

# Slip Covers



## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Fabric Selection</b> .....	3
Pattern on the Fabric .....	3
Color in Fabrics .....	3
Texture in Fabrics .....	3
Cord for Trim .....	3
General Suggestions .....	4
<b>Styling the Slip Cover</b> .....	4
Boxings .....	5
Flounces .....	5
Measuring for Amounts of Fabric .....	5
Cutting Pieces for Each Section .....	7
Covering the Cord .....	7
<b>Making the Slip Cover</b> .....	8
Shaping Sections and Attaching Cord .....	9
Pin Fitting .....	11
Stitching All Pieces Together .....	13
Making the Flounce .....	14
Joining Flounce to Slip Cover .....	15
Placket .....	15
Making the Cushion .....	16
Caring for the Slip Cover .....	16

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** This Publication is a reprint of Maryland Extension Bulletin 159.

# Slip Covers

Vivian L. Curnutt—Home Furnishings Specialist

A well made, properly styled slip cover has found its place in today's home, not just as a means of protecting upholstery but to add charm and individuality through the color and pattern of the slip cover fabric. Careful planning, good styling and the right kind of preparation is imperative in making slip covers. Before attempting to make one, be sure to carefully read and follow instructions in the section on planning.

## *Fabric Selection*

Select the best quality fabric your budget will stand. In so doing you are assured of good design, desirable colors which are fast to light and laundry, and of a fabric that will wear. Fabric which is firm in the hand and closely woven of tightly twisted yarns will hold its shape, fit snugly and will wear and wash well.

Look for two labels: "Sanforized," and "Not more than 2% Shrinkage." Either of these labels printed on the selvedge will assure you that the shrinkage in the fabric is controlled. If the fabric is not so labeled, shrink it before making the slip cover. "Vat Dyed" printed on the selvedge tells you that the colors are resistant to fading from sun, laundry and dry cleaning.

Many cotton materials now are treated to repel moisture and soil, and to shed wrinkles. Such treatment will increase the wear and the joy of using your slip covers. Information of this type can be found on labels attached to the fabrics.

## **PATTERN ON THE FABRIC**

Striped, floral, and textured patterns or plain materials may be used. It's good to have a combination of all in a room. When selecting the pattern for slip cover fabric your choice will depend on all other patterns in the room, including those of the walls, drapery, rugs and decorative objects. The entire room must be in harmony.

If the walls and rug are patterned, a better choice for the slip cover would be a plain fabric, a textured one, or a stripe. This sort of combination gives freedom from pattern in parts of the room, resulting in a more restful room. If the walls and rug are plain and there is no drapery, a floral pattern could be selected for one slip cover, possibly for the largest piece. This will bring a great deal of interest into the room and can be the guide for the choice of the other slip covers for the room. Variety in pattern, each having kinship with

the other, is needed for interest. If the spirit of the room is simple, direct, quaint and informal, the slip cover fabric should express its kinship in informality. If the room is formal in its expression, handsome smooth finished fabrics are in harmony. Today's modern trend calls for textured fabrics, with its pattern showing up in "nubs," "slubs," "streaks," etc.

The same pattern may be repeated on two pieces in the room, but there is more interest if you don't repeat. There are exceptions, of course. The pattern in the drapery fabric may be repeated on one piece, particularly if it is to be placed across the room from the drapery. Again, this may not be the most effective choice for you.

Fabrics with definite floral repeats must have the floral repeat centered in each section of the piece. Attention must be given to patterns which have an up and down, and a left and right. The most interesting striped fabrics have a left and right. Stripes must be matched in all sections of the chair.

The scale of the pattern for a slip cover fabric must be in keeping with the scale of the room and scale of the piece on which it is to be used. Florals in small rooms are best on a chair, rather than on a divan. A large scaled pattern would be appropriate on a large piece of furniture in a large room where there are many plain areas. In the small room, small scaled patterns and soft colors help give an air of spaciousness.

## **COLOR IN FABRICS**

All colors in a room must have harmony with each other. One of the fabrics in a room, usually the one with a floral pattern, serves as a color guide and key. Other fabrics in the room can pick up and repeat the outstanding colors in this fabric. Contrasts in color will bring the same kind of results as contrasts in pattern discussed earlier. One piece might repeat a bright or rich coloring if the room is not too small.

Gray is most usually a good third color if the shade is keyed to other colors. A keyed shade of yellow is always a good third color.

## **TEXTURE IN FABRICS**

Mix textures but avoid extremes.

Very rough textures are too bulky for small scaled pieces. On the other hand, very smooth, shiny textures lack the necessary bulk for large scaled pieces. The best choice for both pieces is in the range of the

mi-smooth and the semi-rough textures. There is a wide range of textures from which to choose for the average scaled piece.

## CORD FOR TRIM

If cord is to be used in the making of a slip cover, cotton cable cord resists wear effectively. It is made up of four plies, each of which is made up of many smaller plies twisted together. Cable cord varies in size. Medium size, No. 60 or No. 70, is adaptable to most pieces. It should be shrunk before using.

## GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

The upholstery on pieces to be slip covered should be cleaned if it is soiled. Upholstery which has a pile surface should be covered with a muslin cover before it is slip covered. The pile surface causes the slip cover to work forward and out of place in use.

Pad wooden surfaces to be covered. The friction between wood and slip cover fabric causes wear.

## *Styling the Slip Cover*

Figure 1 shows various styles of slip covers. The location of seams is very important to the style of the slip cover. Study the lines and proportions of each piece. Place seams where they will bring out the best structural lines and proportions of the piece, and make

less apparent its poor ones. Pinning a cord to the upholstery along basic structural breaks will help you to locate seam lines properly. Those seams which style the slip cover are trimmed, usually with cord. Those which shape the slip cover are inside seams and are not trimmed.

*There is always a trimmed seam:*

- Across top of back, joining the outside back to inside back and outside arms of the slip cover down to flounce line (A in Figure 2).
- Along both arms from front to back, joining the outside arm to inside arm and outside wing (B in Figure 2).
- Along edge of wing on wing chair from arm up to back (C in Figure 2).
- Completely around top and around bottom of removable cushions.
- Across seat at front edge of frame in pieces without cushions.
- From back along side of seat, across front and again along side of seat to back of pieces without arms, or those with open arms as in Figures 3 and 4.
- Completely around boxing of arm fronts from flounce line or from seat under cushion. (D Figure 2).

These are strategic fitting lines and no slip cover can fit well without them.

