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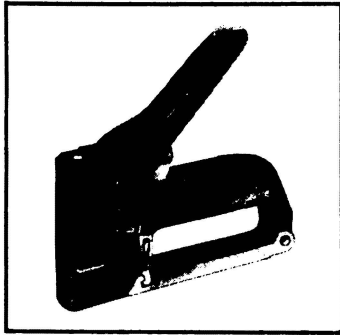
STAPLE-GUN DECORATING

Combine fabric, a staple gun, imagination and a little know-how to decorate everything from a mirror frame to your apartment walls

Looking for the quick and easy way to add pizazz to your surroundings? Go beyond the old hammer and nails. Bypass the messy paint and brush. Grab hold of a staple gun and staple your way through the apartment. Cover walls, furniture, doors, even hang draperies. It's fun, easy and economical. Needs no special training, strength or skills. Read our instructions for a starter, add your imagination and you're a qualified stapler.

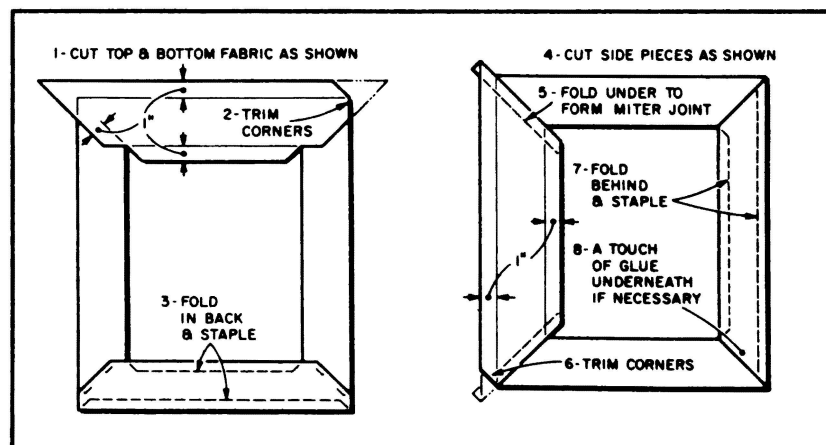## Dramatize a mirror frame by covering it with fabric

Remove the frame from the mirror. Cut fabric strips the length and width of each side of the frame plus 1-inch on all sides.

Begin with one long strip. Fold under the strip at both ends to form corner angles, miters. Do one miter and use a dab of glue to secure it and then fold the other angle to fit the frame length and secure with a dab of glue. Fold the length of excess fabric along the sides around the frame to the back and staple in place there. Cut off any excess fabric beyond what is necessary for stapling.
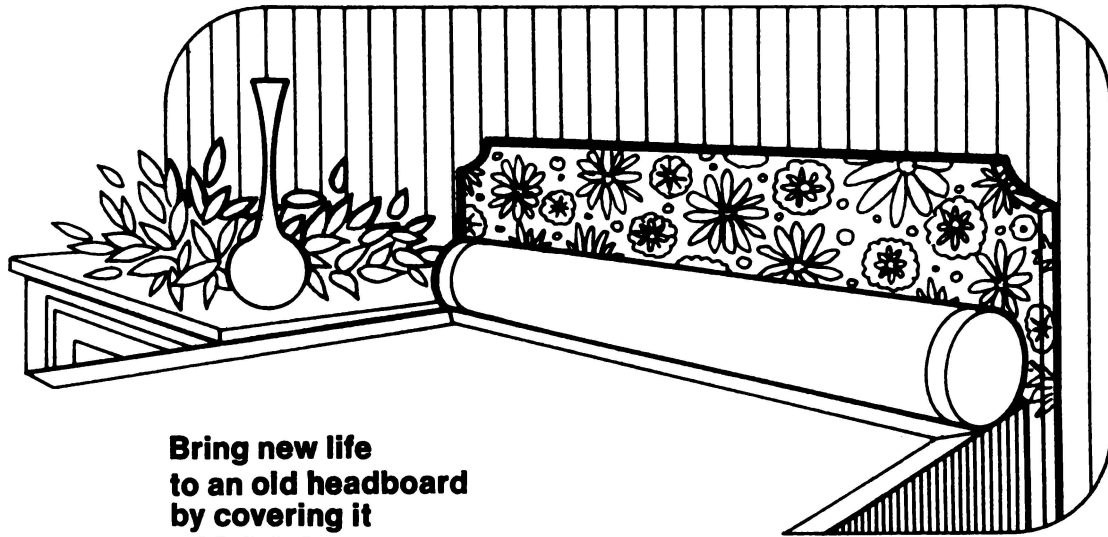
Add the next strip of fabric and form the mitered edge to match the angle of the first strip. After mitering corners, proceed as with the first strip.

