

READY-MADE window shades take on a custom look with the addition of black and white gimp and white ring pulls. In vinyl-coated cotton cambric, the gold shade makes a perfect background for wing chairs covered in spring-green, cotton corduroy and grouped around a glass-topped table. They're by Joanna.

The Great Cover-Ups...

Once you've mastered your first slipcover project you'll find home decorating "from scratch" is a satisfying as well as a money-saving project.

Slipcovers should not merely protect your upholstery, they should show off the piece of furniture.

Today, upholstery fabrics and trimmings come in a plethora of styles and colors to give zip and dazzle to slipcovers.

Try the tips below and you'll soon be eyeing those bargain chairs with the thought of giving them a treatment.

KEEP THESE points in mind when making your own slipcovers:

- Slipcovers should be fitted, pinned and cut on the right side. Otherwise the arms will be reversed.
- Be sure to cut and pin goods on the straight of the thread, up and down from the floor.
- Use sharp scissors and use a one-inch seam, throughout.
- An old slipcover, if available, is a good pattern.
- Lay the material out right side up. Pin here and there to keep fabric straight. Gather and clip around curved sections to ease fit.
- Pin seams together as you cut each piece.

● Once your slipcover is cut and pinned, lift off of chair. Sew one seam at a time, beginning with inside chair pieces, then outside arms and wings, then front arm panels. Unpin one full seam at a time, insert welting or trimming, and sew, before continuing to the next seam.

SEWING HINTS:

Cut a separate piece for the top of a square arm chair.

Add an extra five inches of fabric to a skirtless slipcover; turn under and fasten with upholstery pins or Velcro.

Cut slipcover skirt separately, adding one inch for hem and one-half inch for seam closing.

TRIMMING TIPS:

Ready-made welting comes by the yard; try it in contrasting colors for the in-trim look.

For a truly coordinated look, repeat the slipcover trimming elsewhere in your room. Use trim on draperies or valance, or on a small area rug, on pillows, or as a dado around the wall. You could even cover a picture frame or mat with your slipcover trimming.

Directions for the most complicated slipcovers, wing chairs and sofa beds, can be found in books such as Conso's "1001 Decorating Ideas Homemaker's Handbook." It is on sale where drapery fabrics are sold and in bookstores.

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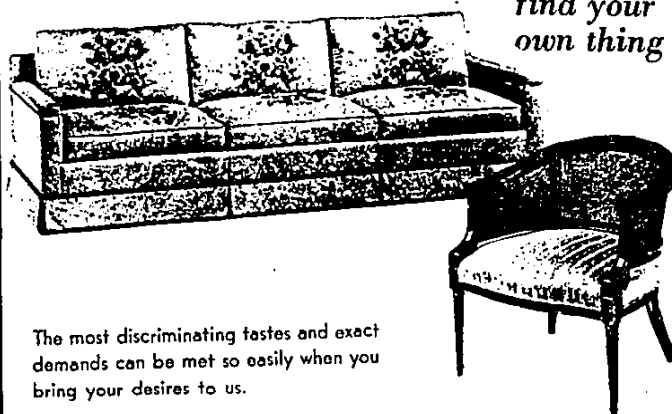
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