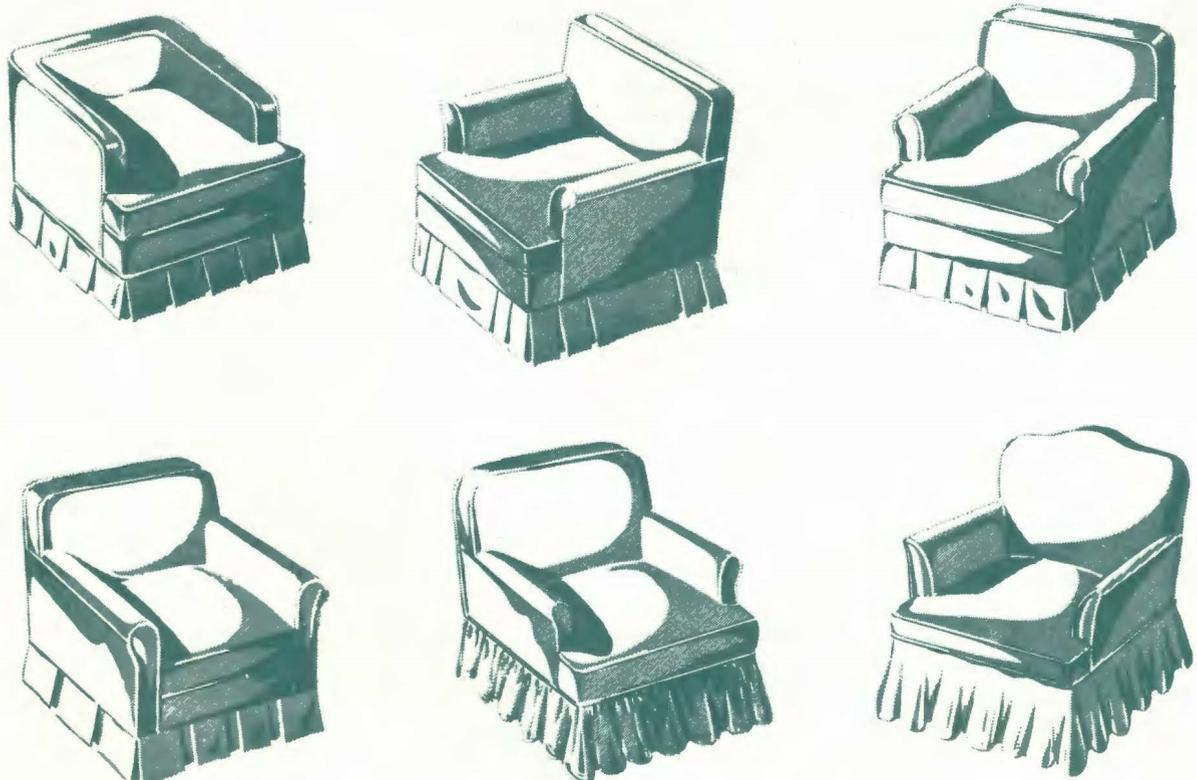


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

The following are all plain untrimmed seams, stitched on the inside: seams which hold together the seat and inside arm pieces; the seat and the inside back piece; the inside wing and the inside back piece; the inside wing and inside arm pieces; corners of cushion boxing; and all necessary piecings. These places are all indicated by an "x" on the chair in Figure 2.

### BOXINGS

Boxings may improve pieces with thick shoulders, thick backs and thick arms (Examples of these are found in Figure 1).

Boxings will improve the seat of armless and open arm pieces, and small scaled pieces with thin backs (Examples of these are found in Figures 3, and 4).

### FLOUNCES

Pieces may be tailored with a flounce (as in Figure 1), or without a flounce (as in Figure 2).

The flounce may be:

- Gathered if fabric is soft enough and if gathers become the chair (Figure 5a).

- Pleated with flat, boxed or grouped pleats if the pattern in the fabric and the style of the chair call for dignity (Figure 5b, c, and d). Whatever type of pleat is used, two pleats must come together at each corner.
- Cut circular if becoming to style of chair, and if fabric will drop nicely in folds. The pattern in the fabric must also lend itself to folds (Figure 5e).

The flounces may be narrow or wide depending on which does the most for the proportions of the chair. One thing is important: the width of the flounce and the space between the flounce and the seat of the chair must never be the same. It should always be in good proportion to that division of the chair and to the chair as a whole.

The flounce when finished should clear the floor by 1 inch.

### MEASURING FOR AMOUNTS OF FABRIC

The width of the fabric; whether or not the design in the fabric has a definite repeat and its closeness; the



Figure 5a



Figure 5b



Figure 5c

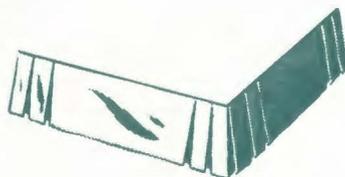


Figure 5d



Figure 5e

size of the piece to be covered; the style of the slip cover, whether or not it has a flounce; all have to be considered when figuring yardage. Allow 1½ inches for seams (1 inch will do if you're experienced). Allow 2-4 inches for tuck-in on inside arm and back pieces, and on back and two sides of seat piece. Allow 1½-3 yards of fabric for loss in centering a definite pattern, and for covering the cord.

Complete the styling of the piece. Measure up from the floor with a ruler and mark a line completely around the piece at the point where the flounce is to join the slip cover. This line should be the same distance from the floor at all places. Remove the cushions from pieces which have cushions. Carefully measure each section separately (adding necessary allowances) as follows (see Figure 6):

1. *Outside Back Pieces:* Measure from flounce line to highest point of the outside back of the chair, add two seam allowances. This measurement should be tripled if measuring for a divan (A in Figure 6).
2. *Inside Back Piece:* Measure from the highest point of the inside back to seat line, add two seam allowances and tuck-in allowance if required. Triple this measurement if for a divan (B in Figure 6).
3. *Seat and Apron Piece:* Measure over the longest part of the seat from back to flounce line. Add two seam allowances if the cover has been styled without an apron, four seam allowances, if it has been styled with an apron. Add tuck-in allowance, if any. Triple this measurement if for a divan (C in Figure 6).
4. *Inside Arm Piece:* Measure from seat line up over the fullest part to highest point of inside arm seam line. Add two seam allowances and tuck-in allowance, if any. Double this measurement unless the width of the material makes it possible to get both arm pieces out of one width (D in Figure 6).
5. *Outside Arm Piece:* Measure from flounce line on outside arm up to seam line at the highest point of the arm, the location of which has already been made and marked. Add two seam allowances. Double this measurement unless the width of the material is such that it is possible to get both arm pieces out of one width (E in Figure 6).
6. *Top and Bottom Cushion Piece:* Measure from back to front over longest part of the cushion. Add two seam allowances. Double this measurement unless both pieces can be obtained from one width. Triple this measurement if for a divan (F in Figure 6).
7. *Boxings:* The boxings for the cushion and for the arms can usually be obtained from excess width and need not be figured extra.
8. *Wing Pieces on Wing Chair:* Measure from the point where the wing joins the arm at the inside, up over the highest and fullest part of the wing and down the back where the wing joins the outer arm, add four seam allowances. This should give you the amount of material for both wings (G in Figure 6).
9. *Flounce:* To determine the amount of material required for the flounce, measure the distance around the chair at the flounce line as shown by dotted line in Figure 6. Allow one and one-half this measurement if the flounce is to be gathered. If the flounce is to be pleated, allow two or three times the distance around the chair. The flounce should come to within 1 inch of the floor when it is finished and must be cut with the up and down grain running at right angles to the floor when it joins the slip cover. The hem will follow the cross-wise grain. This, of course, will require seams at intervals. Determine how many widths of material will be needed to obtain the amount necessary for gathering or pleating.

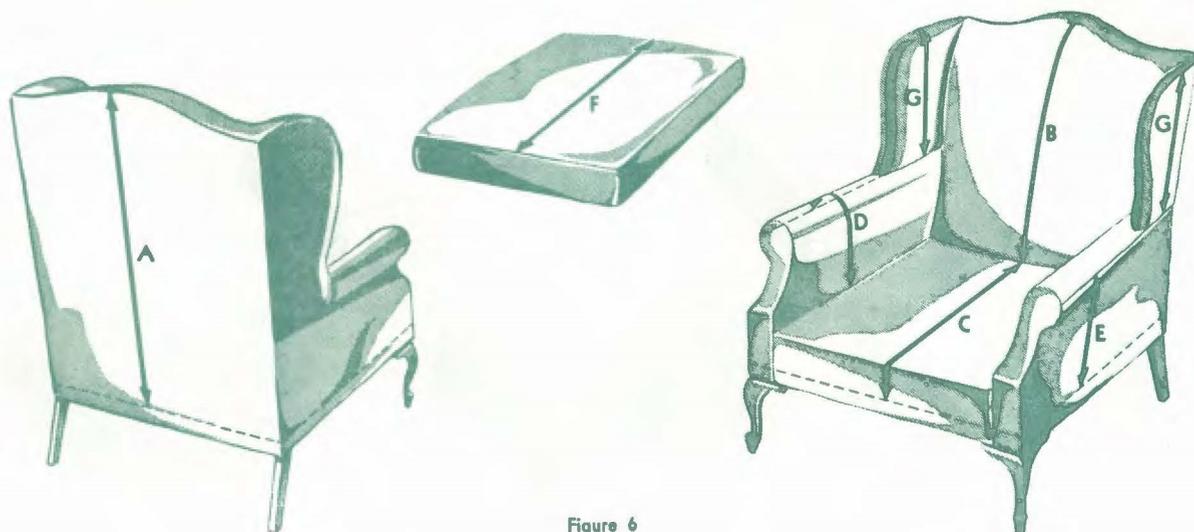


Figure 6

Add together all measurements taken. Add additional amounts, if any, which are necessary for loss in centering the pattern and for covering cord ( $\frac{1}{2}$  yard of fabric will cover approximately 7 yards of cord—if strips are cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide). The sum of these measurements will give you the yardage needed for slip cover.