Continue this process until frame is covered. Replace mirror. This process can be used to cover any frame with fabric.
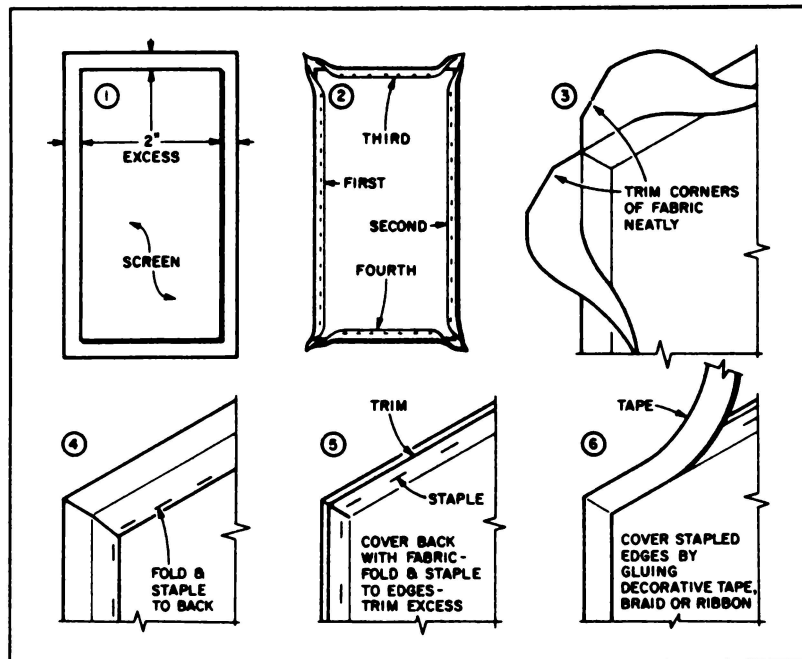

1 - CUT TOP & BOTTOM FABRIC AS SHOWN
2 - TRIM CORNERS
3 - FOLD IN BACK & STAPLE
4 - CUT SIDE PIECES AS SHOWN
5 - FOLD UNDER TO FORM MITER JOINT
6 - TRIM CORNERS
7 - FOLD BEHIND & STAPLE
8 - A TOUCH OF GLUE UNDERNEATH IF NECESSARY

**Bring new life
to an old headboard
by covering it
with fabric**

**Refurbish
a wooden screen
with fancy
fabric**

Take the measurements for both sides of your screen. Buy your fabric accordingly. If possible, take the screen apart so you can work with each panel separately.

Lay the fabric down, wrong-side up on a flat surface. Lay one panel from the screen on top of the fabric. Make a pencil outline of the panel, but about 2-inches larger than it, on the fabric. Cut the piece out. If all of the screen panels are the same size, use this piece as the guide for cutting all of the other fabric panels for both sides of the screen. If the panels are different, you'll have to cut and measure each separately.

Lay the fabric panel on a flat surface, wrong side up. Lay the screen panel on top of it. Make sure the fabric is smooth underneath the panel and that the panel is centered on the fabric. Turn the excess fabric on one long side over onto

Measure your headboard and buy enough fabric to cover it. If you can remove the headboard from the bed, it will be easier to work with.

Lay the fabric on the floor, pattern side down. Lay the headboard on top of the fabric. Make a pencil outline of the headboard, allowing 4-inches extra fabric outside of the original outline for overhang. Cut fabric on this line.

Lay fabric, face down on the floor again, laying headboard, face down, on top of it. Make sure that the fabric is smooth beneath the headboard and that the board is centered on the fabric. Staple one side of the fabric to the back of the headboard. Leave the corners for last. Now, staple the opposite side, pulling fabric as tight as you can.

Staple the fabric from the bottom of the board to the under side of the board, cutting out holes for the legs if necessary. Now staple the top fabric over the top of the board. If the top is straight, the job is sim-ple. If the top is curved, slit the curved areas to where the fabric turns over the back and staple each slit separately, to achieve smooth curves. Cut unneeded fabric from the corners and then pleat and fold corners smoothly and staple in place.

If you wish, you can glue on decorative tape or ribbon.

If you want an upholstered look, staple foam or cotton padding to the board before stapling fabric in place.
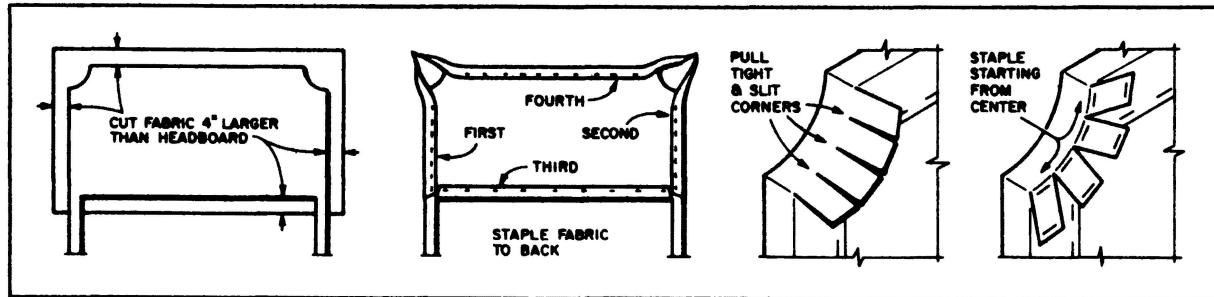

the panel and staple in place. Leave all corners till last. Turn over the excess fabric on the opposite long side, pull taut, and staple it in place on the panel. Staple the bottom and the top in the same way.

