



Slipcovering Ottomans With Attached Cushions

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A client came to me with an old, battered ottoman. The cover, while intact, was threadbare and very unattractive. But it was her father's ottoman; it had sat in front of his big easy chair as long as she could remember. She inherited the ottoman, and, while it was precious to her, it was almost unusable, and it certainly didn't fit the decor of her home. I had previously made several wing-back chair slipcovers for her, but I had never made a false-cushion ottoman slipcover

and wanted the challenge. I couldn't find any instructions on how to do this, but I had attended both the Professional Slipcovers course and Advanced Slipcover Workshop at CHF Academy, and knew that Jeanelle Dech and Arlene Sauck had taught me well. I should at least try it.

After a few false starts, I got the idea ironed out and made a successful cover. Surprisingly, I had two requests soon after to do similar covers.

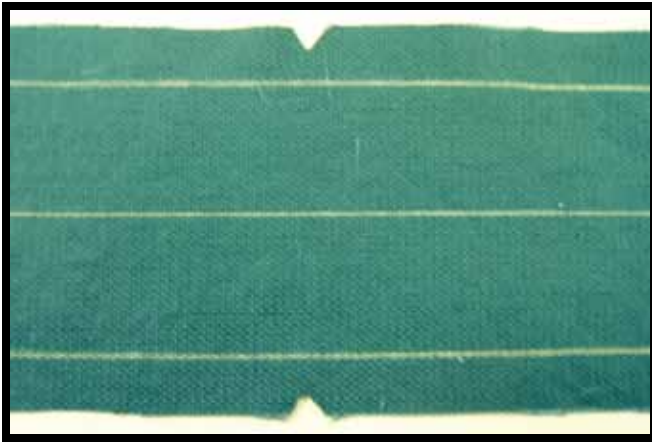
The main advantages of the slipcover are that it doesn't alter the piece of furniture in any way, and it can be changed easily. If the ottoman is in good condition, a slipcover may be the best solution. A fitted slipcover will look like upholstery and give your client the best of both worlds. But if the piece needs structural work, like new springs, upholstery may be the best solution.



Step 1 See how the cushion is attached to the ottoman. This inset piece (I call it the "indent") is what gives the ottoman its false cushion look. In our slipcover, this section is a separate piece of fabric. The depth of the indentation on the actual ottoman is measured from a corner of the top cushion toward the inside to the spot where the top of the indent and the bottom meet. This indent is not as deep on the slipcover, otherwise it would be very difficult to put the cover on and take it off.



Step 2 Make a box cushion without a zipper or a bottom.



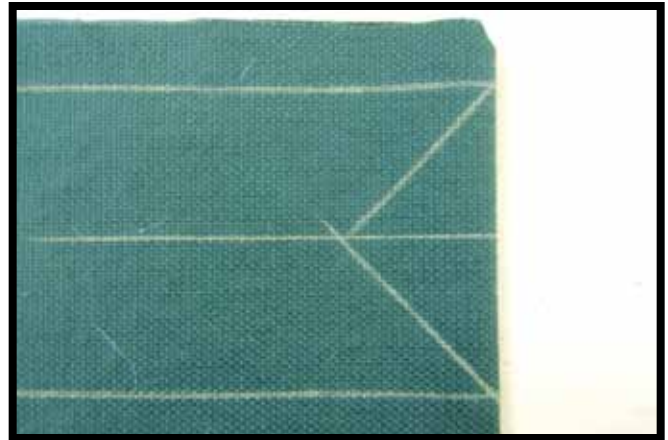
Step 3 Cut the indent piece long enough to go around your top cushion plus the seam allowance; cut the width of this piece equal to the depth of the indent plus $\frac{3}{4}$ inch for the seam allowance — times two. (Note: I made some of these sample pieces on green fabric so the lines would be more apparent than on the actual fabric I was using.) Mark the corners with a snip. On the wrong side of the strip, draw the following lines about 6 inches long (3 inches extend past the corner on either side of the center snip): the center of the strip as well as the two seam allowances. On this slipcover the indent is 2 inches deep (an arbitrary figure; 2 inches just looked about right) so the strip is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The lines are at $\frac{3}{4}$, $2\frac{3}{4}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the top. Do this at each corner. Fold your indent strip at each corner. The clipped corners are at the top and bottom.