### CUTTING PIECES FOR EACH SECTION

Before cutting pieces, shrink material which is not adequately labeled for shrinkage control.

Each piece when cut will be rectangularly shaped with the pattern on the fabric properly located in center, and will be as wide as the widest part and as long as the longest part of the section of the chair for which the piece is cut. The up and down thread grain of each piece will run perpendicular to the floor when the piece is on the chair.

Use the measurement for length taken for each section when measuring for yardage, then measure the widest part of each section. Add 1 inch for each seam to both measurements. If pattern of fabric is such that it must be located in the center, measure and mark the widest and longest points on the fabric so that the fabric pattern is centered properly. Be sure the lengthwise grain follows the measurement taken for length. Pull the thread between the marks and cut the material on the thread line. Label each piece as soon as it is cut. It is wise to cut inside pieces first. Here is a suggested procedure:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Inside back                                   | 6. Outside back      |
| 2. Inside arms                                   | 7. Outside wings     |
| 3. Top cushion (or seat if chair has no cushion) | 8. Boxings           |
| 4. Inside wings                                  | 9. Underside cushion |
| 5. Outside arms                                  | 10. Flounce          |
|  | 11. Seat             |

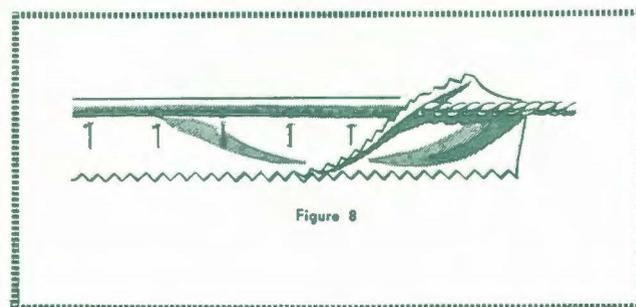
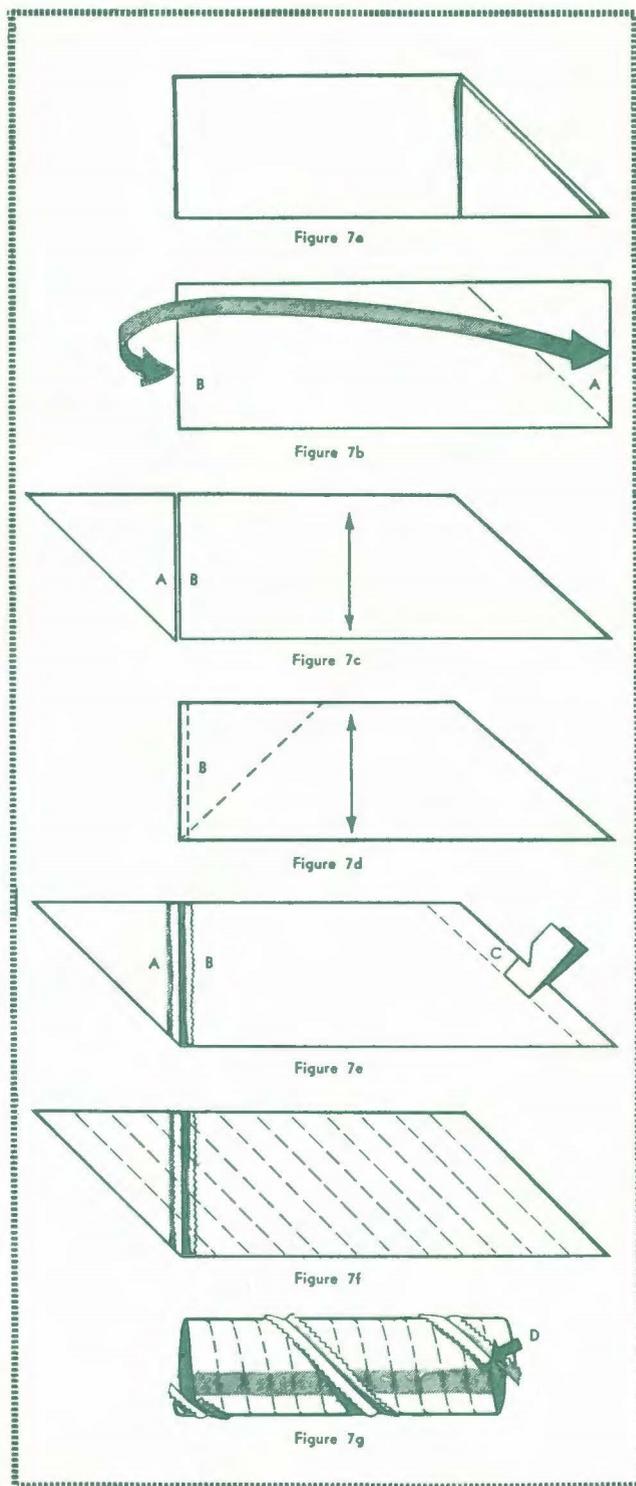
### COVERING THE CORD

A cording presser foot is necessary for stitching. Shrink the cord and material before covering. Strips for covering must be cut on the true bias.

#### Continuous Bias

Several yards of true bias can be cut in one continuous strip by using the method given below to stitch the material into a tubing. This method will save time. One-third yard of material 36 inches wide will cover approximately 7 yards of cord when strips are cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. One-third yard of 48 inch material will cover approximately 9 yards of cord when strips are cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. Shrink the cord before covering and shrink material which is not adequately marked to show shrinkage control.

Calculate the number of yards of covered cord you will need for the job you are going to do and on the above basis, determine how much material you will need to make the necessary yardage. Pull threads and cut the amount of material needed. Cut off selvages and lay the piece on the table, wrong side up with lengthwise grain of fabric running toward you.



Bring upper right corner down diagonally to the lower edge so that the end of the piece (lengthwise grain) is in line with lower right edge (crosswise grain) forming a perfect point at lower right corner. (Figure 7a). The fold forms a true bias. Cut on fold and lay piece back in the position it was before folding (Figure 7b). Slide smaller piece (*without turning*) over to left of larger piece so that A (lengthwise grain) is in line with B (lengthwise grain). Check with Figure 7c. Turn smaller piece back under larger piece, right sides together, so that edges A and B will form a seam. It will then look like Figure 7d. Pin and stitch in a plain seam. Press seam open.

Lay material on table wrong side up with seam at your left. Make a gauge  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide from cardboard. Lay the gauge at right end as in Figure 7e. Measure by gauge and mark a line parallel to the true bias edge (C, Figure 7e). From this line mark a second line the same distance, using the gauge for accuracy. (You must be accurate to get good results.) Mark the entire piece in this way so that all lines are the same distance apart and parallel with the true bias edge. See Figure 7f.

Turn piece over so that upper edge is next to you and the right side of material is up. The two edges (crosswise grain) are to be brought together and stitched into a seam. To do this, bring the straight edge of the *lower* right corner next to you, up to upper straight edge at the first marked line on right corner and let the bias edge cross the marked line  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch

below the straight edge. Pin in place. This is to be the stitching line. The upper corner will extend the width of one strip and be free. Match the first marked line next to you with the second marked line on the opposite side, letting them cross  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below straight edges. Pin. Match the second marked line next to you with the third marked line on the opposite side, letting them cross  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below straight edges. Pin. Continue in this manner until all marked lines cross accurately at stitching line and are continuous. Work with the seam edges only. As they are pinned together, the piece will begin to form a tube, so that it will be impossible to work with it lying flat on the tables as you would other seams.

When pinning is complete, you will have a long tube with the original upper right corner extending. Stitch and press seams open. Start cutting on line where the first pin was placed and the bias strip extends (arrow D, Figure 7g). Cut along marked line until the entire tube becomes one long true bias strip. There will be some waste at the opposite end.

