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*And so*

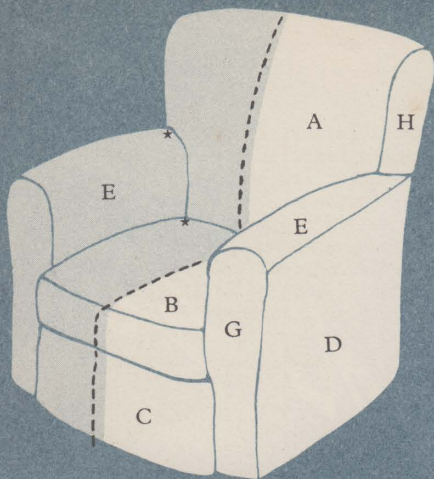


BULLETIN 14A.

*to sew*

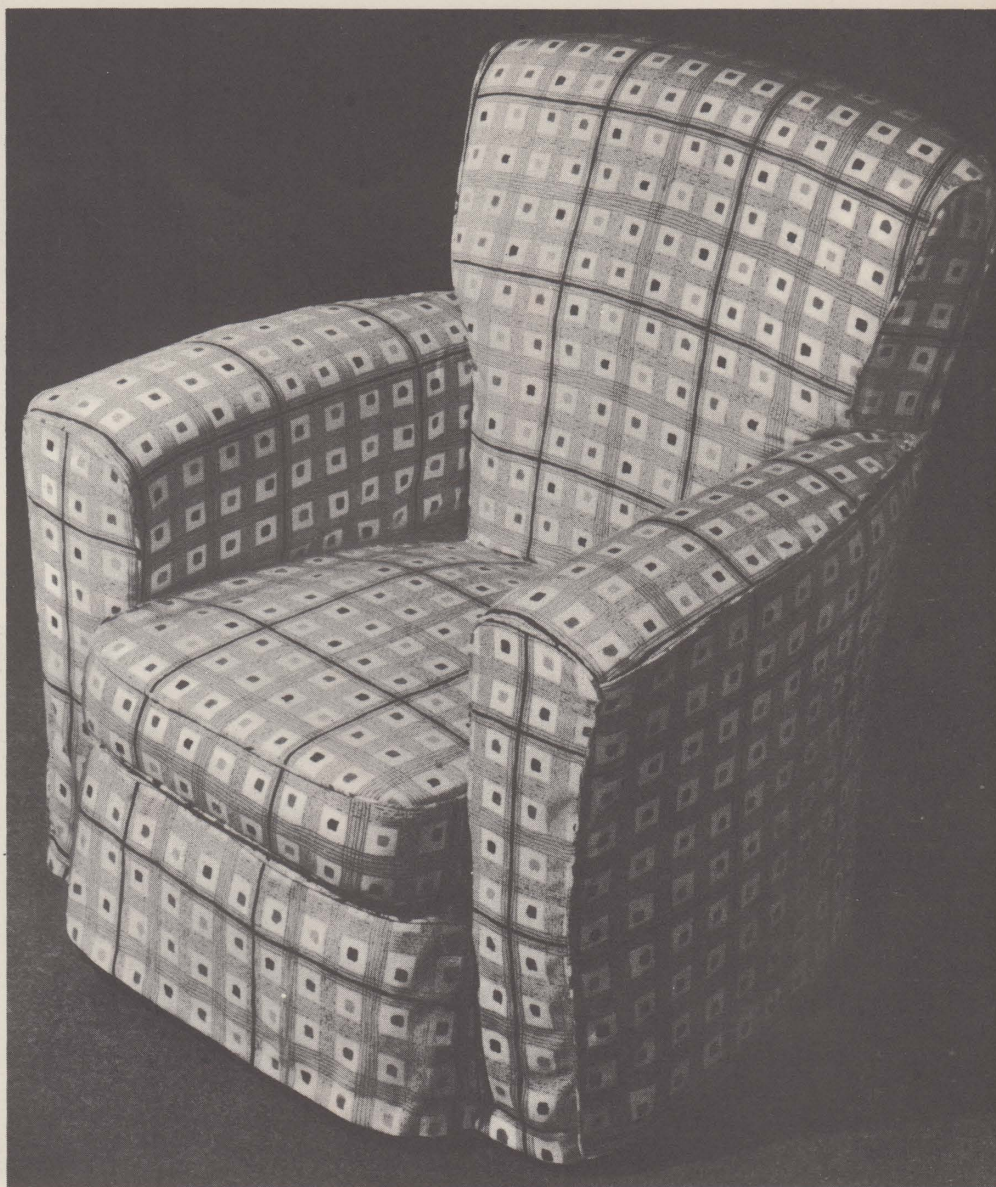
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## CUSHIONS, A STOOL TOP AND LOOSE COVERS

