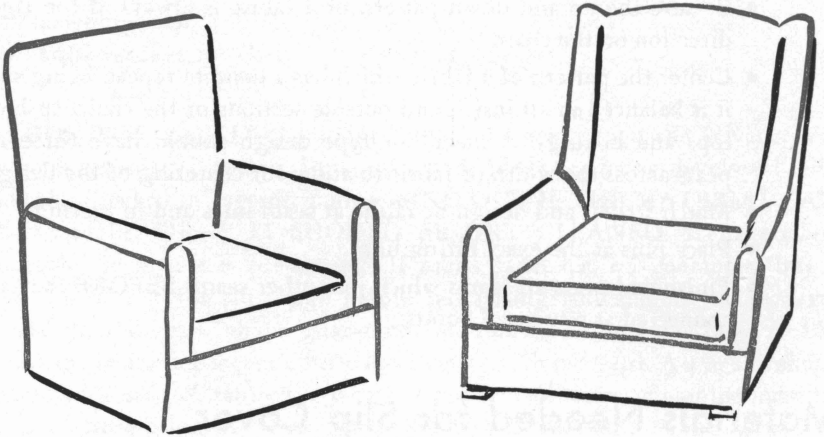
1. Upholstered chair that is suitable for slip covering.
2. Ample yardage of suitable fabric for making slip cover.
3. Approximately 15 yards of cording. See "Selection of Cord" division.
4. Ten spools of heavy-duty cotton thread the same color as the fabric.
5. A cording foot attachment for your sewing machine. Since all seams are corded, this slip cover cannot be made without a cording foot.

6. Scissors with a sharp point.
7. A box of sturdy pins. Bank pins are good.
8. Two dozen corsage pins for anchoring the fabric.
9. A small carpenter's square or yardstick. A square is more accurate.
10. A finger or wrist pin cushion saves time.
11. About 6 feet of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch doweling.
12. A $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch or 2-inch curved needle.
13. A crayola and small piece of wrapping paper.
14. Tailor's chalk.

Select Cord

All main seams should be corded. Corded seams give this slip cover its tailored look and keep seams from stretching. Buy a soft pliable cotton cord, about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in diameter. Examine the cord to see that it is not made of paper. **PREPARED CORD, ALREADY COVERED, IS NOT SATISFACTORY FOR THIS METHOD OF MAKING A SLIP COVER.** The seam allowance on prepared cord is only about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide and it needs to be $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch wide.

It is easy to cut a continuous bias and cover the cord with your slip cover fabric, or from a fabric of contrasting color. Unless you wish to emphasize the lines of your chair, use the same fabric for the cording as for the slip cover.



Make a Continuous Bias

Use the $\frac{1}{2}$ -yard or 1 yard purchased for covering cord. Cut a continuous bias:

1. You may start with any square or rectangular piece of material—cut straight on lengthwise and crosswise threads.

2. Fold up corner C to get bias edge BE.

3. Cut through fold BE. Join straight edges BC and AD. Press seam open.

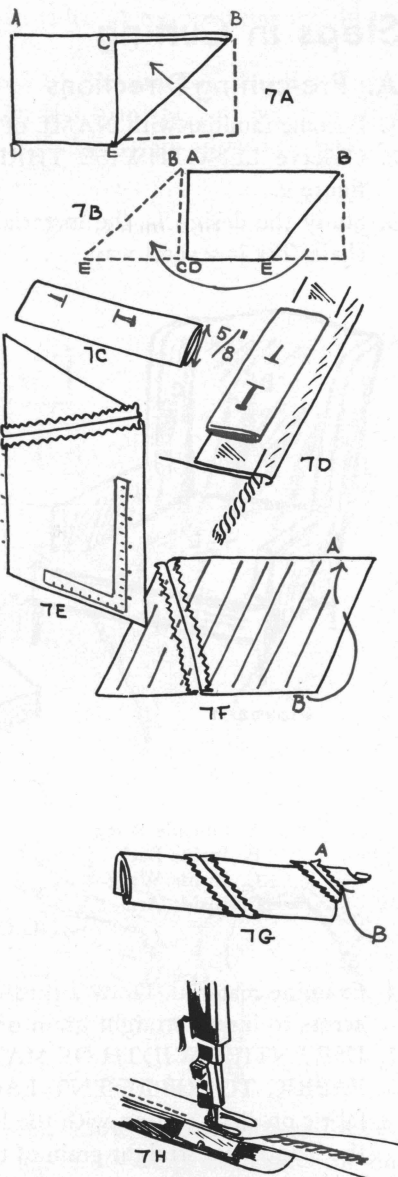
4. Make a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch gauge. Start with a 2-inch long piece of paper and fold it to $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch size. Pin in place. Or use a piece of thin cardboard $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch wide.

5. To determine width that the bias should be cut, roll bias edge of fabric over cord. Using gauge, allow $\frac{5}{8}$ inch for seam. Mark with pins for several inches. Now measure width you will need to cut bias—from pins to bias edge. This will be approximately, 2-inches.

6. Turn fabric wrong side up. Lay one edge of square rule on bias edge of fabric. Now mark entire piece the width bias should be cut.

7. With ruler and tailor's chalk, draw line connecting marks you have just made. Now join the two straight edges. Begin by bringing B to point A. See 7 F. This allows a width of the bias to extend on both sides of a cylindrical piece. See 7 G. Stitch and press seam open. Beginning at point BA, cut the continuous bias, following the chalk line you have drawn.

8. Place cord in fold of bias strip. Using cording foot attachment, stitch close to cord with a long machine stitch. Use thread the same color as fabric for stitching. This stitching line is the line on which all fitting of the slip cover is done. The seam allowance on the cord should be $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch.



Steps in Cutting

A. Pre-cutting Directions

1. Become familiar with NAME of each section of chair.
2. Observe LENGTHWISE THREADS of fabric for each section. Note figure 9.
3. Study the design in the material to determine how it looks best on the chair. Try it several ways . . . then decide.

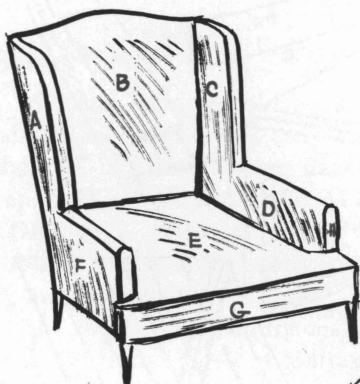


FIGURE 8

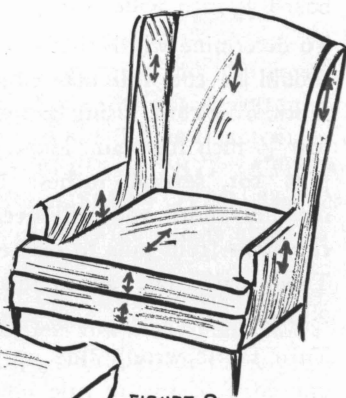


FIGURE 9

A. Outside Wing
B. Inside Back
C. Inside Wing
D. Inside Arm

E. Seatbase
F. Outside Arm
G. Front Boxing
H. Arm Front

I. Cushion

4. Examine material. Draw a thread at upper raw edge, cut or tear straight across to insure straight grain of fabric before cutting.
5. USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF MATERIAL FOR CUTTING A BLOCK OF FABRIC TO REPRESENT EACH SECTION OF THE CHAIR. Place fabric on chair section with the lengthwise straight grain of fabric against the lengthwise straight grain of the upholstery on each chair section.

Allow 1 inch, FIRST-THUMB-JOINT measurement, for all seam allowances. At all tuck-in places allow 6 to 8 inches of fabric or EASY-SPREAD-OF-HAND. See figure 10.

This method of cutting will give a square or oblong block of fabric for each chair section. The length of each block should be the length of the chair section plus seam allowance plus required tuck-in. The width of each block

will be the width of the material. The full width of the material should be left on all large sections.