When bias is cut and cord is ready to cover, lay the cord in the center of the bias strip at the right end. Bring the upper edge of the strip directly over the cord to the lower edge, being careful not to stretch edges. Hold cord in place by inserting the point of a pin just below and at right angles to the cord (Figure 8). Continue pinning from right to left, setting pins about 1 inch apart. Stitch with matching thread about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from the cord, using a cording presser foot.

## Making the Slip Cover

Now you're ready to fit the pieces together. Accuracy in fitting and careful workmanship must be employed at all times. Seams must have the proper location, placed where they do the most for the style of the piece of furniture. Plenty of good strong pins and a good pair of sharp scissors, which cut to the point, are very necessary to good construction.

*It is important to:*

- Be accurate as you work.
- Place up and down grain of fabric perpendicular to the floor in each section of the slip cover. Keep cross grain at perfect right angles to it.



Figure 9



Figure 10a



Figure 10b

- Be sure fabric which has an up and down pattern is always in the right direction on the chair.
- Center the pattern of the fabric which has a definite repeat, being sure it is balanced in all inside and outside sections of the chair, cushion tops and boxings.
- Match stripes and flow of pattern in fabric at seam lines and in piecings.
- Place pins at the exact fitting lines.
- Finish and press all seams which enter other seams before they are connected at structural points.

Before starting to fit, remove the cushion from the chair if there is one. Measure to find the center of each section of the chair and draw a line up and down with tailor's chalk as in Figure 9. This line *must be* perpendicular to the floor. Many pieces of furniture are out of line and the measured center is not always perpendicular. Shift direction of line, if necessary, until it is perpendicular to the floor. The flounce line is already marked if you have followed instructions given on page 6.

To assure a smooth, perfectly fitted slip cover, the sections which you have previously cut and labeled should be fitted and pinned directly on the chair with the right side of fabric out. Fabrics sometimes come from the finishers with thread grain pressed at an angle. This can be corrected by pulling and stretching each piece until it is a perfect rectangle. This is necessary since the position of the thread grain is all-important to the fit of the slip cover. Fitting is done section by section until the entire slip cover is completed.

## SHAPING SECTIONS AND ATTACHING CORD

### Outside Back

Fold fabric right sides together so that center fold follows lengthwise grain. Lay fold against chalk line which marks center of chair. Pin fold to upholstery at top and then at bottom. Do not allow thread grain of fabric to slip from this position at any time. Pin at center and at one or two additional places along fold (Figure 10a).

Place hand between layers of fabric, allowing top half of piece to drop loose. Spread hand and pat the under half of fabric smoothly into place from fold at center, out toward arm of chair and pin to upholstery (A in Figure 10b). Be sure that the crosswise grain of fabric is at right angles to fold and that fold is not pulled out of position. Pat and smooth fabric into place from center fold, out and up toward the upper corner and pin (B in Figure 10b). Then pat and smooth fabric into place from fold, out and down toward lower corner and pin (C in Figure 10b). Space additional pins so as to hold fabric firmly in place.

Hold fabric in place with hand at center back of chair and remove pin, push fold open and replace pin on right side of fabric. Remove pin at top in the same manner, replacing it on right side of fabric. Remove pin at bottom and replace. Continue until fold in fabric is opened the full length of the chair back and pins have been replaced. Spread hand, pat and smooth other half of piece into position from the center out toward arm and pin. Watch crosswise thread grain to keep it at right angles to lengthwise thread grain. Pat and smooth fabric out and up toward upper corner of chair and pin, then down to lower corner and pin. Space additional pins so as to hold fabric firmly in place (Figure 10c).

### Precautions:

- Pat fabric firmly into place rather than rubbing it.
- Check carefully to keep lengthwise thread grain perpendicular to the floor and crosswise grain at right angles to it.
- See that fabric lies snugly against chair without wrinkles.

Beginning at lower left corner of chair, fit and pin covered cord to fabric at exact seam line, turning seam edge of cord toward raw edge of fabric. Insert point of pin up against the cord where seam in slip cover is to be, and bring point out toward raw edges. This makes the pins set at right angles to cord. Continue to fit cord, placing pins about 1 inch apart—closer around curves (Figure 10d). Allow cord to lie smoothly

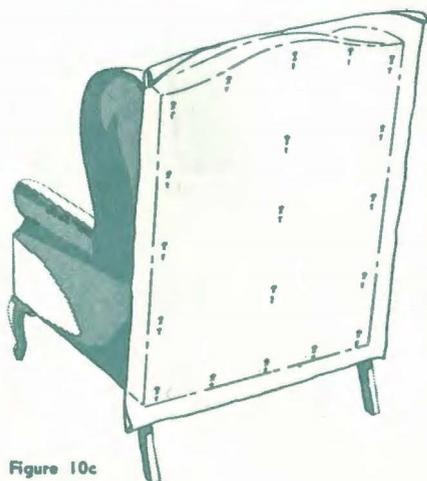


Figure 10a

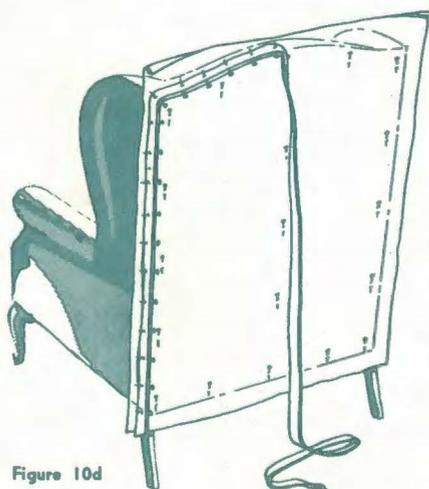


Figure 10d

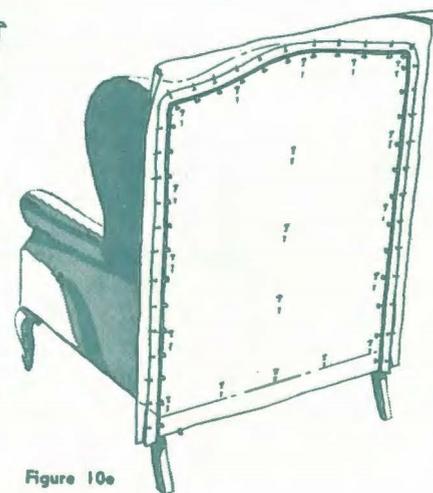


Figure 10e

on fabric at seam line, being careful not to pull or stretch it while fitting. When cord is pinned completely around outside back, cut cord loose (Figure 10e).

Check edge for fit. Check upper corners to see if they are alike, refitting where necessary. Release pins holding the cord which caught the upholstery when the cord was being fitted. Do this without disturbing position of cord, since this is the stitching line which determines the fitting of the slip cover. When the edge which holds the cord is free, pull out pins which hold the piece to the upholstery and remove for stitching. Do not stitch until outside arm pieces have been fitted and removed. All three can then be stitched at one time.

## Outside Arms

Fold fabric with the right sides together so that the center fold follows lengthwise thread grain. Lay fold against chalk line on outside arm of chair which marks the center of this section. Face edges toward front of chair. Pin fold to upholstery at top and then at bottom (Figure 11a). Because of the depth of space underneath the arm of the chair, it will not be possible to place additional pins along fold as in other pieces.

Place hand between layers of fabric at the front of the arm and take hold of the corner of the under half, allowing the top half to drop loose. Smooth fabric along top of arm to front, keeping crosswise thread grain at right angles to fold. Pin fabric to chair arm (A in Figure 11b). Hold fabric taut along front edge from arm to bottom of chair. Pin into position at lower front of chair (B in Figure 11b). Place additional pins along the arm to corner and along bottom toward front. Be sure not to disturb thread grain and fold. Keep the fabric taut as it extends from outside arm to bottom of chair. Hold fabric in place at top of fold with one hand, remove pin, push fold open and replace pin on right side of fabric. In the same way, remove pin at bottom and replace it on right side of fabric.

Take hold of both sides of fabric about halfway between arm and bottom of chair as is shown by arrows in Figure 11c. Pull fabric taut on crosswise grain and pin to chair at back. Smooth fabric out and up toward upper arm and pin. Then smooth fabric down toward back leg of chair and pin. Space additional pins so as to hold fabric firmly to chair. Smooth fabric along arm and pin to upholstery, then along bottom of chair and pin. Check to see that lengthwise thread grain is perpendicular to floor and crosswise thread grain is at right angles to it. Be sure piece is taut and is free from bagginess and wrinkles. Lay cord at the proper place for arm seam and pin as directed for outside back using same precautions. Be sure seam follows the slant of the arm.