How we welcome the first rays of summer sunshine, but so often they bring to light the dark, dull corners of our rooms. Let us anticipate by sewing touches of bright colour such as gay cushions, a stool top – or even loose covers.



### LOOSE COVERS

The principle of making all loose covers is practically the same, but the cutting pattern of each cover must follow the lines of the chair. Always select a firm, hard-wearing fabric—and a small pattern will eliminate the difficulties of matching. The style of the loose cover must be decided before fabric is purchased, i.e. plain or with a box pleated or frilled border, as this will affect the yardage. Check through the following instructions carefully and calculate the required amount of fabric. (Fabric 48 in. wide is more economical).

#### Measuring and Cutting

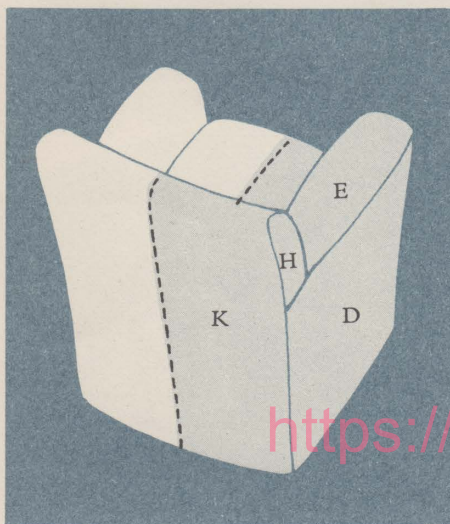
Remove any loose cushions. Work only half the chair (shaded section on diagram). Measure and mark the centre line of chair with pins, i.e. up outside back (K); down inside back (A); along seat (B) and down front border (C). Mark a line with chalk  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. beyond the pin line. Note that only half sections of A, B, C and K are cut, but from double fabric with fold to chalk line. Sections D, E, G and H are cut from double fabric.

Add 1 in. seam allowance to every edge when measuring and after cutting put an identification letter on every piece with chalk.

**Inside Back (A).**—Measure from top of back to top of seat plus 6 in. for tuck-in allowance. Cut this fabric from length and fold in half, right sides together. Pin folded edge to chalk line on inside back. Outline the side scroll (H) with coloured chalk and continue chalking down joint between inside arm and inside back, (\*—\*) to top of seat. From end of this chalk line, continue marking to the end of this piece of fabric at an angle of 45°. Trim away surplus fabric.

**Inside Arm (E)** (Cut from double fabric).—Measure length from top of seat up inside and over top of arm plus 6 in. for tuck-in allowance. Measure width of outside of chair (D). Cut to fit arm and cut tuck-in allowance on line (\*—\*) to an angle of 45°.

**Outside Back (K).**—Measure length from top of chair to floor plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. and cut fabric. Fold in half, right sides together and pin to



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chalk line on outside back. Measure the width of the chair back and cut to fit. (When hem of cover is turned up, it will be the correct 1 in. from floor).

**Outside Arm (D)** (Cut from double fabric).—Measure length from top of arm to floor plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. Measure the width of the chair side and cut to fit.

**Seat (B)**.—Measure and cut the area of the seat plus 6 in. on three sides to match the tuck-in allowances of the inside back and inside arms. Fold this section in half lengthwise, right sides together, and pin folded edge to chalk line on seat.