DO NOT cut to size until piece is fitted to chair section. Small sections (boxing, front, arm, etc.) may be cut from less than the full width of the fabric after carefully placing the design and checking seam allowance, tuck-in, and straight of the grain.

B. Cutting Directions

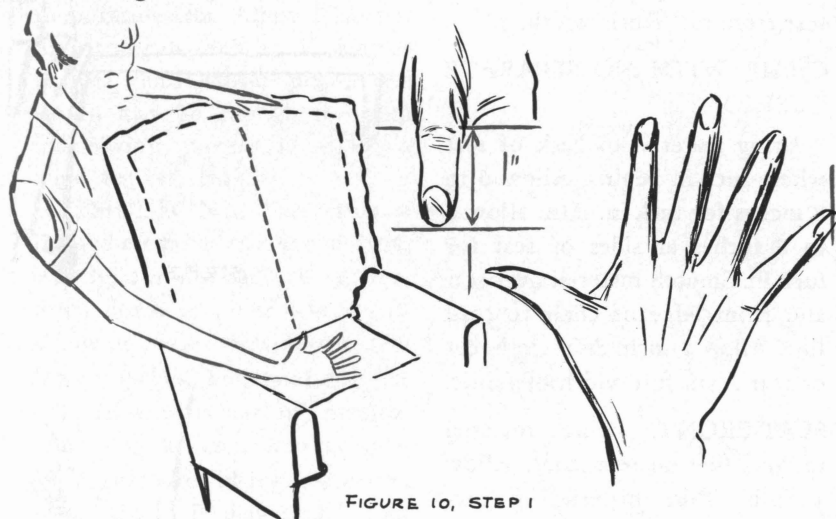
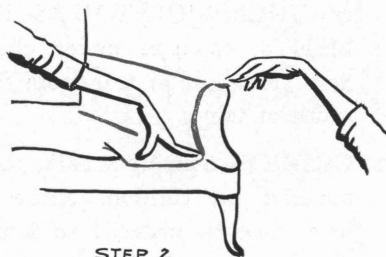


FIGURE 10, STEP 1

Cut fabric lengths for each section of the chair: Mark each piece as it is cut. (For barrel-back chair, see page 20 before reading further.)



STEP 2

For the "Upholstered Look"

1. **INSIDE-BACK.** Place material on highest point of chair inside-back. At top allow 1 inch, **FIRST-THUMB-JOINT**, for seam. At chair seat, allow 6 to 8 inches, **EASY-SPREAD-OF-HAND**, for tuck-in. See figure 10. Snip cloth and cut on thread or tear piece necessary; leave piece in full width of fabric until fitting step.
2. **INSIDE-ARM.** Place material on inside-arm, bring to point where inside-arm joins outside-arm. Allow 1 inch. At chair seat, and chair back allow 6 to 8 inches. Snip cloth and cut or tear piece from full width of fabric. Cut another piece for other arm.

3. SEAT-BASE
CHAIR WITH SEPARATE
CUSHION:

Bring material to where original cover joins seat lining. Allow 1 inch. Smooth material over front edge of chair to cord line. Allow 1 inch. Snip cloth, cut or tear from full fabric width.

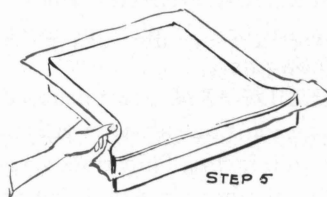
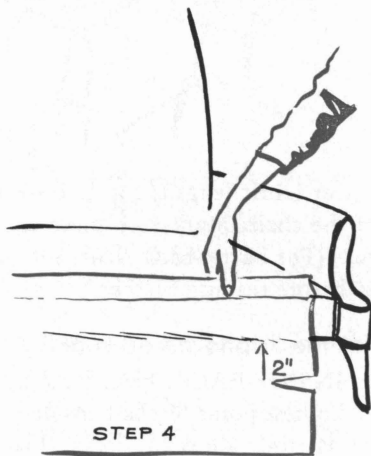
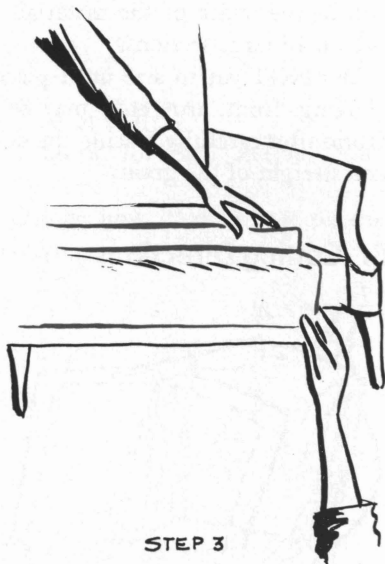
CHAIR WITH NO SEPARATE
CUSHION:

Bring material to back of seat where tuck-in begins. Allow 6 to 8 inches for tuck-in. Also allow 6 to 8 inches at sides of seat for tuck-in. Smooth material over seat and front edge of chair to cord line. Allow 1 inch. Snip cloth, cut or tear from full width of fabric.

4. SEAT-FRONT. Bring material to cord line on seat-front. Allow 1 inch. Take material to bottom of chair. Allow 2 inches, two THUMB-JOINT-MEASUREMENTS, to turn under chair. Snip cloth, cut or tear from full width of fabric.

5. CUSHION. Starting at back, place material on cushion. Allow 1 inch. Smooth material to front. Allow 1 inch. Snip and cut—or tear. If material is 48 inches or 54 inches wide, cut only one length. If material is 36 inches wide, and plain, two lengths will need to be cut.

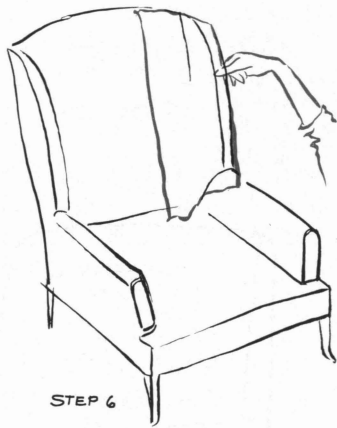
BOXING. Cut front boxing strip the width of boxing on cushion, plus $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch on each side for



seams. A piece of good design is needed for front boxing. Other boxing pieces may be cut from scraps.

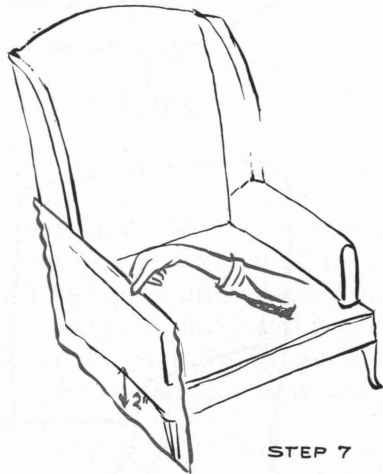
6. **INSIDE-WING.** Bring material to top back corner of inside-wing. Allow 1 inch. Smooth material down to point where inside-wing joins inside-arm. Allow 2 inches. Snip and cut—or tear. If wing is narrow, and fabric plain, one length may be enough for both inside-wing pieces. If wing is wide, cut two lengths.

OUTSIDE-WING. Place material on highest point of outside-wing. At top, allow 1 inch. Bring material down to point where outside-wing meets outside-arm. Allow 2 inches. Snip and cut—or tear. If wing is narrow, outside-wing may be cut from outside-back piece after fitting is done on outside-back. It may also be cut from inside wing pieces (if two lengths are cut), after fitting is done on inside-wing.



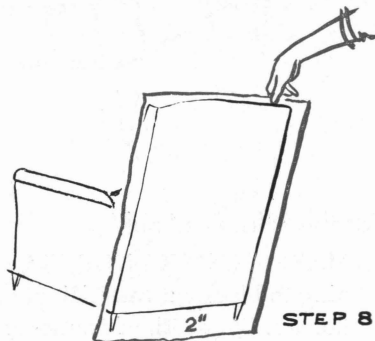
STEP 6

7. **OUTSIDE-ARM.** Place material on outside-arm. At under arm seam, allow 1 inch. At bottom, allow 2 inches to turn under chair. Snip cloth and cut—or tear from full width of fabric. Cut piece for each arm.