Figure 11d shows the piece completed with cord in place. Adjust pins which hold the cord, remove all the pins holding the fabric to upholstery, releasing section to be removed for stitching. Using the same

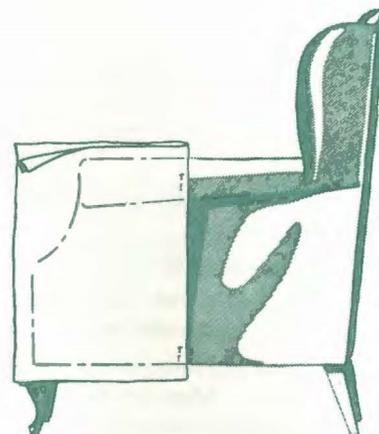


Figure 11a

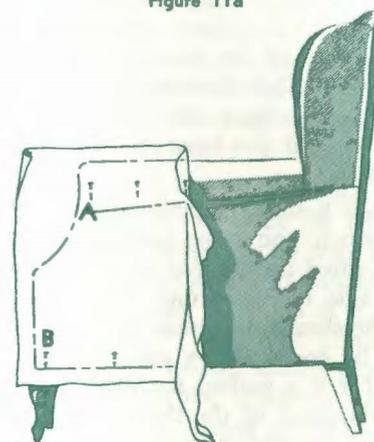


Figure 11b

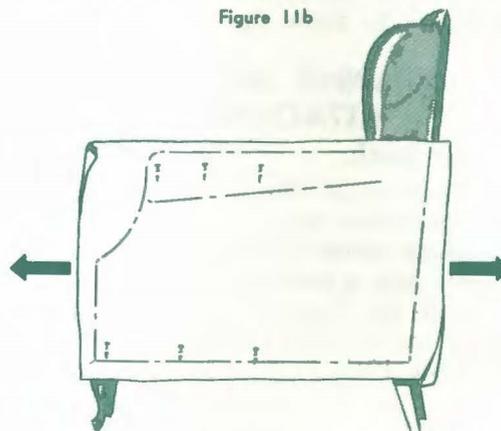


Figure 11c

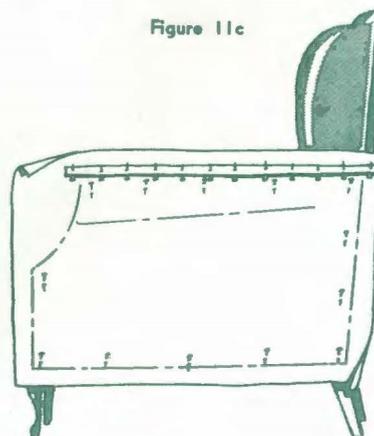


Figure 11d

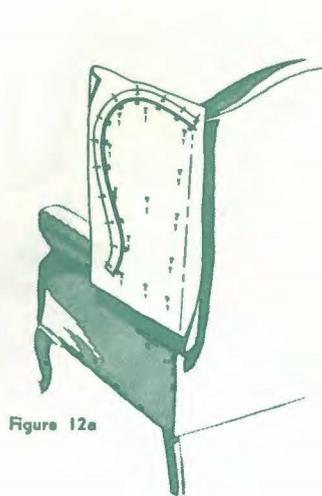


Figure 12a

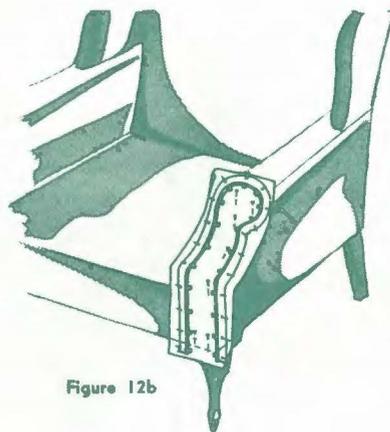


Figure 12b

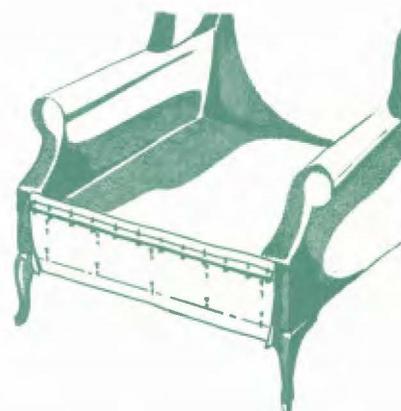


Figure 12c

procedure, fold and pin the other arm piece to opposite arm of the chair. Place and pin cord from front to back in same position as on the opposite arm. Pull out pins and remove piece for stitching.

Stitch the cord to the outside back and to both outside arm pieces. Stitching should be against cord but not on it. Use cording foot and matching thread. Trim seams to within 1 inch of stitching and press.

### Outside Wing, Front Arm Boxings & Apron

Cord must be fitted and stitched to outside wing (Figure 12a), front arm boxings (Figure 12b), and apron (Figure 12c). Procedure for placing and pinning fabric and for applying cord to these sections is the same as for others described above. It might be helpful to do this, then remove them for stitching before returning other sections to chair.

## PIN FITTING

### Inside Back to Outside Back

Place and pin the inside back piece on the chair in the same way as for the outside back. Refer to figures 10a, b, and c. When completely pinned it will look like Figure 13a. Cut away excess material, letting it

take the shape of the chair, leaving only enough for the seam. Standing behind the chair, turn raw edge at center of inside back to wrong side (A in Figure 13b). Pin to outside back so that the fold lies flush with the stitching which holds the cord in place. Place point of pin directly in the fold, push it toward the front of the chair through cord covering, to hold the fold to the outside back section. (See detail in Figure 13c). It is important that the pins be placed directly in the fold at all times as this will be the stitching line. Place a second pin  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to the right and continue working toward the right corner. Watch the thread grain to keep it perpendicular to the floor. Stop within 5 inches of the corner. Start again at the center and work toward the left corner, pinning to within 5 inches of the corner. Place all pins  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches apart. Next, begin pinning halfway between the corner and arm (B in Figure 13b). Pin up toward the corner and then down toward the arm as far as possible. Check pins to see that they are exactly in the fold—this is very important. Watch crosswise thread to see that it is at right angles to lengthwise thread grain at all points. Keep the fabric firm and snug while fitting. Fit and pin the opposite side in the same way.



