

Dining Chair Upholstery Project Plans

Watch the [Dining Chair Upholstery Project video](#) and follow along with these plans. Good luck with the project and have fun re-upholstering!

MATERIALS

Dining Chair Upholstery Project Kit: You can purchase the [Dining Chair Upholstery Project Kit](#) shown in the video.

The Kit includes:

1. 100% Natural Latex Foam: 19”x 19.75”x 1” thick (Oeko-Tex certified) - xx firm
2. Organic Cotton Ticking Fabric: 27”x 29” (GOTS certified)
3. Premium Wool Batting with a thin spun (wool) backing: 21”x 24” (Oeko-Tex certified)

The plywood seat used in this project is 14 x 16 inches. The largest plywood size you can use with this kit is 15 x 18 (for 1/2” thick plywood) or 14 x 17 (for 3/4” thick plywood). Be sure to measure the actual size of the bare plywood to make this determination.

You will need to provide:

1. Your chair seat
2. Tools
3. Glue
4. Your own upholstery cover fabric - about 3/4 yd for this project
5. Bottom cloth (a.k.a. ‘cambric’) - 1/2 to 2/3 yd of any thin black fabric

TOOLS

(Note: I use some, but not all of the tool brands linked to here - the links are meant for illustration purposes only, and I am not currently affiliated with any of them, meaning I receive no monetary compensation if you purchase from these sources)

1. Pneumatic upholstery stapler - available [here](#). You can also use an [electric staple gun](#), or a [squeeze style manual staple gun](#).
2. Staple Lifter (a.k.a. staple remover) - available [here](#). If you don’t have a staple lifter, a flat screwdriver works in a pinch.
3. Pliers - any style will work for removing stubborn staples. My favorite is the [bent-nose style](#).
4. Electric carving knife - yes, a [meat carving knife](#) from the hardware store will cut your foam nicely. This tool is especially useful for cutting thicker foam that is not easily cut with shears.
5. Shears - no need to spend a lot, but a good sturdy set of [8 or 9-inch shears](#) makes the job easier.
6. Glue - for this project, I used a [non-toxic water based glue](#).

Note on staple length: I use 1/4” long staples for tacking and for finish stapling thin to medium weight fabrics, 3/8” long staples for finish stapling medium to heavy weight fabrics, and 1/2” staples for finish stapling heavy weight fabrics at the corners with several overlapping layers.

STEPS

Refer to the [accompanying video](#) for illustration of these steps

Part 1: Gather your materials & tools (see list above)

Part 2: Prepare the 'sandwich'

1. Mark center line of plywood
2. Place plywood on top of foam
3. Mark foam 1/2 inch LARGER all the way around for 1/2 inch thick plywood. Whatever your plywood thickness, the foam should overlap the wood by the the thickness of the plywood all the way around. Example: for 5/8" plywood, the foam should be 5/8" larger than the wood all the way around.
4. Cut foam along mark, making sure to keep your cut perpendicular to the table so you don't end up with a beveled cut. You can cut the foam with an electric carving knife if you have one. A sturdy pair of shears works well on this 1 inch thick foam.
5. Glue plywood to foam. Allow water based glue to dry before proceeding to next step. Note: purpose of glue is to prevent shifting of the foam on the plywood as you're working with it.
6. Cut wool batting about 2 inches larger than foam. Note: if you are using a wool batting that does not have a backing, you can add a thin fabric such as gauze to keep the wool from sticking to everything it touches.
7. Lay out your upholstery cover fabric on table with its outer 'show' side facing down. Important: for fabrics with a pattern or directional nap, make sure your fabric is straight before you cut.
8. Place ticking fabric on top of upholstery fabric with any side facing down (orientation doesn't matter), and smooth out the wrinkles.
9. Place plywood/foam/wool sandwich on top of ticking/upholstery fabric sandwich.
10. Mark and cut both layers of fabric about 1 inch larger than the wool batting.
11. Mark centers of all layers with a small mark at the edges, using the plywood center line as a guide. Tip: for dark fabrics use a white pencil or chalk.
12. Check your layer sequence:
 - upholstery cover fabric
 - ticking fabric
 - wool batting
 - latex foam
 - plywood

Part 3: Minimize 'bulk'

1. To attain a neat, professional-looking finish, remove as much extra material ('bulk'), as possible.
2. Before stapling, remove wool 'bulk' by feathering the thickness out to the edges, holding the wool down 1 inch out from the foam so you're not pulling it out where you need it.
3. Check around the edges to be sure the foam does not fold around to the bottom of the plywood. It should fold over the top and sides of the plywood just to the bottom edge. Trim away any excess foam that extends beyond the bottom edge.

Part 4: Preliminary stapling

1. Most important rule of stapling in upholstery: Begin at the centers and work your way out to the corners - front to back first, then side to side. Using 1/4" long staples (see 'Note on staple length' above), begin by stapling about 2 inches in from the edges.
2. Tack one staple at at front & back centers, matching the center marks on your fabric with the plywood center. Then tack one staple at the approximate centers of each side.
3. Note1: 'Tack' means do the best you can to keep the staple from embedding into the wood, since you will be removing them as you work. Space tacked staples about 1-2 inches apart.
4. Note2: Stapling 2" from edges will give you some leeway for tightening the fabric as you work and some forgiveness if you end up ripping the fabric as you remove & replace tacked staples.
5. Turn your seat over and check to be sure your fabric is lined up straight. Adjust if necessary.
6. Tighten front to back first, then sides, removing and replacing tacked staples as you work. When you're satisfied that the fabric is stretched on tight and straight, finish-staple, staying 1 inch away from the edge and stapling about 1/2 inch apart. Leave the corners unstapled until you get the desired tightness.

Part 5: Corners

1. Once front, back & sides are finish-stapled, remove any extra batting bulk at the corners, and trim away excess ticking fabric, being careful not to clip the cover fabric as you cut.
2. Smoothing the fabric evenly as you work, staple the cover fabric, angling your stapling pattern toward the the corner.
3. Place your staples close together and right up to the very tip of the corner at a 45° angle, trimming the extra cover fabric away as needed to eliminate bulk.
4. Trim the fold-over fabric as needed to create a triangle that lays flat.
5. Once everything is finish-stapled, trim away all excess cover fabric and ticking fabric.
6. Note: The trick with ALL upholstery is to reduce bulk as much as possible without compromising the coverage of the piece, so if you trim bit-by-bit you should find a happy medium based on your specific cover fabric type and weight.

Part 6: Bottom Cloth & Finish

1. For a professional finish, apply a bottom cloth (also known as cambric), which can be any lightweight black fabric.
2. Cut cambric about 1/2 inch larger than the finished seat.
3. Turn edges under and staple about 1/2 inch away from the edges all the way around.
4. Attach the finished seat to your chair.

Celebrate!

Now you can sit back in your comfy chair, and enjoy your new dining chair! Modify your chair as needed and share this project with your friends. Thanks for following along and be sure to check out the free blog post and video tutorial at naturalupholstery.com/diy-dining-chair-upholstery-project/.

Thanks so much for checking out the DIY Dining Chair Upholstery Project plans. I'd love to hear how your project goes! Please post photos on Instagram and tag [@uphol_stories](https://www.instagram.com/uphol_stories) and subscribe to my [Youtube channel](#).

Cheers and Happy stapling,



* Please refer to the post at naturalupholstery.com/diy-dining-chair-upholstery-project/ and check out the video tutorial for more information, instructions, and tips.