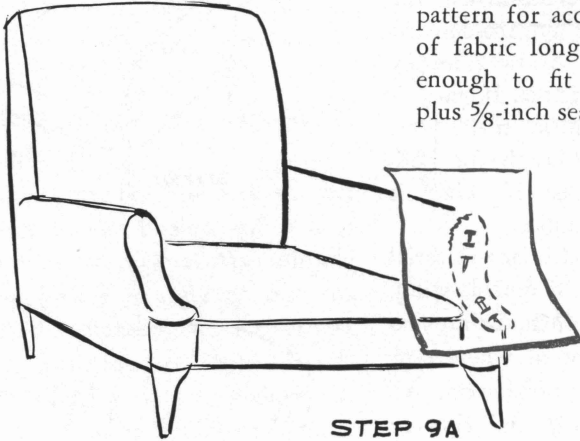
STEP 7

8. **OUTSIDE-BACK.** Place material on highest point of outside-back. At top, allow 1 inch. At bottom, allow 2 inches to turn under chair. Snip cloth and cut—or tear as before.

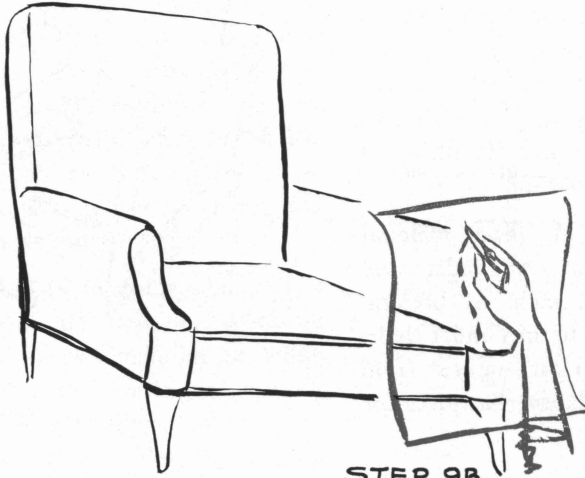


STEP 8

9. ARM-FRONT. Make a pattern for arm-front. Anchor a piece of wrapping paper on arm-front of chair. With crayola, mark OUTER EDGE of arm-front (9a). Hold crayola at 45° angle (9b). Cut on crayola line. Check pattern for accuracy. Cut a block of fabric long enough and wide enough to fit arm-front pattern, plus $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance.



STEP 9A



STEP 9B

For the "Flounce Look"

1. MARK POSITION OF FLOUNCE AND BLOCK-CUT. Before beginning to block-cut material, put a chalk line around chair indicating top of flounce. For depth of flounce on most chairs, measure from bottom of seat-

front to floor. Changes in block-cutting will be made only on OUTSIDE-BACK and OUTSIDE-ARM. In each case, BRING MATERIAL TO CHALK MARK RATHER THAN TO BOTTOM OF CHAIR, AND ALLOW 1 INCH. For block-cutting, follow directions for the "Upholstered Look," pages 9 through 12, steps 1-9.

2. CUT FLOUNCE LENGTHS. Bring material up to chalk line, allow 1 inch. Take material to floor, allow 1 inch. Cut 4 pieces, one for each side of the chair. If flounce is gathered or pleated all around, cut 8 pieces of 36-inch material or 6 pieces of 48-inch or 54-inch material.

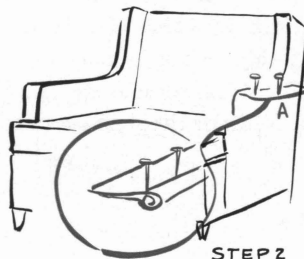
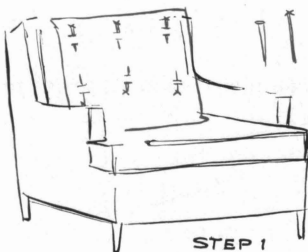
For the "Solid Look"

1. Changes in directions will be made only on OUTSIDE-BACK and OUTSIDE-ARM. Follow directions for the "Upholstered Look," pages 9 through 12, steps 1-9. For outside-back and outside-arm, bring material to floor rather than to bottom of chair, allow 2 inches for hem.
2. An extra piece will be cut from bottom of seat-front to floor. Bring material to bottom of seat-front, allow 1 inch. Take material to floor, allow 2 inches for hem.

Know These Terms—Before Fitting

A. Four Types of Pinning:

1. ANCHORING. Each piece of material should be held in place on the chair with corsage pins. Lengthwise threads of material should always be perpendicular to floor or chair seat. Crosswise threads of material should always be parallel to floor or chair seat. Anchor each piece up and down, and across to hold lengthwise and crosswise threads in place. Anchor each piece to the chair as it is used. Place points of anchor pins towards each other. See step 1 below. The material should be anchored as snugly to the chair as you wish the slip cover to fit when finished.
2. PERPENDICULAR PINNING ON STITCHING LINE OF CORD. When applying cord, insert common pins on stitching line of cord perpendicular to the chair, or at right angles into the upholstery. See step 2 below.



3. **STAY-PINNING.** This occurs in the final fitting process, as when applying the outside-back. See step 9, page 17. Here seam allowance on outside-back is turned under and brought to stitching line on cord. To hold outside-back in place, stay-pin about every 4 inches. To stay-pin, insert pin on folded edge. Insert pins through both the seam of the cord and the outside-back. This will hold the outside-back in place securely while removing the slip cover from the chair for stitching.
4. **FOLDED-EDGE PINNING.** This pinning is used between stay-pins. About 1 inch apart, insert pins on every edge of fold, through stitching line on cord and perpendicular to chair. See step 9, page 17. Folded-edge pinning is also used to hold darts in place. See step 5, page 16.

B. Types of Machine Stitching:

1. **MACHINE-BASTE.** Use a large machine stitch, 8 to 10 stitches per inch, and thread the same color as the material you are stitching. Machine-basting is used for covering cord and for all corded seams that will be stitched again.
2. **MACHINE-STITCH.** Use 15 to 20 stitches per inch. Machine-stitching is used for final stitching of seams.
3. **SEW OVER PINS.** No hand basting is done, so all sewing is done over pins. First, **MACHINE-BASTE** over pins, as close to cord as possible. Remove pins. Then **MACHINE-STITCH** as close to cord as possible. **USE CORDING FOOT ATTACHMENT FOR STITCHING ALL CORDED SEAMS.**

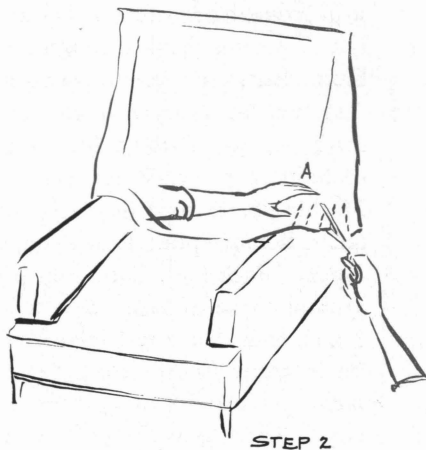
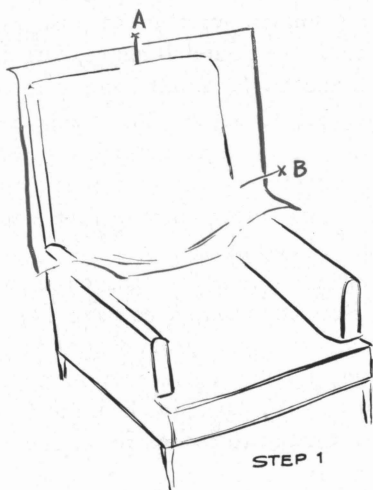
C. Seam Finishes