Figure 13a

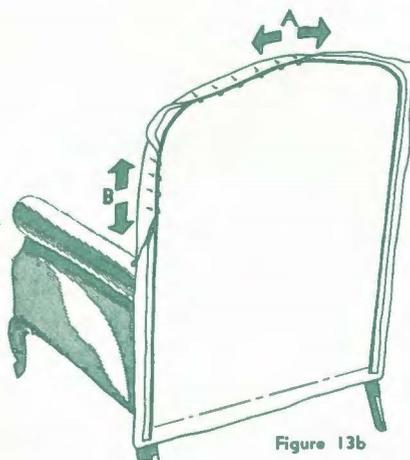


Figure 13b



Figure 13c

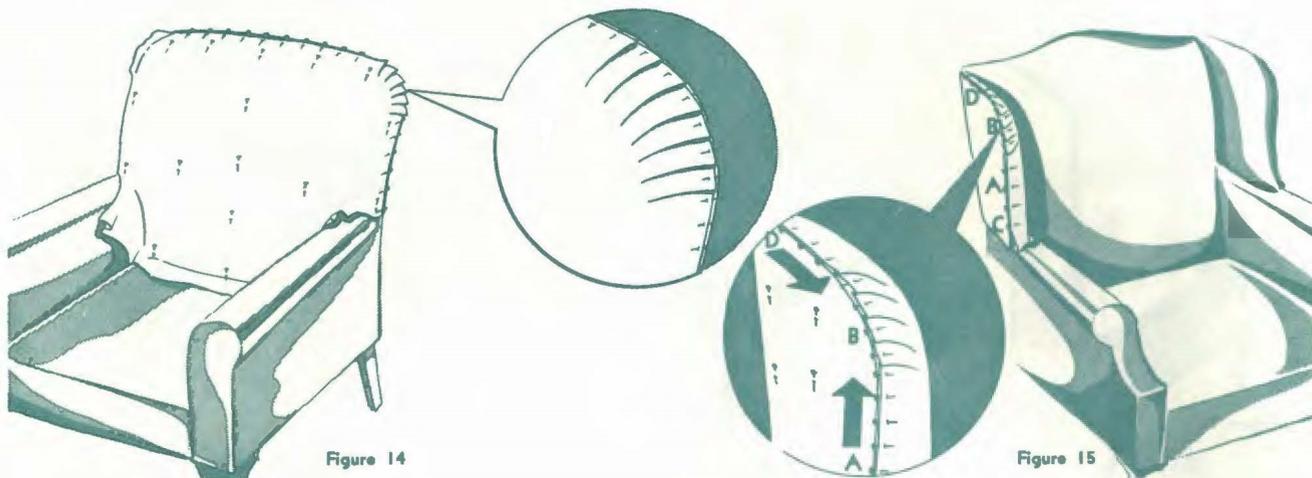


Figure 14

Figure 15

Corners are to be fitted next. If there is too much fullness in the fabric, lay it in folds to form small darts as shown in Figure 14. Work with it until it lies flat and fits perfectly. A dart that is properly placed will not go beyond the fullest part of the curve on the inside back.

There should be the same number of darts in both corners and they should be alike. Double check pin fitting along the entire seam. It is now ready to be removed for stitching. To release pins (so that back pieces can be removed from chair for stitching) slip fingers of left hand under seam at lower left side of chair. With the right hand pull the point of the pin from upholstery. But do not pull it out of the fold which holds front piece to cord, since this determines the fit of the slip cover. Push the point of the pin back into the seam. Release and reset pins in this way, 4 or 5 inches toward upper corner of chair. Repeat on lower right side of chair. Alternate from side to side in this manner, lifting the cover off gradually. When the cover is off, release remaining points of pins and push point back through seam edges only. This will keep pins from falling out while stitching.

Turn cover wrong side out, so that the stitching (which holds the cord to the outside back piece) is

up. Place seam under cording foot and sew between stitching and the cord. This stitching should be against the cording so that the previous stitching will not be exposed on right side of slip cover. Trim seam to 1 inch in width and return to chair in original position. Pin securely to the chair.

### Inside Wings to Outside Wings

Place and pin fabric on inside wings in the same way as above. Start fitting and pinning to cord halfway between the corner and arm, (point A) Figure 15. Work up to corner (point B) in direction of arrow (see detail) and then down to arm (point C). Start pinning at point D and pin in direction of arrow to corner. Dart fullness at corners, if necessary. Remove from the chair, as directed for backs, and stitch. Trim seams and return to chair. Pin securely to upholstery in original position.

### Inside Arms to Outside Arms

Place and pin fabric to the inside arms of the chair, using the same procedure and precautions as for the inside back. When in place, cut away excess material at seam line, leaving only enough for the seam. Begin

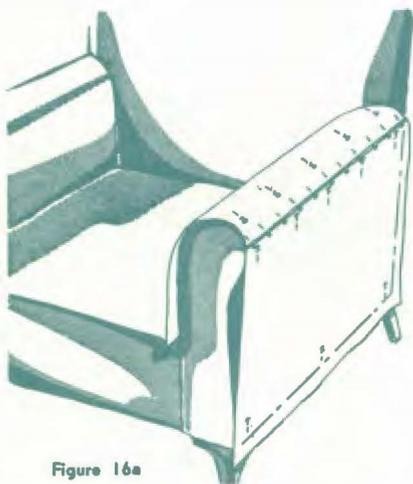


Figure 16a

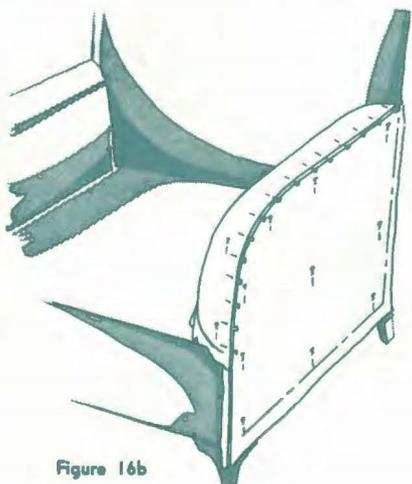


Figure 16b

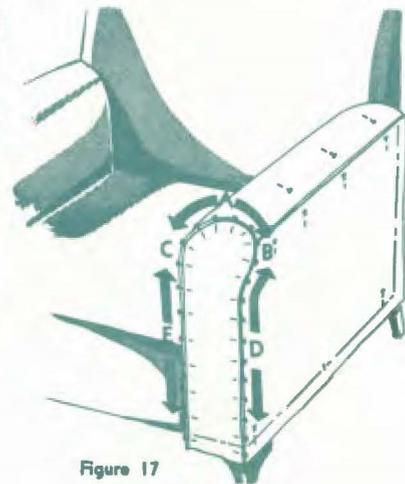


Figure 17

Figure 18a

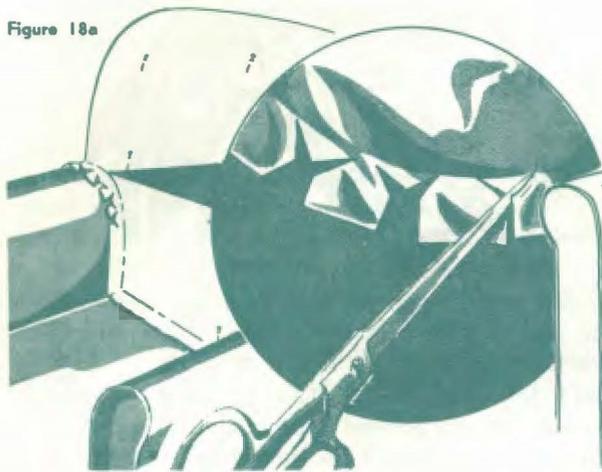
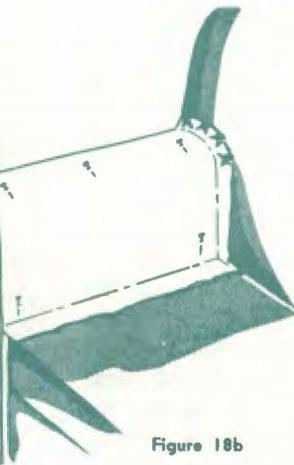


Figure 18b



SLIP BASTE



Figure 18c

pinning the inside arm to the cord, which has been stitched to the outside arm, at a point halfway between the front of the arm and the back. Set pins in the fold as in Figure 13c. Work from outside of the arm, pointing pins toward the inside (Figure 16a).

If the chair is styled without a boxing on the front of the arm, the inside arm piece will continue around over the front of the arm to join the cord at the structural line. The fullness, if any, at the bend of the arm will be darted as described for the chair back. A completed arm of this type is shown in Figure 16b. When both arms are complete, remove from the chair. Stitch and trim seam. Return to the chair in their original position and pin securely to upholstery.

### Front Arm Boxings to Arms

Place and pin boxings to the front of the arm. Watch thread grain to keep it straight. Trim away excess material at front of both inside and outside arm pieces, leaving only enough for a seam. Turn the cord seam in the boxing to wrong side and fit up over the raw edges of arm pieces.

Pin at top center (point A, Figure 17), pointing pins toward boxing. Work to the right around the top curve to point B. Starting again at point A, pin to the left to point C. Move down to point D and pin back up to point B, and then down to flounce line. Repeat from points E to C and from E to flounce line on the other side of the boxing. Watch crosswise thread grain on both outside and inside arm pieces. Pull fabric taut so that the outside arm piece has a beautiful curve under the arm down to flounce line. There should be no bagginess or wrinkles. Complete both arm boxings.