When all of the sides have been tightly stapled in place, cut away the excess fabric at the corners, pleat and fold the fabric till it lies smoothly and staple it in place. Do one corner and then do its opposite, to keep the pattern from stretching to distortion.

To cover the other side of the panel, lay the screen panel on the wrong side of a fabric panel, again checking for smoothness and centering. Staple one side at a time, but staple the fabric only to the edge of the screen panel. Cut off all excess fabric that goes beyond this point. Staple all sides in this way. Work the corners last, cutting off excess fabric, folding and pleating to fit.

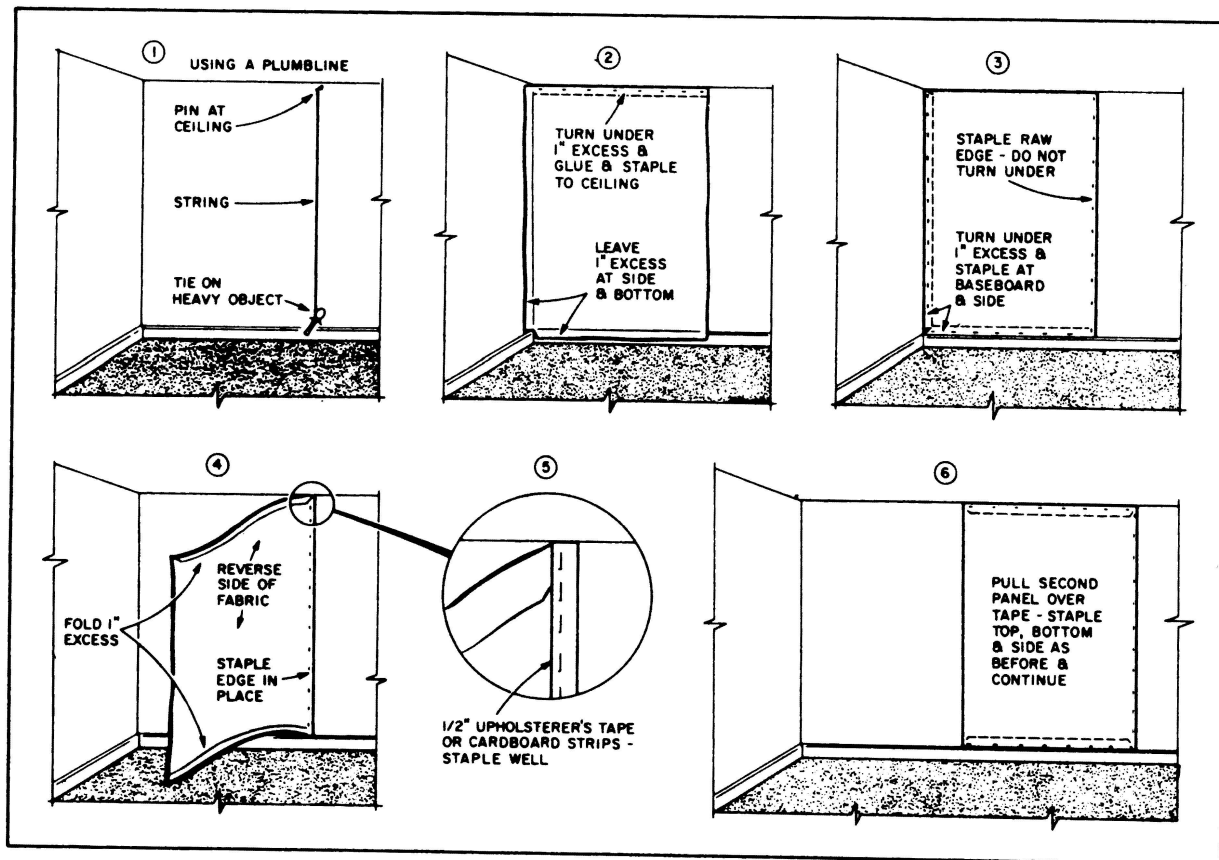Cover the stapled edges of the panel by gluing on decorative tape, braid or ribbon.