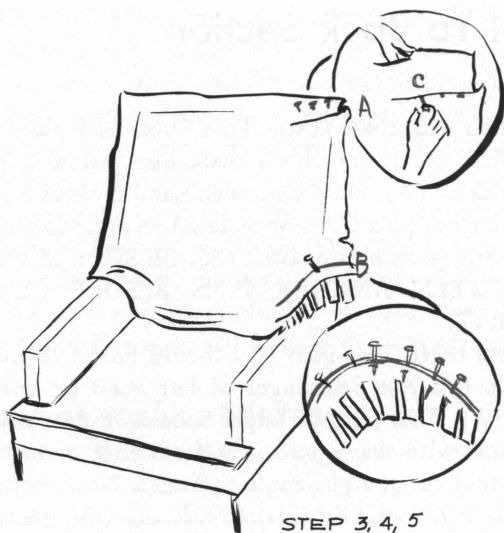
1. **THREE-INCH BIAS.** This is a firm and neat finish for all curved edges near tuck-in areas on chair. Cut this piece 3 inches wide and as long as the curve. See 6A, page 17. When putting the final slip cover on the chair, bias pieces, as tuck-ins, help hold cover in place.
2. **TUCK-IN TAB.** This is a straight piece, 6 to 8 inches deep. It is sewed to vertical and horizontal corded seams which lie on the tuck-in area of the chair. See 6B, page 17. The tuck-in tab helps to hold the slip cover in place.
3. **RAW-EDGE HEMMING.** Turn back a hem, leaving raw edge exposed on wrong side. Stitch in place.
4. **TRIM SEAM.** As soon as stitching is completed trim all seams to $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch, or to the depth of the seams on the cord.

Fitting Material To Back Section

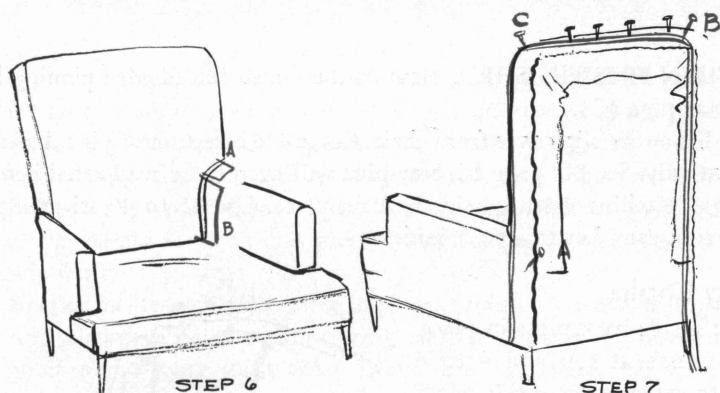
A. Most Chairs:

1. Mark center back of chair with chalk at top. Fold *inside-back* piece in half. Cut a notch on fold at top. Place notch on chalk line. Allow 1 inch for seam at top, anchor to chair (A). Hold lengthwise and crosswise grain of material in place with anchor pins. Anchor material securely to chair back at points where inside-arm joins outside-back (B). **BE SURE MATERIAL FITS SNUGLY BETWEEN ANCHOR PINS BEFORE CLIPPING AROUND ARM CURVE.**
2. Fit material around arm curve. One-inch tabs should be cut to make the material lie flat. To do this rest first finger of left hand on chair arm, against back of chair (A). First joint of finger should be near middle of arm curve. Using scissors with sharp point, cut from edge of material to first joint—scissors should cut at right angle to finger. Now move finger toward seat 1 inch. **ALWAYS KEEP THIS FINGER ON ARM AND AGAINST BACK OF CHAIR WHEN CLIPPING.** Now cut parallel to finger from first clip to first finger joint, then cut at right angle to first joint. Move finger down another inch, cut at right angle to joint again. Move finger down still another inch, cut parallel as before, then cut at right angle to joint again. This forms a 1-inch tab. See step 5B, page 16. Continue cutting 1 inch tabs around entire curve of chair, first toward the seat—then from middle of arm curve toward the back. Material should now lie flat on inside-back of chair, tabs extending out on arm. Cut as many tabs as necessary to make material lie flat. Before clipping second arm, be sure material fits snugly between arms on inside-back.





3. Apply cord to snipped curved edge. See 3B. Anchor cord on chair outside-back, allow 1 inch for seam. Bring cord to chair seat. Snip. Let cord rest against inside-back of chair, seam toward you. Do perpendicular pinning on stitching line of cord, pulling tabs slightly as you pin. This insures a snug fit.
4. At top corner of chair, lay extra fullness in a corner dart. The folded edge of this dart should be on the straight of material. Hold dart in place with folded-edge pinning. See A above. If you prefer, this dart may be slip-stitched in place by hand with a basting thread.
5. When cord and darts are pinned in place on both sides of chair, remove arm from chair, a few inches at a time. Complete insertion of pins, without removing them, through seam of cord. See A and B above. Lift dart from chair. Grasp seam between thumb and finger of left hand, complete insertion of pins through seam only. See C above. On wrong side, machine stitch dart on fold line. If darts are to be unstitched, top stitch to hold in place. When slip cover is completed, remove top stitching. Machine baste cord in place, stitch over pins, using cording foot attachment. Remove pins. Trim seam, as described on page 14.
6. Apply 3-inch bias. Cut a bias piece 3 inches wide and long enough to fit around curve of arm—6 to 8 inches. Raw edge hem (see page 14) the 3-inch ends. Starting 1 inch from back, sew this piece around curved edge, on stitching line of cord. See 6A. Apply tuck-in, cut a straight piece 6 inches wide and 8 to 10 inches long for tuck-in. Raw edge hem the 6-inch edges. Starting at end of bias piece, sew tuck-in to corded seam, down to seat. See 6B.

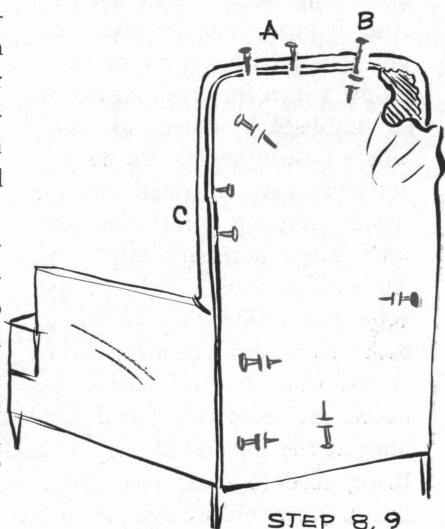


7. Return inside-back piece to chair, anchor notch on chalk line at center back. Turn 3-inch bias up around curve—do not sew bias into back seam in steps 7 and 8. Anchor cord on chair-back. See 7A. Be sure inside-back fits snugly.
8. Apply cord around back edge of chair. Anchor to bottom of chair, allow 1 inch. For "solid look" bring cord to floor, allow 1 inch. Turn cord seam toward center of chair. Bring cord up to top corner, across top, and down to bottom of chair on the other side. Snip. This cord rests on the very edge of the chair back.

Now, do perpendicular pinning. To insure snug fit, pull seam of inside-back slightly as you pin on seam line of cord about every 4 inches (step 7B). Check to see if cord line is where you want it. Now, complete the 1-inch perpendicular pinning (C). Gently lift material with pinned cord from chair, a few inches at a time. Complete insertion of pins through seam of cord. See step 5B, page 16. Machine-baste over pins. Remove pins. Trim seam.

9. Apply outside-back. Return inside-back to chair, put notch on chalk line. Let seam extend over back. Anchor snugly to chair. Insert anchor pins above cord on inside-back piece (A). Anchor cord ends to bottom corners of chair.