### Arms to Inside Back

The arm pieces have to be shaped to fit the inside back pieces where the arms and back of the chair join. To do this, the fabric on each piece must be slashed in such a way that it will fit the curve of the arm between the back seam of the slip cover and where the tuck-in begins. If there is no tuck-in space on the chair, the fitting must be done all the way to the

seat line. There will have to be many slashes placed where they release the fabric most effectively. They will become smaller and closer as they near the seam line.

Slash and fit the curve on the inside back first. A slash the shape of a "Y" is the most effective. Work back and forth along the curve making many shallow slashes rather than a few deep ones, until the fabric lies flat (Figure 18a). The way the slash will look when opened for fitting is shown in the detail.

Slash and fit the curve on the inside arm until it will lie smoothly against the curve of the arm. Be sure that the slashes are not too deep and that there is a seam allowance left for stitching (Figure 18b).

When fitting is complete, turn the edge of the inside arm to the wrong side, bringing the fold against the back so that the fabric lies smoothly and fits perfectly at the crevice between the arm and back. Slip baste by hand to hold it until it can be taken off to be stitched (Figure 18c). The slip bastings act as a guide for stitching.

Inside wing pieces are fitted to inside arms in the same way.

### Seat to Back, Arms and Apron

Fold the seat piece on the lengthwise thread grain and place it on the chalk line on the seat. Pin, open up and complete pinning as directed for all other sections. Pin the center back of the seat piece to the center of the inside back. Pin center sides to the center of inside arm pieces.

Center position of apron piece (if any) and pin in place. Turn corded seam on the apron to the wrong side at the center front of the seat and fit to the seat piece. Pin to the right and then to the left as far as front arm boxings. If the seat has springs join the apron to boxings below the position of the edge of the seat when springs are depressed. If the chair has a "T" cushion, the seat piece is brought around to the arm seam and darted or mitered to fit the corner of the seat. Fabric will have to be slashed around the arm to make it lie flat and smooth.

## STITCHING ALL PIECES TOGETHER

Check all seams to be sure they are straight and properly placed. Using a ruler, measure up from the floor and mark the flounce line on the slip cover. Remove all pins which hold the slip cover to upholstery.

Open one back seam 5 to 10 inches from the bottom by removing pins which hold the outside arm piece to the outside back piece, being careful not to loose the fitting line. Replace pins in the fold of the arm piece as it was originally fitted. Try pulling the slip cover off the chair by taking hold at the front of both arms, lifting straight up. If arms do not come off, open up the back seam a few more inches and try pulling arms up again. Repeat this until arms come off easily. Then take hold of upper corners at back and lift off. If necessary, open up the seam further so that back will come off easily. The distance the seam is opened will be the length required for the placket. Be sure not to disturb any pins which hold pieces together.

Those seams which run into others should be stitched first. Decide which you will stitch first and then adjust slip cover right side out so that the seam is lying horizontally before you. Slip one hand to the wrong side and grasp the seam at the center between the thumb and finger, thumb on top of the seam. With the other hand, pull out a pin which holds fold to cord, as you did for the back pieces, far enough for the pin point to release the fabric on the right side, but not far enough to disturb fold at the cord. Push point back into the seam only. This makes it possible to maintain the original pin-fitted seam line. Release and replace points of pins, working first to one end of seam and then to the other end. Turn the seam to the wrong side. Baste carefully on the stitching which holds the cord in place, removing pins ahead of bastings. Place material under the cording foot of the machine so that the stitching which holds the cord in place is on top. Use this stitching as a guide and stitch both pieces together. When the seam is complete, no stitching should show on the right side of the slip cover.

When a corded seam runs into another corded seam, pull the cord from its covering before stitching and cut off about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of cord. This allows the cord to

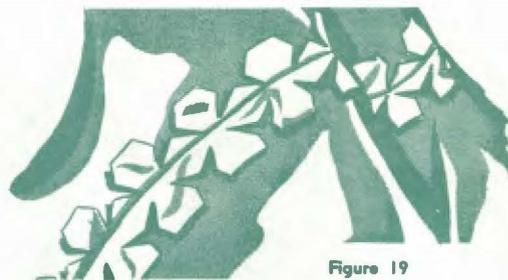


Figure 19

come just to the seam while its covering goes into the seam. Adjust pins in above manner, baste and stitch all remaining seams in the necessary order.

The following seams are plain and should be stitched on wrong side and pressed open (those on a curve will be slashed as described previously and as shown in Figure 19): inside wing to inside back; all piecings; seams in flounce; seat to inside arms and back; inside arms to back, using as a guide the slip bastings made earlier.

## MAKING THE FLOUNCE

The style and length of the flounce depends on the style of the chair, type of design in the fabric and personal preference. The length of the flounce will vary according to the proportions of the chair. It should be at least 1 inch from the floor when finished. It should be remembered when cutting the necessary strips for flounce that the lengthwise grain of the fabric is perpendicular to the floor. Cut off selvages and stitch all pieces for the flounce together with a plain seam, leaving ends open. Press seams open. Turn, measure, pin and stitch a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch hem in the bottom of the flounce and a  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch hem in both ends.

### Gathered Flounce

Lengthen stitch on the sewing machine to seven stitches per inch and stitch  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch from upper edge the entire distance on flounce. Mark flounce at the points where it will join the center front, center sides and center back of the slip cover. Pull stitching thread from both ends, pushing gathered fullness to the center front until the flounce fits the slip cover at the marked flounce line. Distribute fullness evenly. The flounce may be gathered by the machine's ruffler attachment.



Figure 20a



Figure 20b



Figure 20c

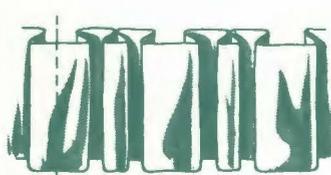


Figure 20d

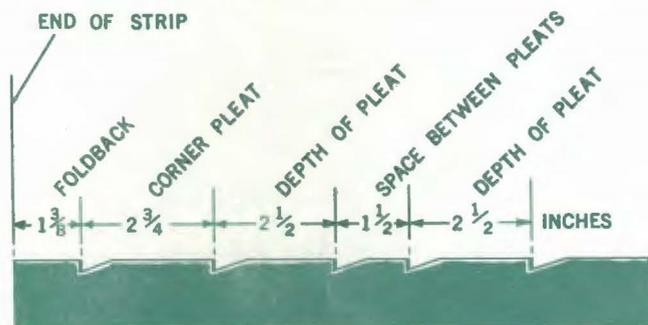


Figure 20e

## Pleated Flounce

Study the variations in pleats in Figures 20a-20e. Try out various arrangements until you get a pleasing effect. Keep in mind that an uneven number of pleats is more attractive than an even number, and that it is more interesting if the space between the pleat and the width of the pleat is not equal. Usually a flounce with pleats that meet gives weight; a narrow space between adds height; and a wider space between adds width to the chair. No matter what style of pleat is chosen, two pleats should always come together at each corner of the chair. This avoids having a pleat or a space extending around a corner.

Decide on the style of pleat best suited to the chair and fabric. Make a gauge with the correct spacings.



The gauge above is spaced for the flounce in Figures 5c and 20c. Using these measurements, the flounce will be the correct length for a chair which is 26 inches wide across the front. Completed, the flounce measures 14 1/4 inches from center to corner of chair, and uses 30 1/2 inches of material. It has a pleat 2 1/4 inches wide and 1 1/4 inches deep. The space between is 1 1/2 inches. This allows for one pleat at center front, three pleats at each side and the third one being completed at the corner. There are 2 1/4 inches for fullness to keep pleats from spreading.