Complete all panels using this method and then re-hinge the screen.
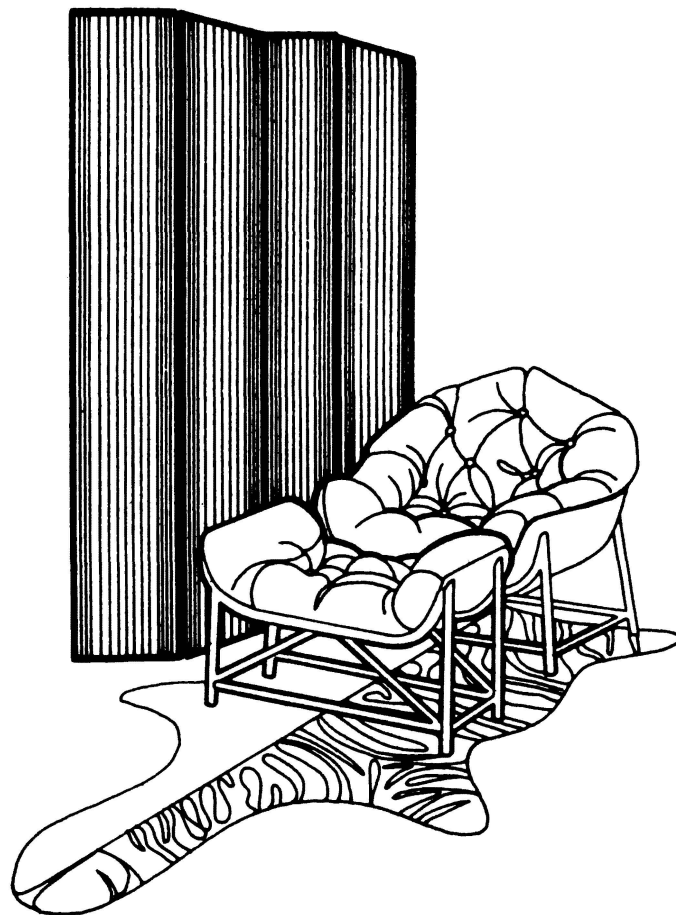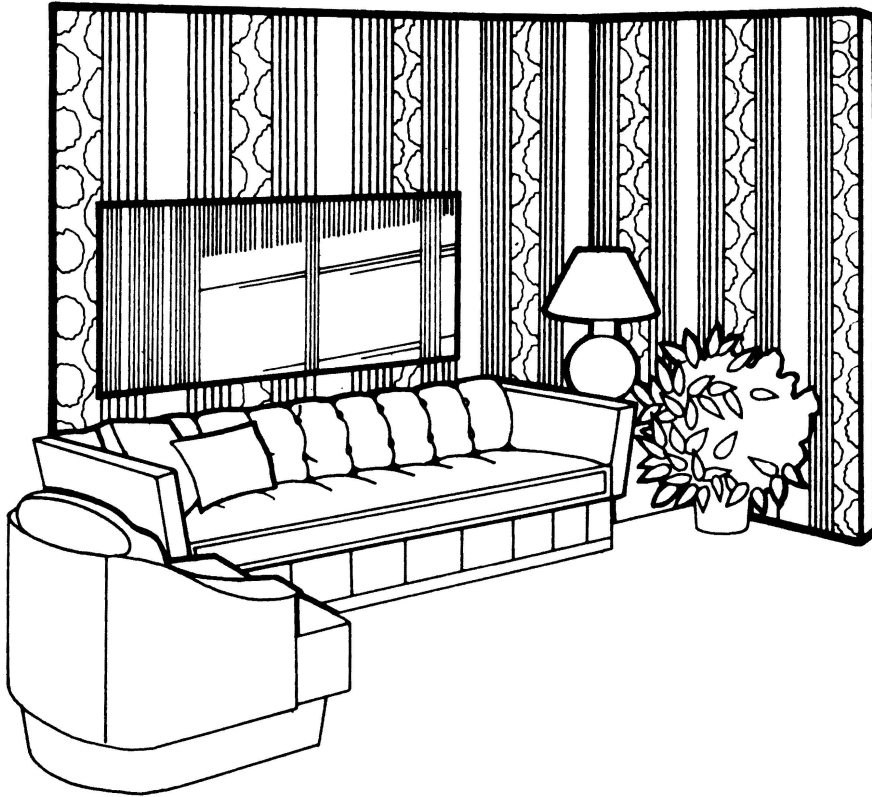
"Paper" plain or unsightly walls with fabric panels

Measure the length and width of your walls to determine how much fabric you'll need. If the fabric you choose needs pattern matching, measure the width of the pattern and buy that width extra for each strip of fabric. i.e., if your room requires 20, 54-inch strips of fabric to cover it and the width of the pattern is 1-foot, you'll need 20-feet of

① USING A PLUMBLINE

PIN AT CEILING

STRING

TIE ON HEAVY OBJECT

② TURN UNDER 1" EXCESS & GLUE & STAPLE TO CEILING

LEAVE 1" EXCESS AT SIDE & BOTTOM

③ STAPLE RAW EDGE - DO NOT TURN UNDER

TURN UNDER 1" EXCESS & STAPLE AT BASEBOARD & SIDE

④ REVERSE SIDE OF FABRIC

FOLD 1" EXCESS

STAPLE EDGE IN PLACE

⑤ 1/2" UPHOLSTERER'S TAPE OR CARDBOARD STRIPS - STAPLE WELL

⑥ PULL SECOND PANEL OVER TAPE - STAPLE TOP, BOTTOM & SIDE AS BEFORE & CONTINUE

extra fabric for matching. If you use sheets, you will have wider pieces to work with and therefore, less seams. If you choose sheets or felt, you will not have to turn edges under.

Measure the height of your area to be covered, from top of baseboard to ceiling. Cut your fabric panels to this length plus 2-inches for turn-under (except for sheets and felt).

If your ceiling is not straight, hang a heavy object from a string taped to the ceiling (or a plumb line) down the wall to get a straight line to start with.