Starting at center top of outside-back piece, turn under seam allowance. Bring folded edge to stitching line on cord. Insert a stay-pin (B). Anchor outside-back piece in place. Stay-pin every 4 inches on cord line around back of chair. **BE SURE THE SLIP COVER FITS AS SNUGLY NOW AS YOU WISH IT TO**



STEP 8, 9

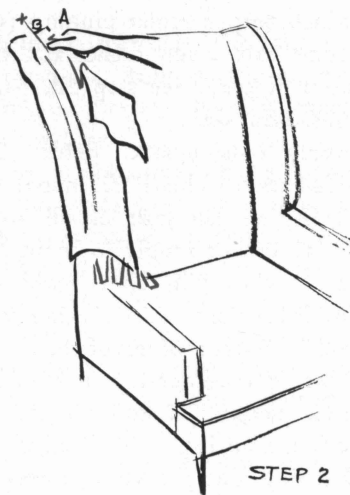
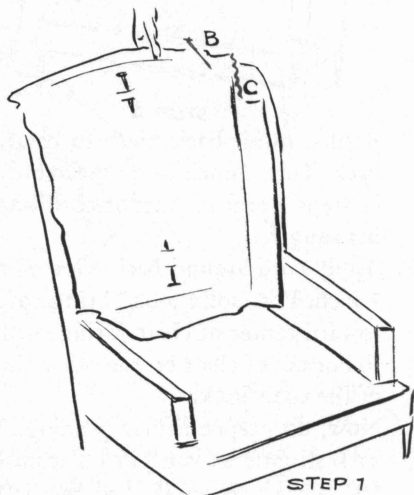
FIT WHEN IT IS FINISHED. Now do the 1-inch folded-edge pinning between stay-pins (C).

Gently lift entire slip cover from chair. Complete insertion of pins through the seam only. See 5C, page 16. Stay-pins will need to be readjusted before stitching. Machine-stitch outside-back in place. Use 15 to 20 stitches per inch. Trim seam. Lay this piece aside.

B. Wing Chair:

1. Anchor inside-back piece in place, allow 1 inch at top and 4 to 6 inches to extend over inside-wing. This 4 to 6 inches will be used for tuck-in between inside-back and inside-wing. Anchor top corner of inside-back piece to chair, at point where inside-back and inside-wing join outside-back (B). Tuck-in on chair begins about 3 inches down from this point. These 3 inches will need to be fitted to inside-wing piece. To do this, cut away extra material approximately 3 inches down from top or down to where tuck-in would begin on your chair—allowing 1 inch for this seam. Make a few snips so it will lie flat (C).
2. Anchor inside-wing in place—begin at top back corner of chair. Allow 1 inch for seam. At top, fit to inside-back down to point where tuck-in begins. To do this, cut away extra material down 3 inches allowing 1 inch for seam (A). Make necessary snips (B). Turn under seam 1 inch. Folded-edge pin inside-wing to inside-back 3 inches down from top corner.

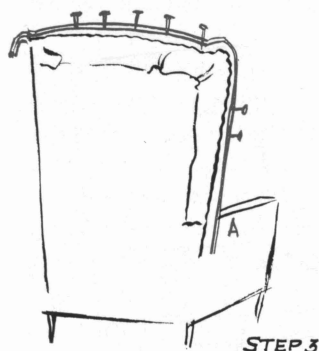
If the chair has no tuck-in between the inside-wing and inside-back, omit the 3-inch fitting above. Start at the top, see B, step 1, anchor cord and allow 1 inch for seam. Bring cord to chair seat. Snip. Perpendicular-pin cord to inside-back. Stitch. Now folded-edge pin inside-wing to cord. Stitch. When slip cover



is put on chair, tack to chair on seam line of cord with curved needle. Fit bottom edge of wing. Lay left finger on arm of chair, against inside-wing. See 2A, page 15. Beginning at outside wing, cut 1-inch tabs until inside wing lies flat. Apply cord around this edge. See 5B, page 16. Remove slip cover from chair. Complete insertion of pins. Stitch. Trim seams. Apply a 3-inch bias piece around entire curved edge of lower inside-wing.

3. Anchor inside-back-wing piece in place carefully. Turn 3-inch bias upward. Apply cord to outer edge of wing and back. Begin by bringing cord to point where wing joins arm—allow cord to extend below this point 3 inches (A). Later this 3 inches will be stitched to outside-wing. Bring cord up around edge of wing, with seam toward outside-wing. Anchor cord at back corner of chair, bring cord along top edge of back to opposite corner, and down to arm on that side. Allow 3 inches and snip.

Every 4 inches insert perpendicular-pin on stitching line on cord, pulling



material under cord slightly. **ON WING, PULL MATERIAL UPWARD WITH THE STRAIGHT OF MATERIAL**—then no pleats will be necessary around the curve. Be sure cord is on the very edge of chair. Now insert pins every 1 inch. See step 3. Remove cover from chair a few inches at a time. Complete insertion of pins through seams. Machine baste. Trim seam. Lay this piece aside.

4. Join outside-back piece to outside-wing pieces. Put cord between these pieces. To do this, anchor outside-back in place, allow 1 inch at top and 1 inch to extend over each side. Starting at top back corner, anchor cord to outside-back, allowing 1 inch at beginning. Bring cord to bottom of chair, seam toward outside-wing. Allow 1 inch. Snip cord. Insert pins perpendicular to stitching line on cord. Pull material slightly under cord as you pin to insure snug fit. Remove cover from chair, complete insertion of pins. Machine baste. Trim seam. Anchor outside-back on chair again, seam of cord toward outside-wing. Anchor outside-wing in place, allowing enough for seam around outer, curved edge. The bottom end of outside-wing should extend 2 or 3 inches over outside-arm. Turn under 5-inch seam allowance along cord line. Do folded-edge pinning. Remove anchor pins. Lift slip cover from chair a few inches at a time. Complete insertion of pins. Machine stitch. For joining inside-back and wings section to outside-back and wings section see step 9 description, page 17.

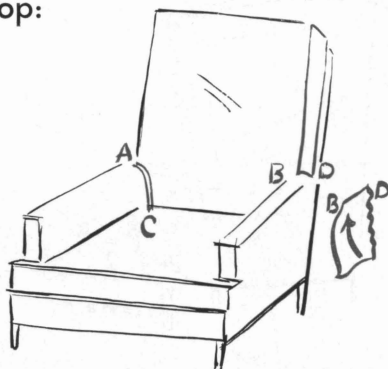
C. Barrel Back Chair:

The inside-back piece usually takes more than one width of material. Sew the two widths of material together before beginning. Anchor inside-back to chair at center top and bottom. Anchor material tentatively across entire top. Straight of material usually follows top edge. Starting at center back, work material between channels with hands, as deep as the channel. Continue this fitting on each channel across chair. Mark in creases with a lead pencil, the length of the depth of the crease. Remove from chair. Fold material right sides together on pencil line and stitch a tuck ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch or less) the length of the mark. This conceals the pencil mark and will help hold each channel in place. Replace on chair.

Complete inside-back as described in Section A, page 15. With a curved needle tack material in each channel in place after slip cover is finished, if it is necessary to hold cover in place.

D. Chair With Boxing Across Top:

This type of chair often has a cushion partially attached to the back. Treat it as if it were completely attached. Anchor inside-back piece to chair. Starting at the seat, bring cord up around arm to top, across top and down to seat on other side. Perpendicular pin in place. Stitch. Beginning at A, apply a boxing to point B. Allow 1 inch for seams at arms and around back. Sew on tuck-in piece 6 inches wide from A to C. Sew a 3-inch bias on end BD. Anchor cover to chair, continue as steps 7-9, page 17.



