

Slipcovering Chairs Is Difficult, But It's Not Impossible

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Did you ever slip-cover a chair? Quite a few women will answer, "No, and I never intend to." But many a household is harboring a chair that is too good, internally, to throw away and too shabby to keep in the living-room. It's not worth the price of a custom-made cover and manna can't stand the ready-made kind.

About the time she's decided to throw it out anyway, she reads a cheerful little magazine article that states that slip-covering is easy. It isn't. It's plain hard work with plenty of back-bending involved. But it's not quite as hard as indicated in those government bulletins on the subject; that'd drive you crazy just by the reading.

You need some kind of a pattern. If the dead old chair has its own faded slip-cover, save it. It's worth its weight in hard work. Cut it apart with the scissors. (don't rip) exactly on the seam lines.

LAY THE PIECES on the wrong side of the new material and turn around them with sailors' chalk. Then cut, allowing 1½ inches all around for seams. The chalk lines serve as guides when you baste pieces together on the chair.

Commercial patterns save work because they tell you about how much material to buy, and will come pretty close to fitting. But you must have a clear idea of the type of chair you're covering when you buy the pattern, and pattern pieces have to be fitted on the chair before cutting, to see how much they have to be altered.

You can cut your own pattern right on the chair. From old muslin sheet, that's a lot of work and may completely discourage the newcomer to chair-covering. Cutting the new material right on the chair is only for the experienced worker.

BIG FLORAL PATTERNS that must be centered, plaids and other figures that must be matched, are difficult and the novice should shun them the way she would the measles. All materials should be preshrunk.

Sewing items make the job easier: Long strong needles and pins, stout thread, a zipper-foot for the machine. Ready-covered welting or brush fringe for seam finish, and heavy zippers for openings.

Getting the chair into the same room with the machine helps and putting the chair up-on-a string table at working height would be ideal. But most homes don't have such a table.

Once the pieces are cut, they should be stretched tight, placed on the chair wrong-side out and pinned securely. Basting together, corded included in the seam. The cordings are stretched tight and the material slightly "bulled" out, as the sewing teachers say, or the job looks sloppy. Remove the covers from the chair and stitch. All of which is not as simple as it sounds.

THE HOMEMAKER with small children underfoot should think a long time before she attempts this work. While the cover is pinned on the chair the kids will probably fall against the pins and get hurt.

And while mother is sewing easily, junior cowboy may pound nails in the piano or baby somehow slip into the stool. Mother has to keep the house torn up for a week while she snatches bits of working time. It's not worth the wear and tear on her nerves.

Yes making slip-covers is work but for the woman who has some time and some sewing skill, it's no harder than making a dress.

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Business men and women long ago agreed that industry was doing something very useful, for others, in creating great booms from the products that came from results. These are empty and valueless as trash heaps.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3

Thursday, March 5, 1953

Incomplete Social Security Reports Are Being Filed

PLAY IT SAFE!

Smoking In Bed Can Be Fatal

Rex Atwood, manager of the Postage Social Security office, this office, that many self-employed people who are not paying social security tax and not receiving proper credit on their individual social-security accounts, Atwood said, is the reason for this incompleteness reporting by the tax-payers.

Every owner or operator of business subject to the social security tax must complete Schedule C and C-a of his income tax return by March 15 each year. This report must contain all information must show the exact name, social security account number and nature business of the firm.

Most of the incomplete returns filed either did not show the person's name or social security account number or did not show the nature of business. Some of the information on Schedule C and C-a entered on the social security card.

3. The nature of business should be shown clearly so that there will be no question as to whether or not it is a type covered by the law.

more before their heat is enough to weaken the smoker.

USUALLY, by this time the bedroom is one of the most noxious gases that the sleeping person is partially suffocated and cannot be awakened. As a result, the fire can spread unless by some other person.

In past years several deaths have been received in Birmingham from smoking in bed. Last year, 1952, 11 cases were received in Birmingham from smoking in bed.

It is the individual's responsibility to stop fires from this source, not that of the family as a whole.

EACH YEAR more cigarettes and cigars are being manufactured. The American public is smoking more and there are more new smokers. Thus there are more potential fires per capita from this source and more fires.

Play It Safe! Discontinue this dangerous practice. That last puff on a cigarette while you are partially asleep can be the kiss of death for you or members of your family.

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Following a dinner at the Birmingham Country Club Wednesday evening, sponsored by Southern Oakland County members of the National Manufacturers Association, Mr. Sligh, its president, addressed the 125 men present. He explained the operations of the Association, declaring that, of the 21,000 members, 80 per cent are so-called "small business men," from a half dozen to 500 persons, and that 50 per cent of the members are composed of companies employing less than 100 people. Chas. M. Smillie, chairman of the group, was toastmaster; Mr. Sligh is a Michigan man, has his office in the telephone equipment center in Grand Rapids. Pictured, from left to right, are William R. Tarrent, manager of the Board of Commerce, Ferndale; Charles S. Wolf, Wolf Sanitary Wiping Cloth Company; Sligh, F. E. Steele, Ferndale Board of Commerce; Sligh, Charles M. Smillie, C. M. Smith Photo; and Chad Ritchie, Michigan Bell Telephone company. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

DOWN TO EARTH

Lilacs Bring Beauty To House, Yard Alike

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many of us enjoy a Persian lilac in our boundary plantings and this February I have enjoyed forcing branches from this shrub. This type of lilac has many more flowers than the hybrid varieties and the leaves have a dainty texture in contrast to the heart shaped leaves most of us associate with lilacs.

The hybrid types have the large size of blooms with generous sets of petals and the trim of the structure is white.

The double pinks and double purples have a way of leading you into a迷宮 of colors with a perfume that is unique.

The Delphinium Garden挖 has a movement in Michigan to develop a Memorial Mile in urban and rural areas. This year the first unit action to help the garden project is to have a roadways well kept and planted with flowers, shrubs and trees.

The Lilac Society of America, along main arteries, would be pleased to the owners and a real pleasure for the many who pass by. When the correct plant material is used the results are always gratifying.

I AM THINKING especially about flower borders front of gas stations and stores. They are in the clay pots and are put in the flower boxes, surrounded by the hosta that can stand the heat of July and August and require half a large pot with clean sand right to the top of the pot without a single root space. Be sure the stand is packed well.

Now over the top sprinkle the seed and place the pot in a pan of water. After a few days the plants will be up and ready to keep the hand of the gardener. The seedlings are transplanted into pots of rich soil when they have three true leaves.

It is a pleasure to visit with this woman of many hobbies. Mrs. Patten faces her years ahead realizing that hobbies assure every size of life which can be rich for all of us.

To buy or sell a used automobile; read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

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The Edith Child variety is a fine example. It is doubtful if there is a good one to plant if the shrub will be growing against a brick surface

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