Start in a corner of the room. Turn-under 1-inch excess on the top edge of the fabric panel, run a line of glue under it for extra tautness and staple fabric at ceiling line, pulling tautly as you go. Be sure to leave 1-inch turn-under fabric along the long corner side for later stapling.

Pull fabric tight to the baseboard, turn under 1-inch and staple.

Now, turn under the 1-inch excess along the corner length, and staple fabric smoothly. Staple down the other long side next, pulling tightly. You need not turn under any excess on this side.

For joining panels with invisible seams, use the method called backtacking: Place the next panel, face to face with the first panel. Place a couple of staples to hold it there along their common edge. Staple a strip of ½-inch upholsterer's tape or cardboard along this line. Staple this well. Now pull the second fabric panel firmly over the tape or cardboard strip, hiding them and giving you a smooth seam.

Turn under the top and bottom edges of this new panel, just as you did the first and staple tautly in place.

Staple the other side of this panel without turning under the edge and now you are ready to add the third panel using the same backtacking method. Add all panels in the same way.

You may want to glue down the last side of the last panel so that the staples won't show.

## Re-upholster a chair slip seat by stapling on new design
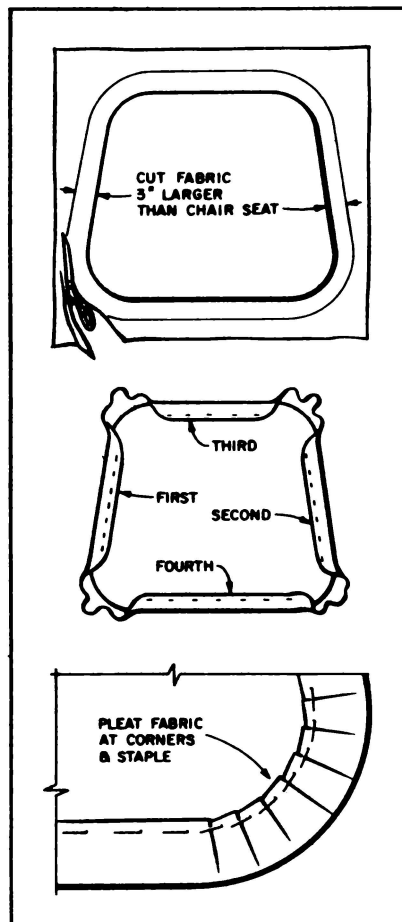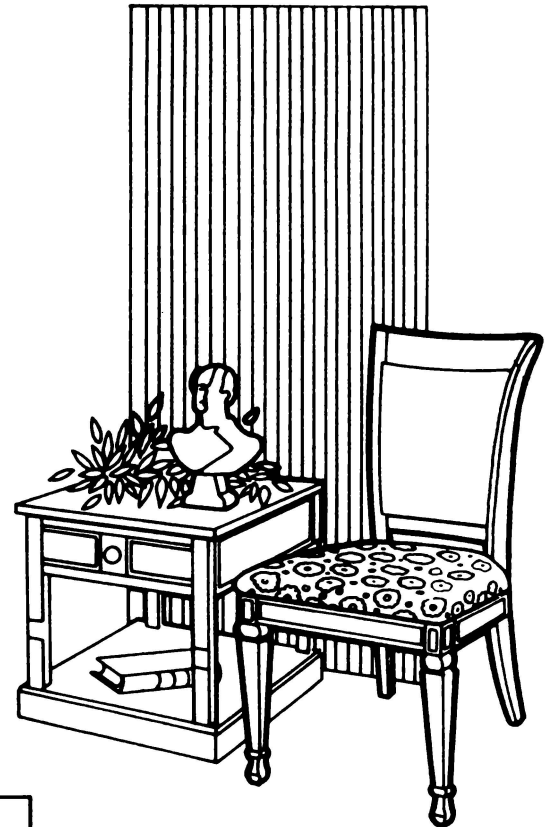
Unscrew the seat from the chair. Lay fabric, pattern side down on a flat surface. Lay the slip seat, face down on top of the fabric. Draw a pencil outline of the seat, but 3-inches larger. Cut out the fabric.

Lay fabric face down with seat face down on top of it. Make sure seat is centered on fabric. Staple one side. Leave the corners till last. Pull the other side tight and staple it. Staple the other 2 sides.

Pull fabric taut at corners, cut off any excess, pleat or fold fabric to achieve smoothness and staple. Work one corner and then its opposite, so as not to overstretch the pattern.