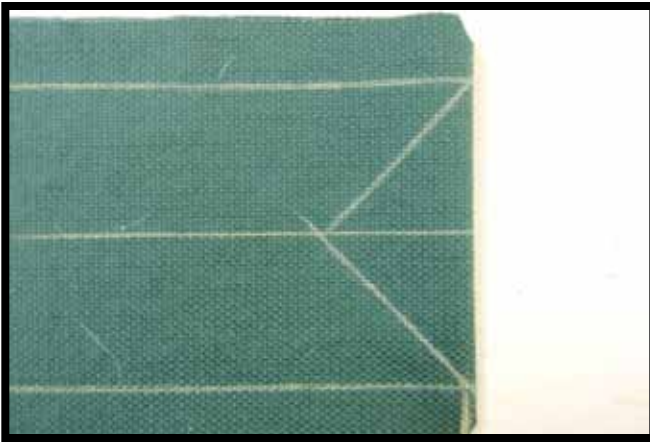
Step 4 To create the mitered corners, fold at the corner and mark a line at 45 degrees from the top seam allowance to and intersecting the center line. On this quilting ruler all you need to do is line up the 45-degree line with the folded edge. The outside edge of the ruler is your marking line.



Step 5 Flip your ruler. The 45-degree line is still on your fold. Line the tip up with the seam allowance and again mark along the edge of the ruler to and intersecting the center marked line. This is your stitching line.



Step 6a This is what each corner should look like. Before you go any further, check the circumference of both your cushion and the actual ottoman.



Step 6b The ottoman cushion circumference was actually 1 inch larger than the ottoman itself; the cushion extended over the ottoman just a bit. Divide 1 inch by four corners — this equals $\frac{1}{4}$ inch that needs to be taken out of each corner of the indent on the bottom edge only. The top edge will fit around your box cushion. To account for this on your indent strip, mark from the bottom seam allowance line down to the bottom edge of the strip, in $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the fold. This is your new sewing line.



Step 7a Sew on the marked lines and trim and snip into the deepest part of the V.



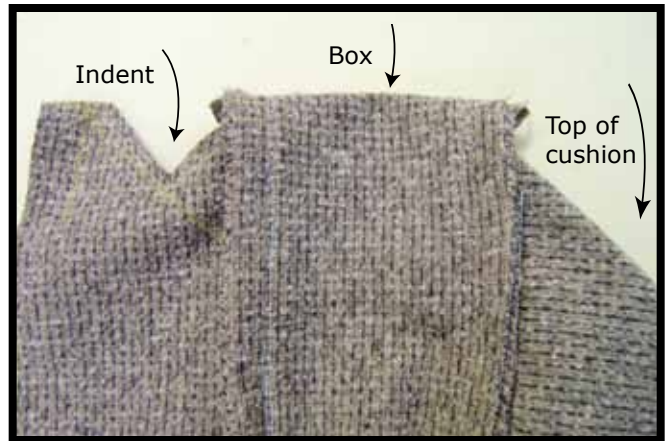
Step 7b If you don't need to make the above adjustment, this is what your indent piece will look like after sewing. Note that the sewing starts and stops on the seam allowance line.



Step 8 Attach your indent piece to the box cushion, making sure that if you had to do a circumference adjustment, that seam is oriented toward the skirt.



Step 9a Take a look at the indent piece attached to the box from the wrong side. Here the piece is folded along a corner.



Step 9b The skirt will be attached to the indent piece along the seam allowance on the far left. From the left is the indent, the box and the top of the cushion.



Step 10 Stitch on your covered welting. Measure from the stitching line of the welting to the desired length and construct your chosen skirt.



Step 11 Attach the skirt and pull the cover over the ottoman. Notice that the indent is smaller than the original indent, making it easier to put on and take off the cover. 🐛