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Renovating **INNERSPRING CUSHIONS**



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Renovating **INNERSPRING CUSHIONS**

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ORDINARY wear will, in time, cause the loose cushions in davenport and chairs to become lumpy. When this happens, the innersprings and other filling become a tangled mass and the only remedy is to open the cushion and renovate the old spring unit or replace it with a new one.

The process is quite simple, as usually all of the old springs and cotton padding may be used again after they have been thoroughly cleaned and straightened. Some new cotton may be added to the top, bottom, and sides to build up the edges and make the surfaces smooth.

To insure a firm, durable, and comfortable cushion, the following procedure is recommended.

Cushion cover

1. Locate the place where the original closing stitches were made. This is usually at the back near the welting and is often done by hand.
2. With colored thread, mark the center back of the boxing at that edge. Make a corresponding mark on the cushion top or bottom, whichever is to be opened. Mark each side in the same manner on both the boxing and cushion. These threads will help to close the cushion accurately after the innersprings have been renovated.
3. Clip the closing stitches with the scissors or a razor blade at the center back. Continue opening on around the sides until the top may be rolled back and the inside of the cushion removed in one piece.
4. If the cover is in good enough condition to use again, brush it inside and out. Clean it in cleaning solvent. Make any necessary repairs in the cushion cover and press well.

Materials and equipment

1. Unbleached muslin (medium weight) $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 yards, or the equivalent in flour or feed sacks. Twenty to thirty springs require $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards of material.
2. Cotton thread, white No. 50, for stitching.

* Acknowledgment is made to the California Extension Service for cuts supplied and subject matter information from leaflet *Repairing Innerspring Cushions* by Jessie-Lee F. Decker, extension specialist in Home Furnishings.

3. Cotton warp, string, or crochet cotton for sewing the rows of springs together after they are put into muslin pockets.
4. Darning needles for twine.
5. Cotton batt $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds or $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds for adding cotton to re-shape the cushion. If all new cotton is used, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -pound batt will be needed.
6. Scissors.
7. Tape measure.
8. Straight pins and safetypins.
9. Yardstick.
10. Pencil.
11. Hair, moss, or excelsior, if needed.
12. Sewing machine.
13. Iron and ironing board.
14. Thimble.

The spring unit

1. Open the cushion cover and remove the filling, following directions on page 2.
2. Open the cotton padding carefully across the back. Keep the shape of the original cushion, if possible.
3. Remove the springs and take them apart carefully by removing all old burlap and twine.
4. Straighten all crooked or bent springs and arrange them in rows. The imprint left on the inside of the cotton padding will be a guide to the correct arrangement. Count the rows.

Measuring the material for pocket rows

1. Measure across the widest part of the coil with the tape measure and add 1 extra inch for seam.
2. Add 3 more inches for boxing.
3. Double this amount.
4. Measure this full amount along the sel-vage of the muslin and tear off a strip of that width across the material.
5. Tear enough similar strips to make the required rows of pockets.

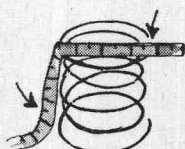


Figure 1.

Example:

- (1) Width across widest part of coil..... 3 inches
 - (2) Add 1 inch for seam..... 4 inches
 - (3) Add 3 inches for boxing..... 7 inches
 - (4) Double this amount.....14 inches
- Fourteen inches is the width of the muslin strip needed for each row for this particular size of spring.

Making the pattern pocket

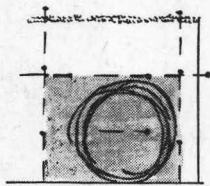


Figure 2.

1. Fold the torn edges of the strip together.
2. Stitch in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the selvage on one end.
3. Measure across the widest part of the coil again and add $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Pin a seam this width parallel to the selvage.
4. Flatten the spring and slip it into the pocket thus made.
5. Pin the pocket closed with a seam 2 inches from the raw edge.

Checking the pocket

1. Turn the spring inside the pattern pocket. The spring should stand $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches high; if it does not, repin the top seam, as all muslin does not stretch the same.

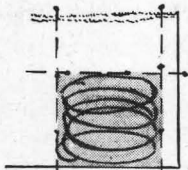


Figure 3.

2. The spring sides should touch the pocket easily. If it is too tight and stretches against the wire, it cuts the material. If the pocket is too loose, the spring will not remain upright and will turn. Reset the pins until the spring is comfortably housed and remains in position.
3. Remove the pins along the top of the pocket and take out the spring. Reset the pins along the side seam so they follow the thread of the goods. With a pencil and ruler mark along the pins. Remove the pins.

Marking off the pocket rows

After marking the first pocket, make a measure guide and mark all the pockets required in each pocket strip. The pockets should not be cut apart but should be left in a series with one row of stitching to separate each two pockets. Carefully follow the thread of the goods when marking and stitching.

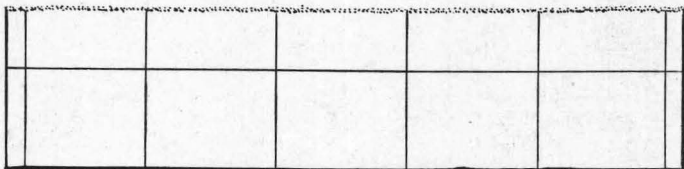


Figure 4.