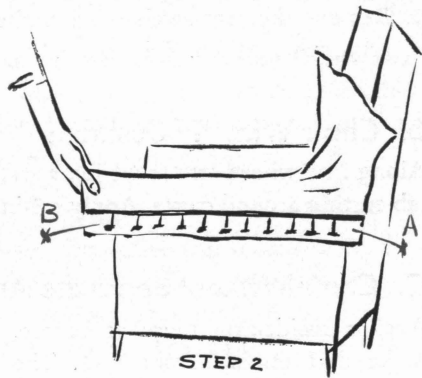
Fitting Material To Arm Section

A. Chair With Separate Arm-Front Pieces:

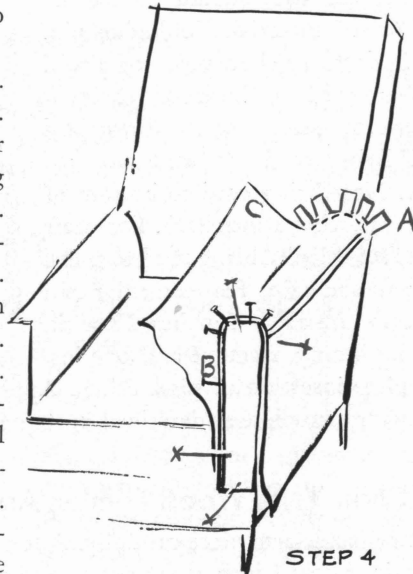
1. Cut arm-front from fabric. Place arm-front pattern on material. With $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch gauge and tailor's chalk, mark a seam allowance around this piece. Do not cut both pieces at the same time. Cut out one arm-front, place it on another piece of material, right sides together, and cut out the second arm-front. Arm-front may be cut from extra material on outside-back or outside-arm pieces.



All around curve of arm-front pieces, make $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch snips, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart. This will make arm-front seam lie flat around cord. Apply cord. Place cord on edge of each arm front piece, slightly easing cord around curve. Let cord extend 4 inches on outer side (A). For "solid look" let cord extend to floor. Pin perpendicular to edge. Machine-baste in place. A $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam was allowed on both cord and arm-front pieces—so arm-fronts should fit perfectly.



2. Anchor inside-arm piece in place. Allow 1 inch for under arm seam. Allow material to extend over front edge of arm 1 inch. Bring material to back of chair, anchor. Anchor cord at point where outside-back joins outside-arm (A). Bring cord along under-arm seam to arm-front. Stretch cord tight. Anchor in front (B). Snip cord. Now do 1 inch pinning on stitching line of cord, pulling material under cord slightly. Complete insertion of pins. Stitch. Trim seam.



3. Without fitting to chair, pin outside-arm piece to inside-arm piece on stitching line of cord. Stitch.
4. Anchor arm-front piece to chair, seam outward. Anchor inside-outside-arm piece to chair carefully. **BE SURE THIS PIECE FITS SNUGLY.**

At front, turn under seam allowance on arm piece. Bring folded edge to seam line of cord on arm-front. Stay-pin every 4 inches. Check for snug fit. Do the 1 inch folded-edge pinning around arm-front (B).

Now fit arm curve in back (A). Be sure under-arm corded seam is anchored securely to outside-back of chair. Smooth material from arm-front to back. Lay first finger of left hand on inside-back, resting on chair arm. Starting at the back, begin 1-inch tab cutting. Starting 2 inches above finger, cut 1 inch parallel to the finger. Turn the scissors, cut 1 inch perpendicular to the finger. Move the finger toward the seat 1 inch. Continue the 1-inch tab cutting around the curve. Apply a 3-inch bias around this edge. The material below the curve down to seat will serve as tuck-in (C).

5. Remove the arm sections from the chair. Complete insertion of pins on arm-fronts. Stitch. Trim seam.

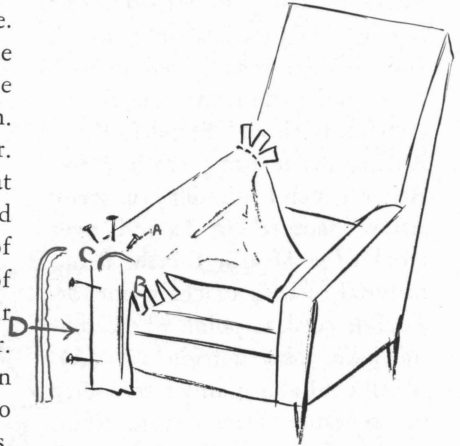
B. Chair With "T" Cushion:

Along line where arm-front joins seat-base it is often necessary to do 1-inch tab cutting around curve. Apply a 3-inch bias around snipped edge.

C. Chair Without Separate Arm-Front Pieces:

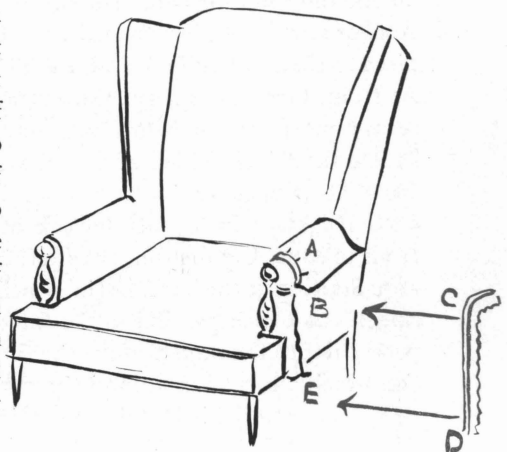
Anchor inside-arm piece as before. Make dart on arm-front (A). The fold of the dart should be on the straight of material. Fold-edge pin. Stitch dart. Anchor piece to chair. Anchor cord to back of chair at under-arm seam, seam downward (C). Bring cord to front edge of chair. Now bring cord to bottom of chair, allowing 1 inch (D). For chair with "solid look" bring cord to floor. Anchor and clip. Perpendicular pin on seam line every 4 inches. Now do 1-inch pinning. Remove anchor pins.

Complete insertion of pins. Stitch. Apply outside-arm same as outside-back. Complete arm piece as described in step 4, page 21.



D. Chair With Wood Trim on Arm-Front:

Anchor inside-arm piece carefully. Allow 1 inch or more to extend over back of chair. Allow 1 inch for under-arm seam. At front, where wood and upholstery meet, fold in a small pleat on each side of arm (A). Pin. Lay left finger on seam line at arm-front. Cut extra fabric away within 1 inch of finger, being careful not to cut into inside-arm too far. Bring free end of material under arm (B). Anchor to fit snugly around wood arm. Make $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch snips around wood arm if necessary for smooth fit. Apply cord around this edge. Turn the seam under. Now cord fits snugly around the wood arm. Complete same as for



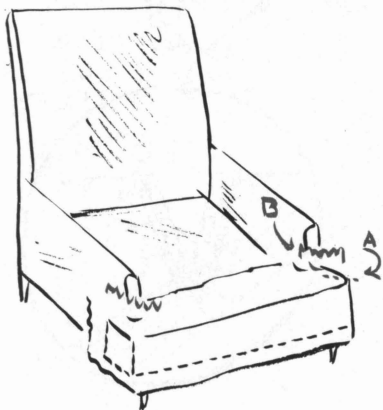
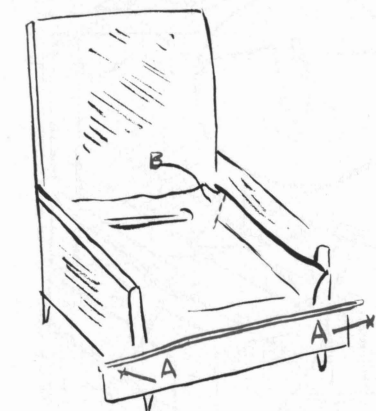
chair with no separate arm-front. See Section C, page 22. But, below arm (CD) sew cord to outside-arm only, in order that slip cover may be taken off and put on easily. Later when slip cover is put on chair tack BE to chair with curved needle. Then tack CD to chair on seam of cord.

E. Wing Chair:

Proceed as in A or B with these exceptions: On under-arm seam sew cord to inside-arm only to point where inside-arm meets outside-wing. See step 3, page 19. Sew cord all the way across top of outside-arm. Around curve where inside-arm meets inside-wing, cut tabs, if necessary. Around this curve sew a 3-inch bias.

F. Chair With Wood Trim Around Bottom:

If a slip cover is made for a chair with wood trim around the bottom, bring material to the wood. Sew cord to the slip cover, next to the wood. Tack the slip cover to the chair on the seam-line of the cord. This may be done invisibly with a curved needle and waxed thread or with small headless upholstery tacks.



