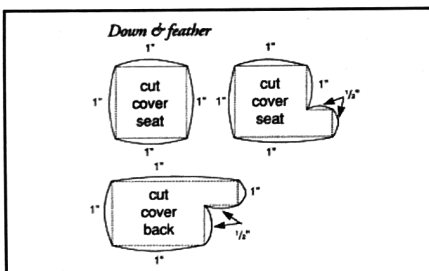
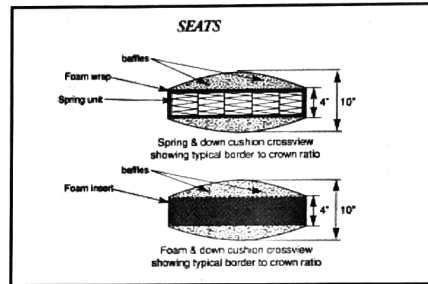
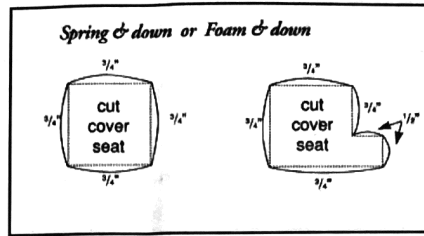


The "Crowning" Touches to Feathers and Down

By Joanie Johnson

Making outside covers for a Down, Down and Feather, Spring and Down or Foam and Down insert is a bit different than the usual of just cutting the cover with a 1/2" seam allowance. When making these particular outside cushion covers, there is something to be considered called a "Crown". The crown is the tapering of feathers to reach a high peak in the center of the cushion. These extra feathers that are added maintain the very essential comfort and lasting durability of the inserts. The crown height is ordered depending on the depth of the inside arm of the furniture. This crown will flatten out as the cushion is used, and will give a nice plump, comfy feel for years to come.

In the illustration below the dotted lines represent the exact cover measurement with the 1/2" seam allowance already added. The extra curved 1/2" or 1" lines are the extra allowances of fabric needed to accommodate the "crown". For example: If the finished cushion size was 25" x 25", the fabric cut size would normally be 26" x 26". (That would be the dotted lines.) Now to that 26" x 26" you would add the additional 1/2" or 1" taper from the corners. Notice that the seat T-cushion cover differs from the back T-cushion cover in the tapering of that-section. The boxing is cut as usual with only a 1/2" seam allowance.

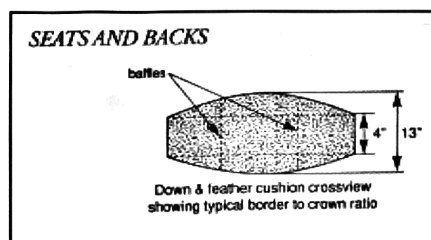


Spring and Down or Foam and down have only a 1/2" or 3/4" taper. All T-cushions, whether seat or back, are cut the same. The boxing is cut as usual with only a 1/2" seam allowance.

When ordering any of the above inserts, you should give the exact finished size. This is referred to as the cavity size. That is the exact size of the hole in the seat of the furniture where the cushion will be placed when the

slipcover is finished. The feather company will then determine the size of insert they need to make. This differs according to down and feather, spring and down or foam and down insert.

The first time I ordered the feather inserts and the box came, I was so excited. I opened the box and pulled out the feather inserts and I was shocked. They looked sooooo big. I was sure I had ordered the wrong size. Even after inserting them in the covers I was still shaken. Then I found out that they were supposed to be that way. Remember you need all the crown to begin with so that the cushion will stabilize and remain plump and comfy. I'm sharing with you one of my "oh no" moments to save you from having one of your own!



*Illustrations courtesy of Lodi Down & Feather Company.

Slipstitches
Tricks of the Trade
from the PDWS
Slipcover Classes



Joanie Johnson is an expert in the Professional Slipcover Industry, with more than 25 years of sewing experience. As past owner of Sew Nu Creations, a custom slipcover, drapery and upholstery business in Aiken, SC, Joanie offered her expertise in design, fabrication and installation to decorators and retail customers alike. Joanie is the slipcover instructor at the Professional Drapery School, staff writer for the *SewWHAT?* Newsletter, a national seminar speaker and the owner of "Slipcover Help!", a consultation service to the slipcover industry. She has produced a professional slipcover instructional video, and has been a guest speaker on the PBS show, *Creative Living*.

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