If your slip seat is round or oval, pull taut, pleat and fold with one hand, staple with the other.
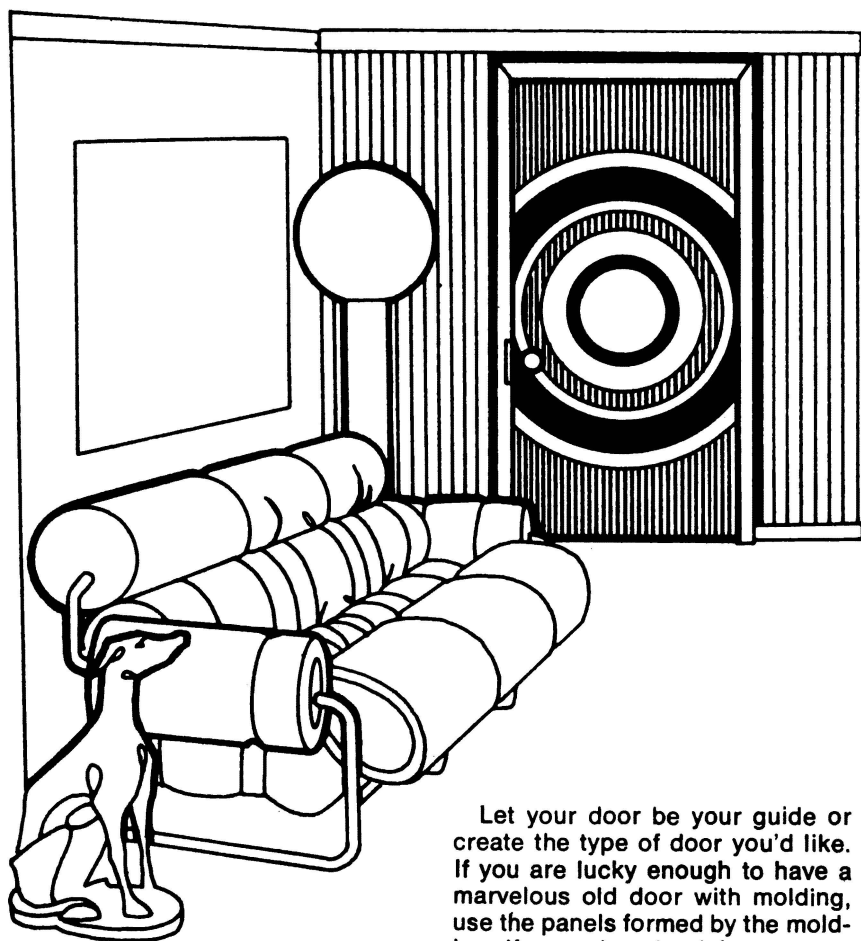
**Fabricate a door
by covering all
or part
of it with
fabric**

Let your door be your guide or create the type of door you'd like. If you are lucky enough to have a marvelous old door with molding, use the panels formed by the molding. If your door is plain, you can form "molding" panels. So, decide what areas of your door you want to cover with fabric.

Buy a sheet of foamboard from the art supply store or use a sheet of corrugated cardboard. Each fabric panel must be backed by the cardboard or foamboard, so measure and cut the shapes you have decided on from the board.
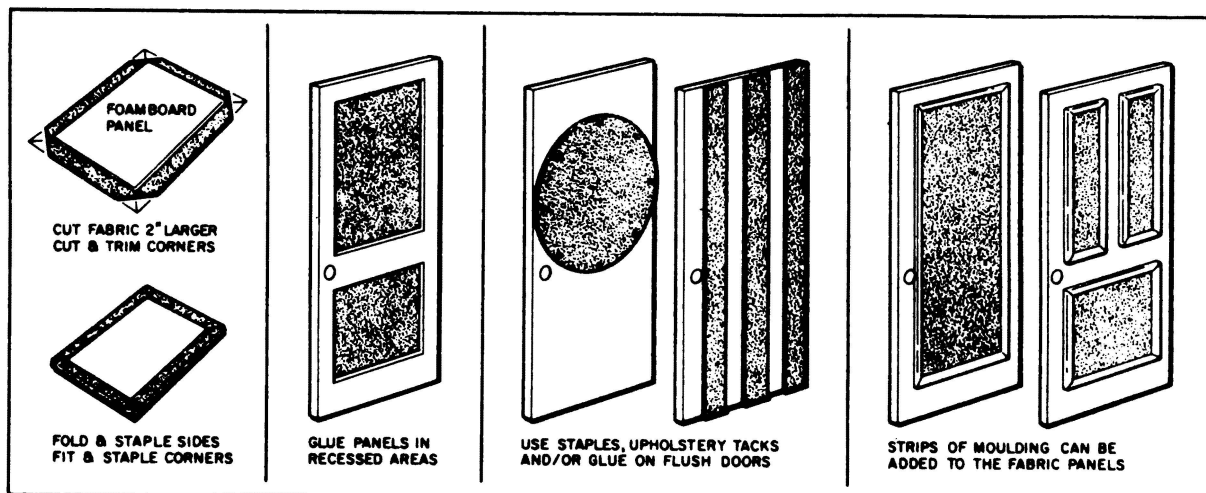
Using the board shapes as a guide, cut pieces of fabric 2-inches larger than each shape. Lay the board shape on top of the corresponding fabric shape and wrap the board with the fabric, as you would a package.

Staple the fabric tautly in place. Leave the corners for last. Cut off excess corner fabric, pleat and fold corners flat, and staple. Work one corner and then its opposite, so fabric design will not be pulled out of wack.

When panels are covered with fabric, staple or tack the panels in place on your door.

For real realism, if you are creating a "molding" door, cut strips of molding to frame fabric panel and tack them in place.