Seat-Base, Seat-Front

A. Chair With Separate Cushion

Anchor seat-front piece to chair where original cover joins seat lining, allowing 1 inch. Allow 2 inches on each side for seam. Sew cord along top edge of seat-front. Anchor seat-front piece to chair, on cord line of chair. Mark with pins the points where the seat-base joins the seat-front (A). Stitch seat-base to seat-front between pins. Anchor seat-base and -front to chair. Miter back corners of seat-base piece (B). Top stitch.

B. Chair With "T" Cushion:

Anchor seat-base piece to chair carefully. Miter front corners (A). Stitch. Anchor to chair again. Do the 1-inch tab cutting around curve of arm where seat-base joins arm-front (B). Cut tabs to point where tuck-in begins. Sew a 3-inch bias around curve.

C. Chair With No Separate Cushion

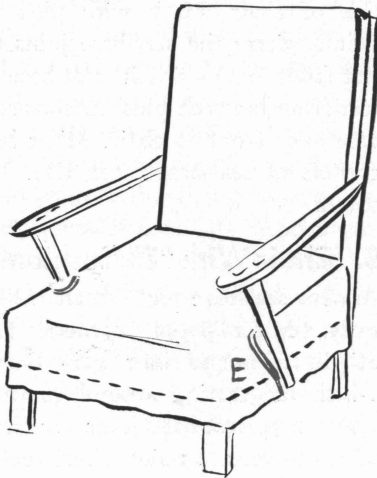
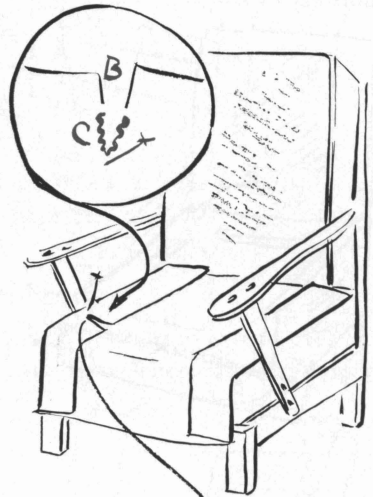
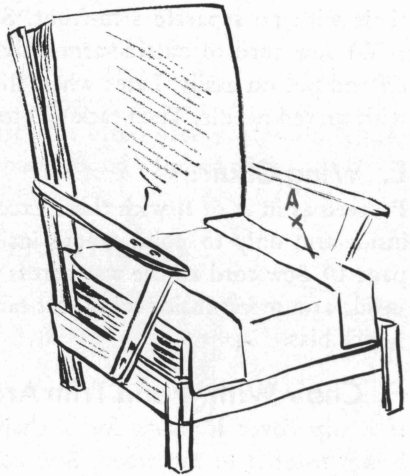
Sew seat-front to seat-base as described in A above. Allow 6 inches for tuck-in on sides and back of seat-base. Raw-edge hem the sides. Put a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch raw-edge hem in back. Insert doweling. See description of step 7, page 29.

D. Chair With Open Arms:

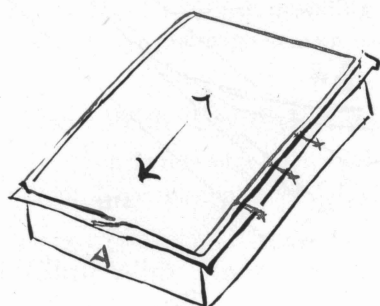
Lay material on seat of chair, wrong side up. Smooth to arms on each side. At arms lay extra material back. Insert a pin on the fold, marking the center of the wood arm (A). Cut perpendicularly from edge to within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of this pin (B). Make $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch snips around this snip (C).

Apply cord—lay raw edge of cord on raw edge you just snipped (D). Pin cord in place. Stitch. Now cord should fit snugly around arm of chair (E).

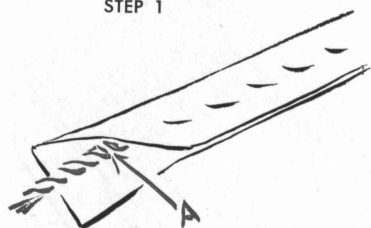
In open-armed pieces there will have to be a placket at each arm and at both back seams to allow the seat



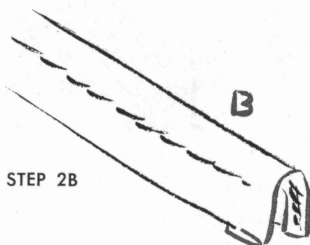
piece to be brought either between or around the arms. To make it possible to get cover free of arm, these may be located along seat line from arm to back or across boxing along front arm.



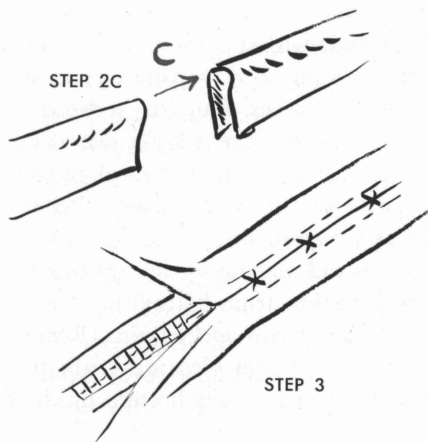
STEP 1



STEP 2A



STEP 2B



STEP 2C

STEP 3

Fitting Cushion

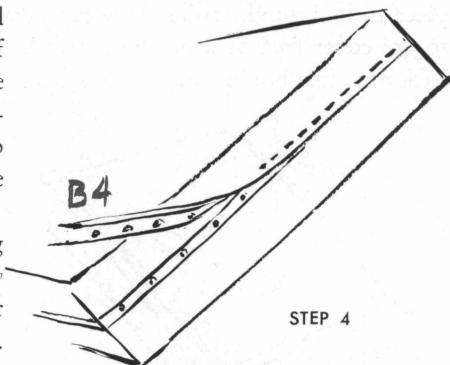
A. Fit Cord To Cushion and Bottom:

1. Smooth material over cushion. Anchor in place. Starting at center back, lay cord on edge of cushion, seam downward. Perpendicular pin on seam line of cord. Let cord lap 1 inch in back (A). Snip.
2. Join cord ends. Rip back one end of cording 1 inch. Cut out 1 inch of cording (A). Turn under $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch raw edge on this end (B). Lap $\frac{1}{2}$ inch over other end of cording, cords just meeting (C). Stitch in place.
3. Machine baste cord to cushion top. Trim seam. Fit both sides of cushion.

B. Fit the Boxing:

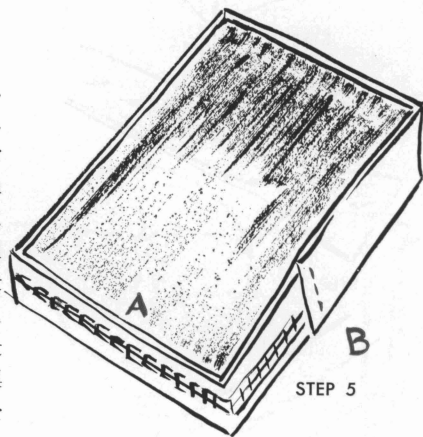
1. Locate opening in center of boxing, across back and 4 inches down each side. See A, page 27. Opening may be omitted.
2. Cut boxing for back opening in 2 pieces—each about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and the length of the opening plus 2 inches for seam allowance.
3. To apply zipper, turn back 1 inch on each piece of boxing. Bring folded edges together directly above zipper. Catch stitch in place. Stitch. See step 3.

4. To apply snap tape in boxing, fold under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on one piece of boxing and turn up $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on the other piece. Sew snap tape on under side of first piece, and on top side of second piece, covering the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance.
5. Join back boxing to front boxing (B). Have the boxing fit snugly around cushion. If no zipper or snap tape is used omit steps 1-4. Fit boxing in one continuous piece.



C. Join Boxing To Cushion:

Pin boxing to top cushion. Stitch. Anchor this piece to chair cushion. Anchor bottom cushion piece to chair cushion. At center of each side, turn under a seam allowance on boxing. Stay-pin about every 4 inches around cushion. Remove cushion. Readjust pins for stitching. Stitch. Trim seam. If no zipper or snap tape is used, let one side open across back and 4 inches down each side. Insert chair cushion. Slip stitch in place.