**Front Border (C)**.—Measure and cut from seat to floor plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. Measure and cut the width of the front border. Fold this section in half depthwise, right sides together, and pin folded edge to chalk line on border. (If the chair has a sprung seat do not join the front border to the front scroll (G) as when the chair is used, the sagging will cause the cover to tear. In this case allow an extra piece at either end of the front border for a tuck-in)

**Front Scroll (G) and Side Scroll (H)** (Cut from double fabric).—Cut to fit.

**Cushion**.—Use cushion as pattern and trace round on fabric, with coloured chalk. Cut two pieces (top and bottom) and also the border for cushion. If the cushion sits neatly into the chair seat, the cushion border is divided into four and joined at each corner, but if the cushion extends beyond the level of the front scrolls, the border must be joined so that the seams are hidden by the chair arms, **Constructing and Stitching**

Pin all the chair folded and double sections together neatly, to make a half chair cover, and trim all seam allowances to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. or  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. if the fabric frays readily. Make sure that all sections can be identified and remove cover. Make small notches on all seams and unpin all the sections. Open them out and repin in the following order, matching notches—C, B, A, K, E, D, H and G. Baste and stitch with simple seams inserting piping in every seam (preferably cross cut fabric with piping cord) except the three seat seams which have tuck-in allowances. Finish raw edges with overcasting. **Openings**.—There is an opening on the right side of the outside back (K), usually three-quarters of the length. On the cushion cover the length of opening depends on whether it is a sprung or rubber cushion or a soft feather cushion. Large stud fasteners or a slide fastener complete the opening.

**Borders**.—Box pleated or frilled borders are sometimes added and are normally a finished depth of 7 in. (9 in. including seam allowance). For a box pleated border, allow two and a quarter times the measurement round chair. For a frilled border, allow one and three quarter times measurement round chair. Note that when calculating fabric requirements for chair cover with border, measure to a point  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. from floor all round chair.

In our next bulletin we will give full instructions for two party dresses—one for the fourteen year old and one for the sixteen year old—with some suggestions of different styles.



## CUSHIONS

Attractive designs can be made from a wide variety of fabrics and in many shapes and sizes—circular, rectangular, square, bolster, etc. They can tone with the existing furnishings or may add a note of bright contrast. Materials required are suitable fabric; matching mercerised sewing cotton No. 40 (No. 24 mercerised sewing cotton if heavy furnishing fabric is used). Machine needle No. 16 (or No. 18); Sharps needle No. 7 (or No. 6) and a cushion pad. Contrast fabric or bias binding will be required if a piping is to be inserted. **Simple Cushion Cover**.—Cut two pieces of fabric the required finished size, plus seam allowance all round. Place right sides together and machine stitch round three sides (if a circular cushion, leave a space of 15 in.). Press and turn to right side. Insert pad and slip stitch opening.

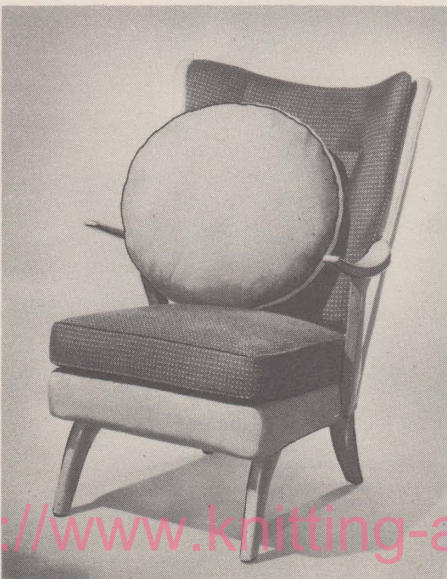
**Cushion Cover with Gusset**.—Cut two pieces of fabric the required finished size, plus

seam allowance all round. (The gusset can be cut from straight fabric or from bias fabric. The latter is more suitable for a circular cushion, but, naturally, will require more fabric. However, if straight cut fabric is used, the resultant slight gathered effect is not unattractive. If the gusset piece has to be joined, plan the position of its seams well). The gusset strip will measure the desired width  $\times$  the perimeter of the cushion, plus seam allowance all round. Join short seam of gusset. Baste and stitch gusset to one raw edge (right sides together). Place remaining cushion section in position to raw edge of gusset. Baste and stitch leaving an opening. Press and turn cushion to right side. Insert pad and slip stitch opening.