FOAMBOARD PANEL

CUT FABRIC 2" LARGER
CUT & TRIM CORNERS

FOLD & STAPLE SIDES
FIT & STAPLE CORNERS

GLUE PANELS IN
RECESSED AREAS

USE STAPLES, UPHOLSTERY TACKS
AND/OR GLUE ON FLUSH DOORS

STRIPS OF MOULDING CAN BE
ADDED TO THE FABRIC PANELS

Measure cube for fabric allowance. Cut all 5 squares of fabric at once for best accuracy. They should each equal a cube side plus 1-inch turn-under on all sides.
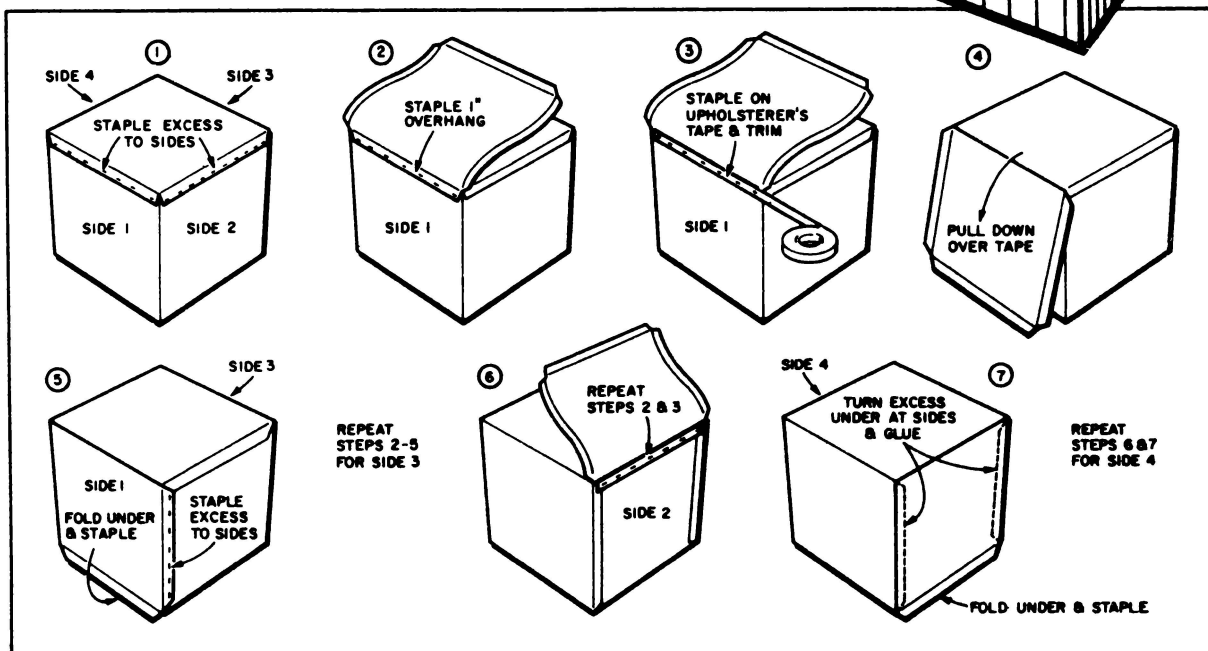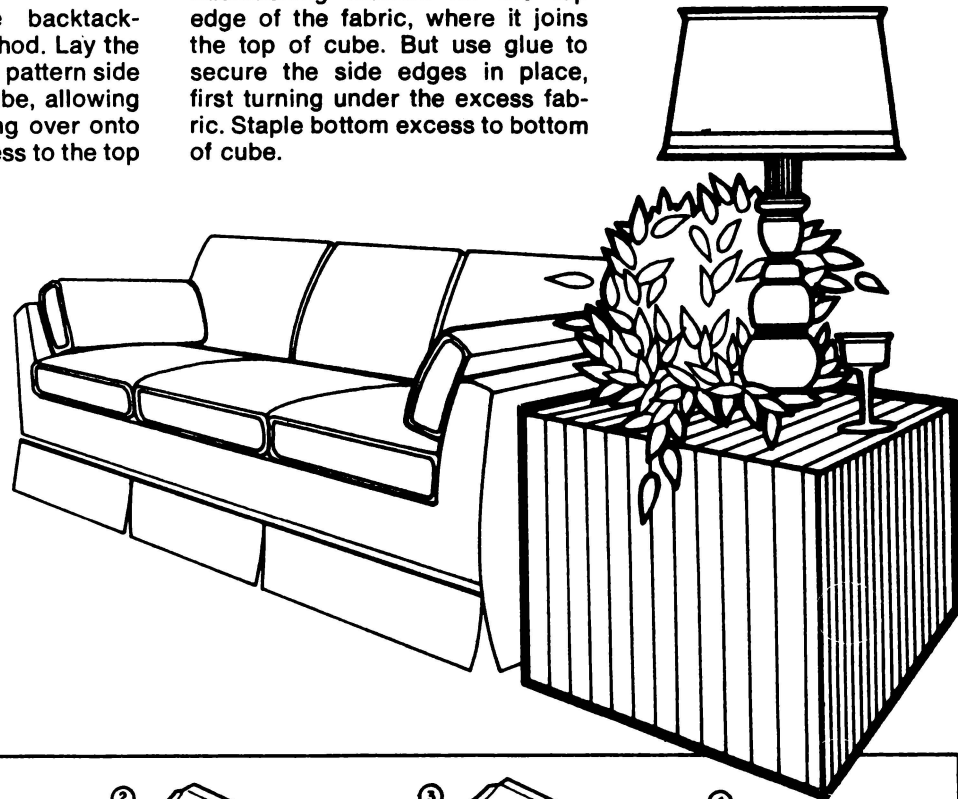
Start with the top of the cube. Place one fabric square centered on the top. Staple fabric overhang onto the cube sides, pulling fabric tight as you staple. Do corners last, cutting off excess fabric and folding neatly.
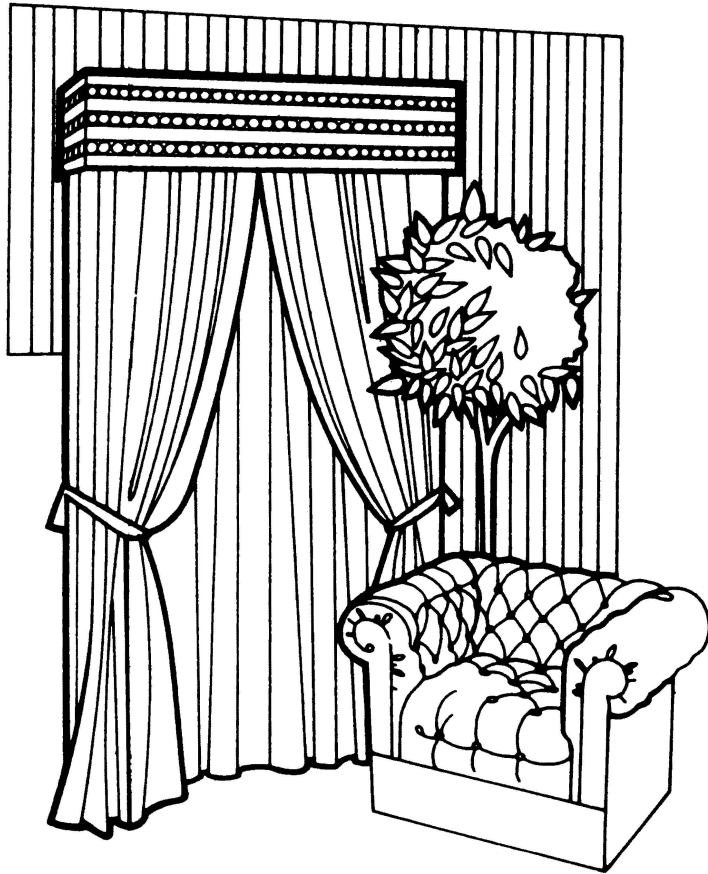
For side 1, use the backtacking, smooth-seam method. Lay the second piece of fabric, pattern side down on top of the cube, allowing 1-inch of fabric to hang over onto side 1. Staple this excess to the top

