

Covering a Bench Top

8.170

Page 1



SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide
to
Successful
Sewing

© 2008 Sewing & Craft Alliance
Permission is granted to
educators and retailers to
reproduce these publications
as-is as a handout for
educational purposes only.
They may not be altered,
changed or added to in any
manner. No commercial or other
use, distribution, or
reproduction is permitted.

Get free projects and
more SEW-lutions
Guidelines at
www.sewing.org



Whether it's a window seat in a cozy kitchen, or a bathroom sit-upon, a fabric covered bench adds warmth to a room and can complement other fabric décor in the room. It's easy to create and can be accomplished without even any sewing.

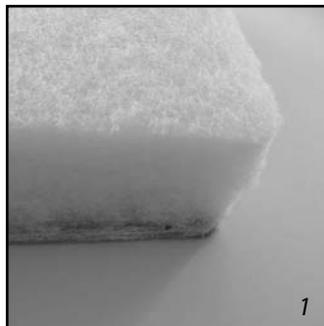


What you'll need:

- 1/4-3/8" thick plywood or particle board in the size needed, with slightly rounded corners
- Thick batting or foam
- Lightweight batting (or fusible batting)
- Covering fabric—10" longer and 10" wider than the board
- Contrast welting fabric
- Temporary spray adhesive
- 3/8"-diameter cotton cording—the perimeter measurement plus 6"
- 1/2"-wide paper-back fusible web
- Staple gun

Covering Cues

Cut two layers of thick batting the size of the bench and use spray adhesive to position them on the top surface (1).



Note: You can substitute foam for this step if desired.

Use spray adhesive to smoothly adhere the lightweight batting to the wrong side of the fabric covering material. If you're using fusible batting, follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply it to the fabric wrong side.

Center the fabric right side up over the padded bench top, then flip the layers upside down so you're looking at the wood surface. If your fabric has a vertical and/or horizontal design pattern, be conscious of keeping the fabric straight on the bench in both directions.

Beginning at the center of one long side, staple the fabric in place about 1" from the edge and approximately every 2-3", stopping about 4" from each end (2). On the opposite side, pull the fabric tightly and staple in place in the same manner, keeping in mind any patterning that should remain squared to the bench top.



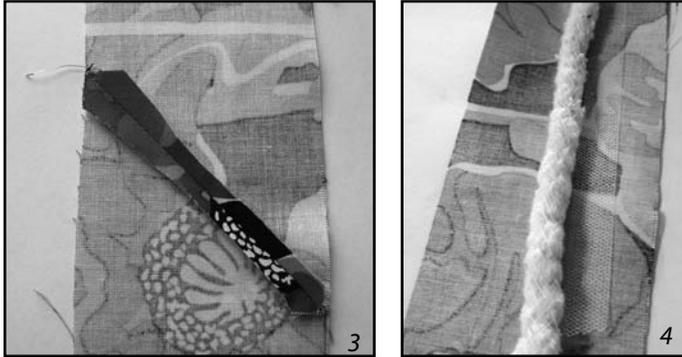
To shape the corners, pull the fabric very tautly and ease in the excess as you staple it in place.

Trim excess fabric on the bench top underside.

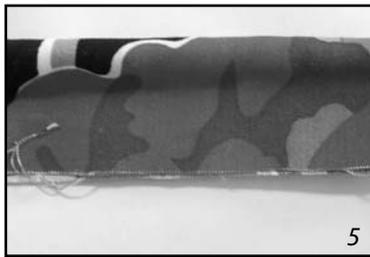
Ways with Welting:

Although welting isn't required, it makes a nice finish for the bench top and adds a hint of another color to the project.

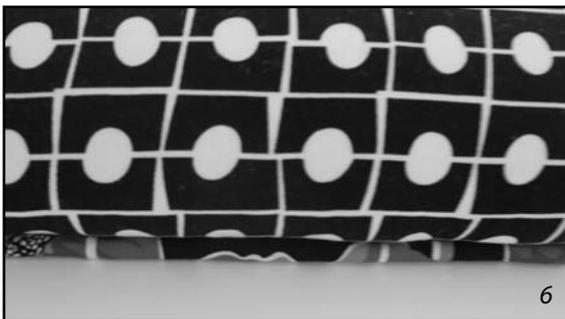
To make the welting, cut strips of contrast fabric 2 ¼" wide and join the ends with a diagonal seam to create a strip long enough to go around the perimeter of the bench top, plus about 6" (3).



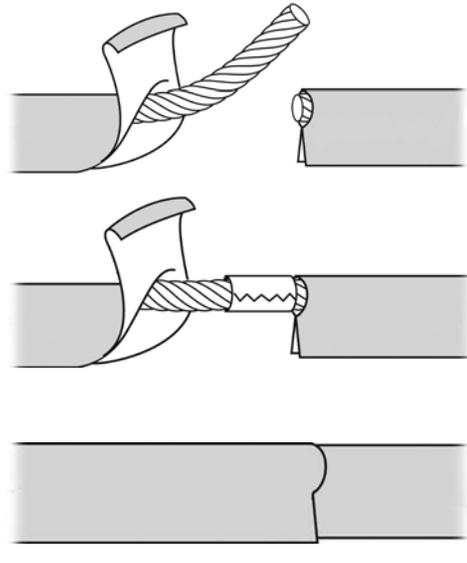
With the fabric wrong side up, center the cord along the strip length, and insert a strip of fusible web (4). Fold the fabric over the cord, matching the edges, and press firmly in place (5). This method eliminates a stitching line that may be visible later.



Beginning in an inconspicuous place, staple the welting to the edge of the bench top with even exposure along the edge (6), but leave the first 3" undone for joining.



As you come back to the original welting end, abut the cord ends and trim the excess cord (not the fabric) from the overlapping end. Peel back the overlapping welt end's fabric and trim ½" beyond the needed length; fold under the fabric ¼" and overlap the original cord end (7). Staple in place to finish with an inconspicuous joining.



Set the covered bench top on top of the cabinet or bench base with the piping joint on the backside.

Depending on the bench base, you may want to screw the top in place from the underside, being careful not to extend the screws through the bench top wood thickness. ■