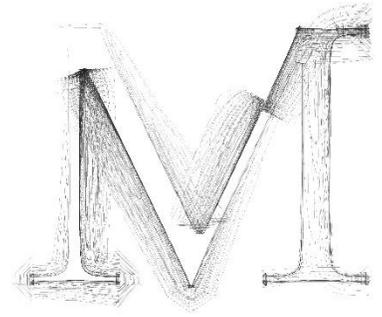


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UPHOLSTERER

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Latham, NY 12110



Basic Upholstery

July 20-21, 2019

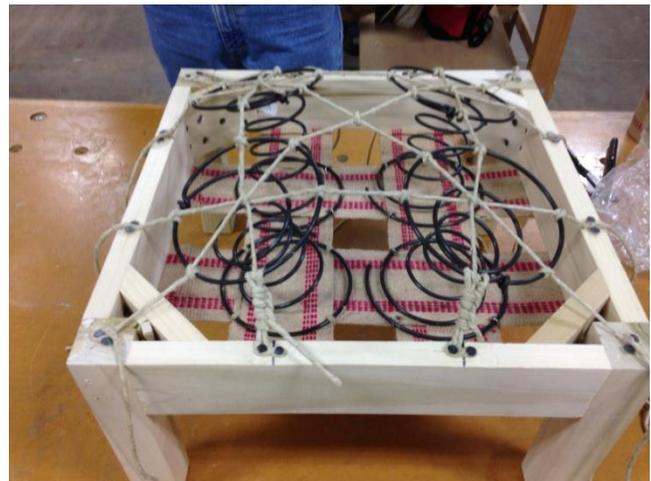
PLEASE NOTE: There is a \$70.00 material fee payable to Mike when you are here for class.

This two day class will provide an overview of the history, tools, techniques and materials of both traditional and modern upholstery and teach skills with which participants can use



to complete two simple upholstery projects. The projects are an open frame slip seat, and a small footstool with four coil springs, both of which students take home.

Day 1 includes the presentation “A Lively Guide to a Dying Art”, enhanced with samples of the tools and materials portrayed. Then on to the cutting and fitting of webbing and stuffing for slip seats which will be completed with proper folds at all the corners and a hand tacked dust cover.



Day 2 features the presentation “A Tale of Two Chairs”, showing the contrast between traditional work on a period armchair, and modern methods on an armchair from the 1940’s. Students will use basic webbing and coil springs and learn the classic method for hand tying coil springs. The project will be completed with a deck, some padding and four neatly folded corners that will be closed up using a traditional blind stitching technique. A discussion of upholstery repair techniques will the neatest way to replace a missing button without opening the chair, and there will be

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plenty of time for questions. This class is for anyone with an interest in the tools, terminology, and tricks of the upholstery trade, and is appropriate for all skill levels.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The materials fee will cover frames, springs, and under upholstery materials and a selection of appropriate show cover material will be available. Students are welcome to bring their own show cover material. Two yards of standard 54" fabric will be enough to complete both projects.
- Students are **ENCOURAGED** to bring their own hand tools (Tool List is attached), however all necessary tools will be available for students who choose not to bring their own.

General Course Outline

Day 1

Introduction and Welcome

"A Lively Look at a Dying Art"

Powerpoint Presentation

Samples of various classic materials including cotton, horsehair, jute, burlap, and examples of modern replacement products.

Some common myths about upholstery

Including why tacks are sterilized, and why those feed sacks are in Aunt Millie's chair?

BREAK

Discussion of Tools and Materials

Samples of all manner and form of common and fancy fasteners made for the trade
A collection of covers from silk, to horsehair cloth, to leather and vinyl and how they behave differently

Soft Goods Plain and Fancy

Upholstering a Simple Slip Seat

Demonstration – Student Activity

Frame & Materials provided
Students may use their own show covers

BREAK

Each Student should be able to complete the slip seat by the end of the day.