Lay material flat on table with the right side up and the raw edge at top. Mark accurately, using correctly

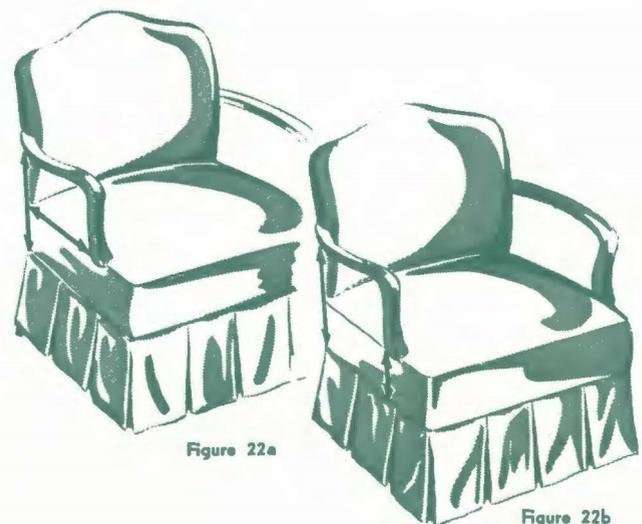
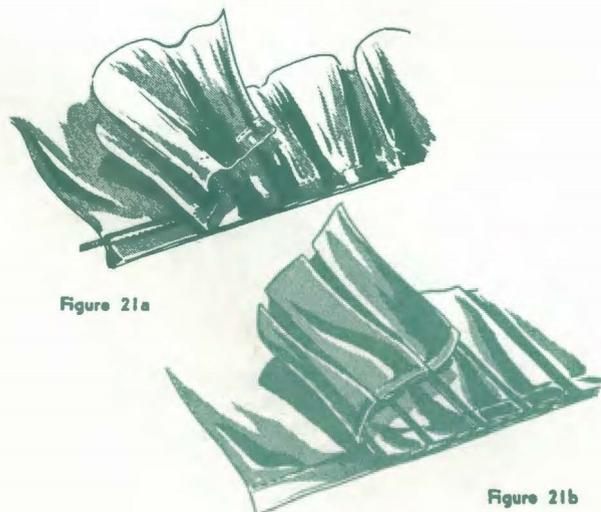
notched gauge at the top and then at the hem. All measurements should be made from straight edge of notch. Crease the flounce from top to bottom. The crease should follow along the up and down thread grain. Pin at top and at bottom (it may help to pin at center). Press pleats and stitch in place along top of flounce 3/8 inches from raw edge the full length of the flounce.

## JOINING FLOUNCE TO SLIP COVER

Find and mark the center front, center back and center sides of slip cover at the flounce line. If the flounce is to be joined with a cord, stitch the cord to the slip cover. Turn the flounce wrong side out, place and pin right side of the flounce to the right side of the slip cover at the center front. Pin together at center back, center sides and then at each corner. The fold in the pleat at one end of the flounce will line up with the cord on the outside back of the slip cover, the other will line up with the seam fold on the outside arm. Leave this fold open and free when stitching. Space additional pins so as to distribute flounce evenly and to keep pleats from spreading. The stitching on the flounce should be placed directly on the marked flounce line. If using cord, stitch directly on the stitching which holds the cord to the slip cover. Stitch the flounce to the slip cover with a plain seam before attempting to finish the placket. Figure 21a shows a flounce joined with a cord, Figure 21b shows a flounce joined without a cord.

## PLACKET

The length of the placket was determined when the slip cover was removed for stitching. In very bulky pieces it may be necessary to have a placket in both seams. 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. These may be located along seat line from arm to back (Figure 22a), or across boxing along front arm (Figure 22b).



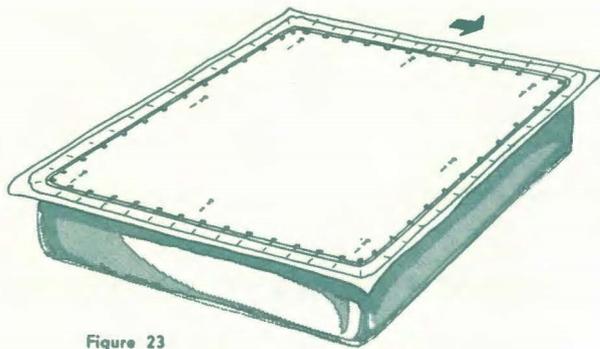


Figure 23

A zipper is the neatest and most satisfactory closure for a slip cover. It gives the slip cover a neat appearance, maintaining the close, snug fit a slip cover should have. It is easily opened and closed when the slip cover needs to be removed for cleaning. Choose a zipper the color of the background of the slip cover fabric and one that is the required length. Use the same procedure for setting the zipper in as is used for a skirt placket. The open end stop of the zipper is placed just below the flounce seam.

When the placket is finished, return the slip cover to the chair. Pull it over the back, first adjusting all seams to their proper place. Turn edges of all seams down and toward the back. When the back is in place, pull the cover over arms. Adjust seams to their proper position, turning edges of seams down. A well fitted slip cover, properly placed on the chair, seldom works out of place. Tightly rolled magazines, tied at each end with a string, wedged down into the crevice between the seat and back will help keep the slip cover in place.

## MAKING THE CUSHION

Fold cushion top (right sides together) so that the center fold follows the lengthwise grain. Lay the fold against the chalk line which marks the center from back to front of the cushion. Pin as directed for all pieces on the chair. Watch the direction of thread grain. Pin the cord completely around the cushion, starting at the center back. Corners should all be alike (Figure 23). Fit and pin under cushion piece to the other side and apply the cord in the same way. Remove both to stitch. Cord will have to be pieced at the center back. Rip the cord covering loose far enough to handle easily. Stitch the ends of covering in a seam which runs diag-

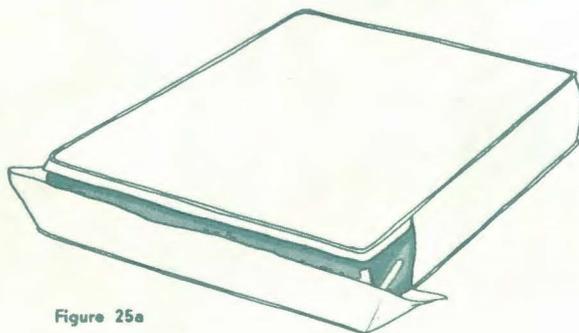


Figure 25a



Figure 24a

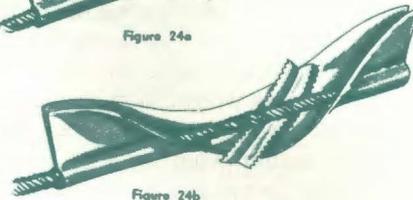


Figure 24b

onally across the covering. Untwist plys of cord, cut two plys away from one end and two from the opposite end. Twist the remaining ones together and wrap with thread to hold them securely. Place them back in the covering and pin in place. Figure 24a shows seams of covering stitched and the cord ready to be twisted. Figure 24b shows the cord twisted and fastened.

Pin boxings to cushions. Fit at corners. Remove and stitch in a plain seam. Press seam open and pin back in place on the cushion if the placket is to go in seam (Figure 25a). The placket may be in center of boxing as in Figure 25b. If so, it must be finished before the top and bottom of the cushion are joined.

Return the cushion top, bottom and boxings to the cushion and pin to the upholstery. Turn the cord seam to wrong side and fit to boxings, starting at centers and working to corners. Be sure the thread grain is kept straight and the fabric is fitted snugly on the cushion. Remove in the same way as directed for other parts of the slip cover, and stitch. The cover is ready to return to the cushion. Pull seams into place, turn edges down toward center of boxings.

## CARING FOR THE SLIP COVER

When the slip cover has to come off for laundering it should be washed with mild soap and warm water. Hang it in the shade in such a way as to expose as much of the fabric as possible to the air for quick drying without exposure to strong sunlight. Let it become almost dry, remove from line, press seams and flounce on wrong side. Put cover back on the chair, pull into place, close placket and let it finish drying on the chair. If there are water wrinkles showing here and there when dry, rub places with damp cloth, cover with a pressing cloth and iron out wrinkles.

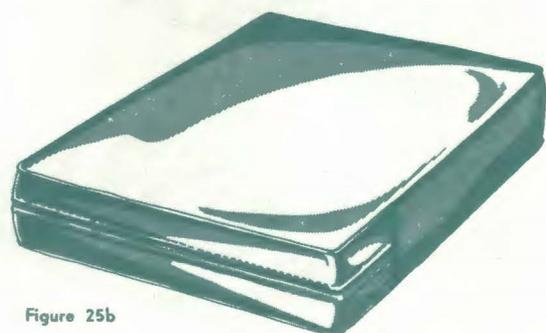


Figure 25b