**Cushion Piping**.—Piping can be inserted along the seams of any cushion. Prepare piping strip first by folding bias binding or a bias strip of fabric in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Sandwich this piping between the two layers of fabric, raw edges even, before stitching the seam. A richer, heavier effect can be obtained by laying piping cord in the folded piping strip before stitching.

**Cushion Cover Opening**.—If desired, a slide fastener may be placed on the back of the cushion to facilitate the removal of the pad. In this case, cut a pattern in paper of the front section of the cushion. Cut this pattern through the centre. Cut two fabric shapes from these patterns allowing an extra  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. seam allowance on the centre lines. Join the two sections together leaving an opening in the centre for the insertion of the slide fastener.

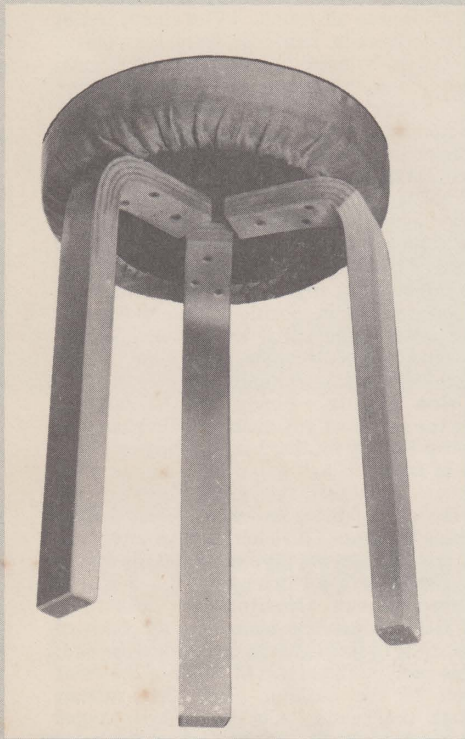
**Cushion Pad**.—A pad for any shape of cushion may be made by following the cushion cover directions given. Use thin cotton or rayon fabric and make the sections 1 in. larger all round than the cushion cover. Stuff pad firmly with kapok and slip stitch opening.



## PADDED STOOL TOP

A comfortable seat can be made from a stool by placing a circular pad of foam rubber in position and securing it with a fabric cover. **Materials**.—Tan linen; lime green linen; elastic; one card of bias binding in black;





foam rubber for seat, the required diameter; mercerised sewing cotton No. 40 to match; 1 machine needle No. 16; 1 Sharps needle No. 7.

**Cutting Directions.**—Cut one piece required diameter for top, plus seam allowance, in lime green linen. Cut a strip for gusset the required length, plus seam allowance  $\times$  the depth of rubber, plus the depth of stool, plus  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in., plus seam allowance, in tan linen.

**Sewing Directions**

1. Make a piping from the bias binding. 2. Join short ends of gusset and place gusset to top section, right sides together, sandwiching piping between. Baste and stitch. 3. Turn up bottom edge of gusset to make a 1 in. hem. Baste. Machine two rows of stitching to form a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. casing. 4. Unpick seam in casing to make an eyelet hole. Thread elastic through casing and sew ends securely together. Place cover over foam rubber pad and stool top.