DAY'S WRAP UP

Day 2

"A Tale of Two Chairs"

Powerpoint Presentation

Traditional hand sewn work vs. modern foam and Dacron explained and demonstrated

Footstool Project Work

Webbing, springs, decking, edge roll, foam & Dacron supporting a decorative show cover.

Demonstration – Student Activity

Frame & Materials provided for Each Student
Students may use their own show covers

Complete work on Footstools

BREAK

All Students Should be able to complete Footstool Project

Common Upholstery Repairs

Special demo of the most common repair techniques including the coolest way to replace a button !.

Question Time Whatever comes up...

COURSE WRAP UP

Tool List & Sources of Supply & Suggested Reading List

INTRODUCTION

One of the wonderful things about the venerable craft of upholstery is that has been, and for the most part still is, practiced with just a few very basic hand tools. Having said that, I must confess that I am something of a tool guy, and have a pretty extensive collection of both common and unusual tools related to the trade, many of which I will bring to show and explain in class. In order to complete the projects for the weekend class student **ARE ENCOURAGED** to bring their own hand tools. Loaner hand tools will be available in class for all who need them. Specialty tools such as air staplers, foam cutters, spring bender and button machine will be available for use in class.



TOOL LIST

TACK HAMMER

By far the most important tool in the upholsterer's kit is a good tack hammer. There are many on the market but my personal favorite is the industry standard C.S. Osborne #33. It has the classic shape, weight and balance needed for heavy and light tacking, and the bronze body will not rust. It also has a permanent magnet on one end, which is far superior to the "split end" style cast iron hammers, even those by Osborne. I know many old timers who literally "spit tacks" by placing them in their mouths, but I prefer to deftly pick them up with the magnet end, give them a tap to set, and a solid hit to drive them home. Almost any long narrow tack hammer will do, and you can buy them used for \$10-20 on eBay or at a garage sale. A brand new #33 is about \$35.

WEBBING STRETCHER

For all traditional and much modern work, it is necessary to install and stretch heavy jute webbing to support the springs. There are a number of ways to do this, and the one I will recommend for basic work is to use an Osborne #253 "Gooseneck" stretcher or an Osborne # 255 plain stretcher, which is the one I prefer. However, these tools look like torture devices and can cause a nasty puncture wound if used incorrectly, so please get the gooseneck version if you are a bit nervous with the plain model. These are about \$30.

STAPLE / TACK LIFTER

The tack hammer puts them in, and you also need something to get them out! There are without doubt, 100 variations of this simple tool, and Osborne makes 6 or 8 to this day, all of which have their place in certain situations. If I could only have one, it would be the Osborne # 121 which has a short handle and a blade that looks like a coarse toothed saw. This tool is wonderful for both tacks and staples and is especially useful to remove the many temporary tacks that must be installed, and re-installed as coverings are carefully stretched and fitted. You often see these for sale by folks who don't know what they are, and they were also much favored by shoemakers. If you see one marked USMC, that is for United Shoe Machinery Company. (Not the US Marines!)

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Any of the claw foot style removers will work, and the smaller ones are generally more useful. The Osborne 121 is about \$20 new.

WOODEN MALLET

A good hardwood mallet is especially important for ripping out old work, as it is used to strike either a tack lifter, or a ripping chisel placed underneath the old covers. I will demonstrate these techniques, and how to minimize frame damage. My favorite mallet is a carver's type, with a tapered cylindrical head. There are some nice ones with urethane covers, such as "Wood is Good" sold by suppliers of good chisels, but pretty much any shape wooden mallet will do, as long as it is comfortable in your hand. Prices vary.