of the side, close to the corner. Staple a strip of ½-inch upholsterer's tape or cardboard over the staples. Pull fabric down firmly over this tape, hiding the tape and staples. Now, staple the side excess of the piece onto sides 2 & 4. Then, staple bottom excess to bottom of cube, pulling tight.

Use this same procedure on side 3. For sides 2 and 4, use the same backtacking method for the top edge of the fabric, where it joins the top of cube. But use glue to secure the side edges in place, first turning under the excess fabric. Staple bottom excess to bottom of cube.

Cover a wooden cube with fabric

To make a curtain, measure your window. You'll need fabric twice the width of the window and the length of the area you want the curtain to cover plus 4-inches for hemming. These measurements are for each window. Divide the width of fabric into 2 panels. Machine stitch or hand sew a 1-inch hem along each long side of each panel. Sew a 4-inch hem along the bottom edge of each panel. Staple the panels to the back of the cornice, pleating or gathering the fabric as you staple.

Make tie-backs from fabric or use decorative ribbon and staple tie-backs to wall for a draped effect.

Create a fabric-covered cornice . . . staple on a curtain, too

To cover the cornice, cut a strip of fabric, 2-inches longer and wider than your cornice board, which you can buy or make from plywood.

Wrap the fabric around the face and sides of the cornice board and staple the excess around the sides to the back.

Slit the top and bottom excess fabric at the corners of the cornice, just to the wood and turn the excess over to the back of the board. Staple in place.

If you want a padded cornice, buy foam or cotton padding and cut to the size of the cornice board. Staple it over the wood and then proceed to cover as above.

FOLD INSIDE & STAPLE AT BOTH ENDS

CORNICE

FABRIC

SLIT & TRIM AT CORNERS

FOLD INSIDE & STAPLE

FOR PADDED EFFECT STAPLE & GLUE FOAM TO CORNICE...

... THEN COVER WITH FABRIC

TO FASTEN CURTAINS GATHER FABRIC & STAPLE

VIEW FROM INSIDE CORNICE