The Finishing Touches

A. All Types of Chairs:

1. Your slip cover may be fastened to the chair with a curved needle. Or if you prefer use a zipper or firm snap tape to join back section to arm sections. This will keep slip cover in separate pieces. Put arm sections on chair. Smooth in place carefully. Anchor well. Be sure it looks just as you wish it to look when it is finished and on the chair. Anchor in place to fit snugly. With tailor's chalk, mark an accurate line where back joins arm section. This line should be directly under seam line of cord. To mark bottom of chair, draw a line both on back and on arm section. For length of zipper or snap tape, measure on back-section from bottom of chair to point where outside-arm joins inside-back. Remove anchor pins. Remove back and arm sections. Turn back raw edge of arm piece on chalk line. Apply jacket zipper. Starting at chalk line which marks bottom of chair,

pin folded edge to jacket zipper. Stitch. Sew zipper to back section. Apply snap tape same as for cushion. See step 4, page 26.

2. Put a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch raw-edge hem on bottom edge of inside-back, and inside-arm pieces. Insert a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch doweling in this hem.
3. Put a narrow raw-edge hem on back edge of seat-base piece.

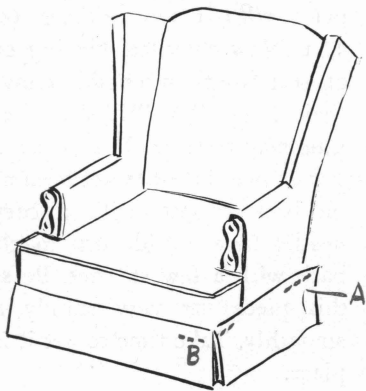
B. Chair With "Upholstered Look":

Stitch a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch raw-edge hem on bottom of outside-back, outside-arm, and seat-front. Now the slip cover is ready to put on the chair.

C. Chair With "Flounce Look":

1. Hand stitch a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch raw-edge hem on bottom edge of the four pieces cut for flounce.
2. Sew cord to bottom of slip cover. Anchor slip cover to chair just as you wish it to look when it is finished. See description of steps 3, 4, 5, pages 28, 29. Using tailor's chalk and a square or yard stick, make a chalkline around the chair an equal distance from the floor. This mark should be in the same position as the mark put on the chair before block cutting. Perpendicular pin cord to the back section, allowing 1 inch to extend on each end. Seam of cord is downward. Complete insertion of pins. Stitch. Starting at back, bring cord along side, across front, and to back on opposite side. Allow 1 inch on back corners. Perpendicular pin cord in place. Stitch. When a flounce is used, arm sections and seat-base-front section are joined in one piece. Check depth of flounce hem before removing slip cover from chair.
3. Sew one flounce piece to back section, turning back 3 inches on each corner. This 3 inches forms part of the pleat. Tack it back across the top to hold in place.

Side and front sections of flounce will be made in one piece. Anchor front piece in place, turning back 3 inches on each corner. If there is more material than 3 inches to turn back, use it for completing the 3-inch deep corner pleats. Anchor side flounce piece to chair. Complete front corner pleats if material allows. At the back corner make $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 3-inch pleat and let material extend 3 inches over back (A). If pleats need to be pieced, do it on under corners of pleat. Stitch all pleats across top to hold firmly in place (B).



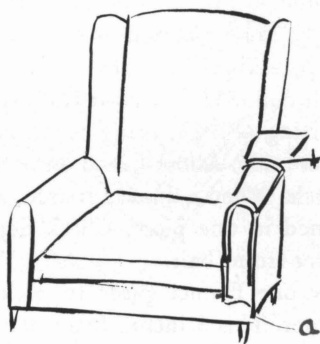
4. Pin flounce to slip cover on seam line of cord, being certain corner pleats are in proper place. Stitch.
5. If flounce is gathered or pleated all around, adjust pleats and gathers as you like flounce to look. Machine stitch pleats or gathers to hold in place. Apply flounce to slip cover as described above.

D. Chair With "Solid Look":

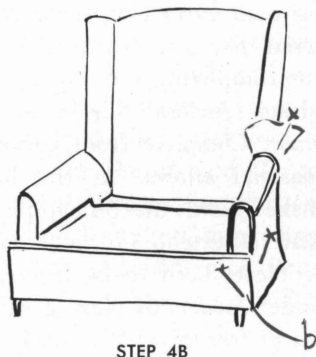
1. Anchor slip cover to chair as described in 3, 4, and 5 on pages 28, 29. Fit front corners from bottom of arm-front to floor. Pin up hem, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from floor around chair. Machine stitch front corners. Hand stitch a raw-edge hem at bottom.

Putting Slip Cover on Chair

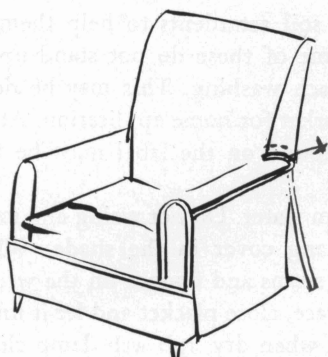
1. Put a narrow raw-edge hem on all raw edges not already finished.
2. Press slip cover well.
3. Anchor seat-base-front piece in place, being sure it fits snugly to chair. Using a curved needle and waxed thread, tack slip cover to chair at seat lining with a few large stitches. To wax thread, use beeswax or paraffin.
4. Anchor arm section in place. All 3-inch BIAS EDGES TURN UPWARD. Hold lower arm-front in place with a few stitches (step 4A). Now complete tacking ends of seat-front on outside-arms of chair (step 4B). "U"-shaped tidy pins may be used. If a jacket zipper or snap tape has not been used on back corner, with a curved needle tack outside-arm to chair back with a few stitches. Be sure this piece fits very snugly and smoothly. Take time to get it into place.



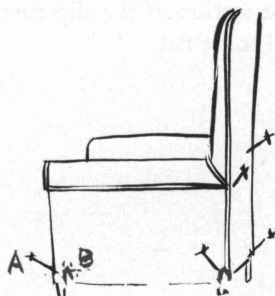
STEP 4A



STEP 4B



STEP 5



STEP 6

5. Slip on back section. If no jacket zipper or snap tape was applied to back corner, anchor snugly to chair and with curved needle tack to chair on seam line of cord.
6. To finish bottom edge for "upholstered look," put a pin in each corner where leg joins bottom of chair (A). From bottom of slip cover, cut perpendicular to within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of this pin (B). Button-hole stitch around the top of this snip to prevent any fraying. At chair leg, turn under the excess fabric; 1 inch of this can be trimmed (C). Anchor the slip cover in place under the chair. Attach with a curved needle or insert a cord in the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem all around bottom of chair, draw snugly and tie at one corner.
7. Insert a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch doweling in hem on lower edge of inside-back and inside-arm. The doweling should be cut the length of tuck-in from front to back on chair arm, and from corner to corner on chair back. This helps to hold the slip cover firmly in place.

YOUR SLIP COVER IS COMPLETED

Care of Slip Covers

Many of today's fabrics are treated with soil retardents to help them to keep clean for a longer length of time. Some of these do not stand up to laundering and need to be replaced after each washing. This may be done commercially or there are products on the market for home application. At all times directions for the care of the fabric found on the label must be followed.

In general: Wash with mild soap and warm water. Do not wring any more than necessary—helps prevent wrinkles. Hang cover in the shade. When cover is almost dry, remove from line, press seams and flounce on the wrong side. Put cover back on the chair, pull into place, close placket and let it finish drying on the chair. If water wrinkles show when dry, rub with damp cloth, cover with pressing cloth and iron.

To keep the slip cover clean for longer periods of time, partial slip covers may be made to cover easily soiled sections. These should be made of matching fabric and tailored to fit arm, back or seat section of the slip cover. Make them large enough to serve their purpose and to lie flat.