SCISSORS / SHEARS

Of course there could be no fine upholstery without good sharp scissors and a really complete kit would have several sizes, from big shears for heavy fabric, to tiny ones for trimming light threads. The tool I have on my hip at all times is a Wiss #20 "Inlaid", which is 10" long. This has a bent handle for bench work, unlike the straight models meant for dressmaking and tailoring. There are several variations of the #20, such as the W which has a wider heavy blade and the P which has cushion grips. They also make a left handed (LH) model, which comes in handy even for those of us who are hopelessly right handed. There are literally zillions of these tools out there, and many good used ones can be had cheaply, though beware of any that show signs of excessive sharpening as the inlaid" cutting edge of chrome steel is not that thick. A brand new #20 is only about \$35, and there are many similar models made by very good competitors such as Clauss, Gingham or Gold Seal. If you like one with a more ergonomic design, check the Fiskars #9911 shear from South Star Supply.

NEEDLES

The craft of upholstery is always associated with needles and you really only need TWO for basic work. A "2-3" curved needle, with a large eye is the secret to "blind stitching" and also useful for a lot of basic hand closing and anchoring springs to webbing AND a 3-4" straight needle with a large eye. These are widely available in fabric shops and usually sold in packs of multiple sizes. The Osborne "K1" set has several useful needles and these are round shank needles which are fine for basic work, however if you happen to see ones that have a triangular shank (like a harpoon) those are useful for leather and webbing work. The Osborne K1 kit is about \$15.

REGULATOR

This tool looks a bit like an ice pick, or a large needle, but it is not for sewing, it is for manipulating fabric and stuffing materials using both the pointed end and the rounded end. These tools come in various sizes from 8" up to 12", however an 8" regulator is a good overall choice. I do not like the ones with the plastic handles as much as the traditional ones, but they are readily available and useable. About \$10.



SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Albany Foam and Supply

800-235-0888

salesdept@albanyfoam.com

<http://www.ausinc.net/ausinc/>

threadclips@juno.com 518-618-5699

Upholstery Magazine and Supply Company

Upholstery Discussion Board

<http://www.upholster.com/supply/>

Rochford Supply

<http://www.rochfordsupply.com>

1500 Washington Ave. N

Minneapolis, MN 55411

PerfectProductsOnline.com

236 West Portal Avenue, #170

San Francisco, CA 94127 Phone: 415.738.8601 Fax: 415.333.4611

www.PerfectProductsOnline.com

upholsterystuff.com

Professional Hardware and Supply Company

<http://www.profhdwr.com/upholsterystuff/>

DIY Upholstery Supply / Charlebois Fabrics

Southaven MS

<http://diyupholterysupply.com/>

Phone 1 662 280 0020 Toll free 1 866 812 3495 Fax 1 662 280 5501

SUGGESTED READING

“Upholstery, A Complete Course”, by David James Guild of Master Craftsman Pub. 1990
ISBN 094681919X This is the BIBLE for traditional work, period.

“Beginner’s Upholstery Techniques” by David James Guild of Master Craftsman Pub.
2009 ISBN 9781861084958 A very good introduction by the top author in the field.

“Singer Upholstery Basics” Cowles Creative Publishing 1997 ISBN 0-8657318 X (hard cover) 0865733198 (soft cover)
This is a VERY good beginner’s book with wonderful pics.

“Singer Upholstery Basics Plus” by Steve Cone Creative Pub. International 2007
ISBN 139781589233294 This is the updated and improved version, also very good.

ADDITIONAL READING

“Upholstery a Manual of Techniques” by Hugh O’Neill Crowood Press 1999
ISBN 1861261403 This is similar to D. James and has good photos.

“Essentials of Upholstery” by Herbert Bast Bruce Publishing 1928
Reprinted as “New Essentials of Upholstery”

ISBN 9780028104201 The one that everyone has.... It is cheap on ebay

“Practical Upholstering and the Cutting of Loose Covers” by Frederick Palmer
Benn Bros. London 1921 Reprinted by Stein & Day 1980

ISBN 0812827538 This is the classic Brit textbook from the Victorian era

“Practical Upholstering” by John W. Stephenson Hall Pub. Co. NY 1944

This is an American version of the old school textbooks