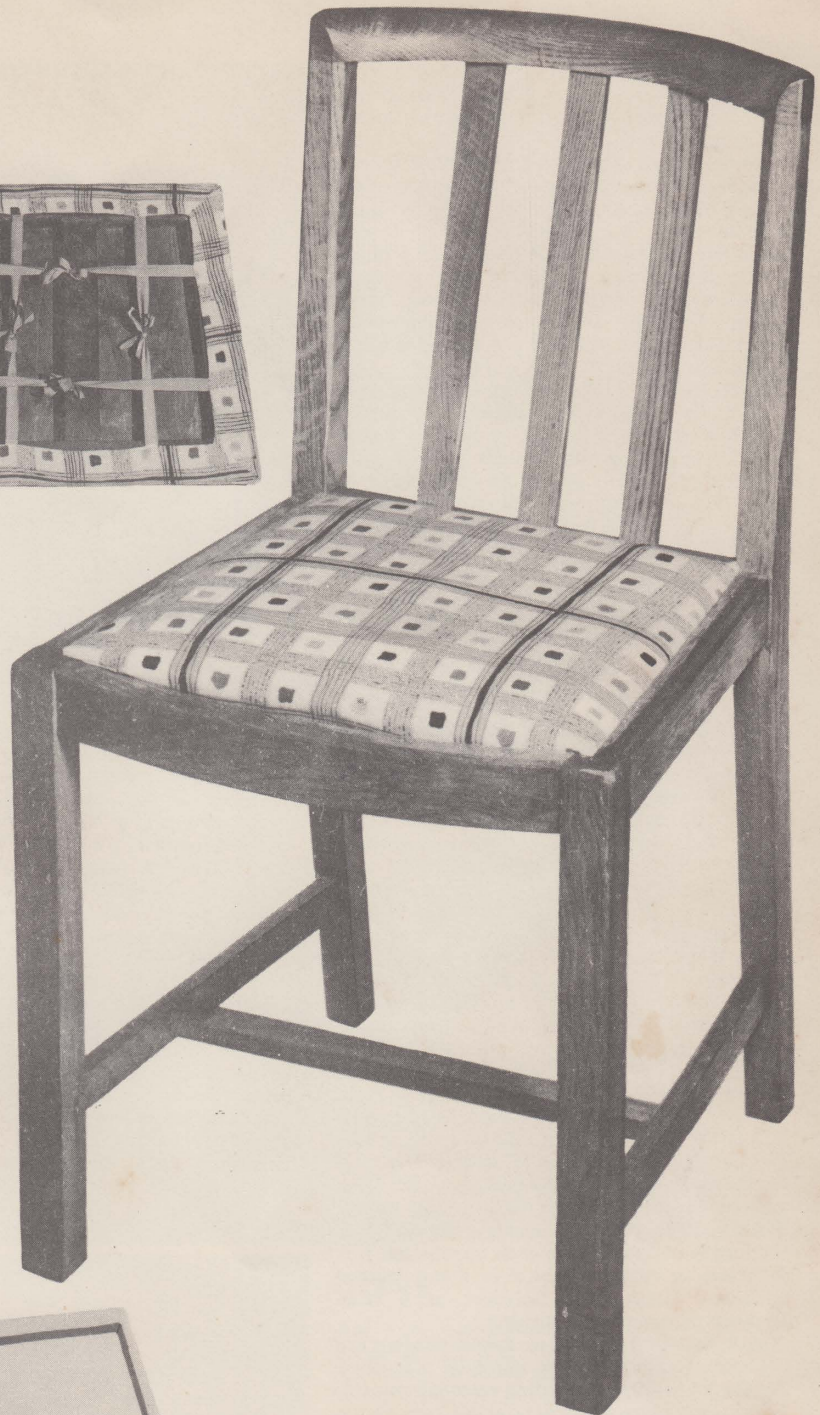
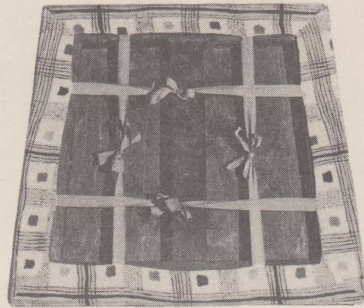
**CHAIR SEAT COVER**

Chairs with removable seat pads can be covered quite simply. Stretch a piece of fabric over the seat pad (leaving a generous allowance underneath).

Mitre the corners and finish raw edges with bias binding. Secure with tapes on underside.

**UPHOLSTERED BOX**

A useful fireside stool and combined workbox can be made by covering a small wooden box. Pad all sides except base with felt or wadding. Cover vertical sides with a continuous strip of fabric, placing the join at one corner. Cover lid and underside neatly with matching fabric. On the base, the fabric is secured with upholstery tacks. The box can be lined if desired, by covering sheets of cardboard, the exact area of sides and base, and slipping into position.



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