Filling the pocket rows

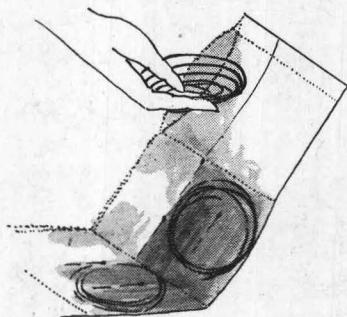


Figure 5.

1. After all of the pocket rows are made, crush a spring and slip it as far into a pocket as possible, placing one pin close to the spring and one pin in the center to hold each spring in place until the pockets are stitched closed. Pin all of the springs in place.
2. Stitch the pockets closed along the line marked, two or more inches down and

parallel with the torn edges of the pocket strips.

The finished rows

1. Remove the pins and turn each spring around inside its pocket. The filled rows seem much shorter; they should be firm and straight.

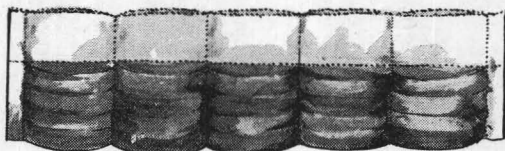


Figure 6.

2. Arrange the completed rows into a unit with all the 2-inch seams up. (Figure 7.)

Sewing the rows into the unit

1. Keep all of the 2-inch seams up and straight. They form the top side of the unit. Clip seams to 1 inch.
2. Use twine or warp and sew the rows together with a yarn darning needle or a sack needle. Sew with as short a stitch as possible, taking up the top wire in the two rows that touch, first passing the needle under each wire, drawing up the thread and tying it firmly. Then make a stitch over the two top wires; draw the stitch rather tight, then sew two stitches over the top wires in the adjoining springs; continue along the row to the end.
3. For the other rows, make a long stitch across the top of the spring to the new two rows, and sew back. Continue until all

of the rows are sewed together. Then sew in the opposite direction so that the springs are firmly held in position.

4. Turn the unit over and sew the rows together the same way. The completed unit should be firmly sewed together on each side, ready to place inside the padding.
5. Tuck a small ball of cotton in each space formed between the springs. This will help to prevent the springs from overlapping.

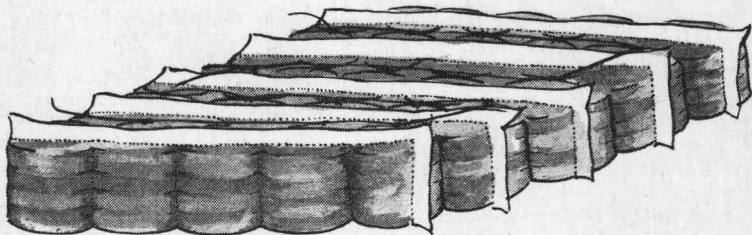


Figure 7.

The unit and the padding

1. Place the cotton padding on the table with the front of the padding toward the edge.
2. Open the padding and set in the spring unit with the seam side up. Try to place the springs in their original places. The impressions are usually in the padding.



Figure 8.

3. Replace the padding over the top of the spring unit. Reuse any hair or excelsior. Smooth the surface. If new cotton is needed, use one layer, about 1 inch thick.

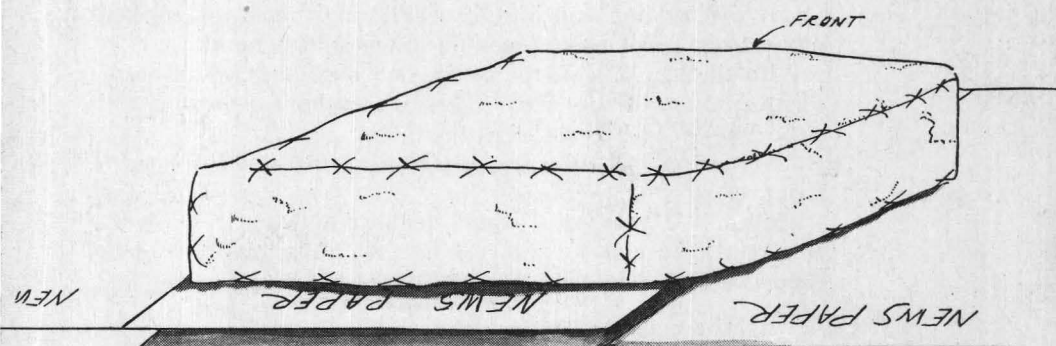


Figure 9.

4. Draw up the sides of the padding and press them closed all around. Add new cotton if necessary.
5. With a darning needle and twine, sew with long, diagonal stitches around the edges and back again to form a cross-stitch to prevent the unit from slipping out of place at the time of putting it into the cushion cover.

Putting the padded unit inside the cover

1. Have the cover ready with the top side up and open. (One person should hold the cover while another places the filling, as it is difficult to handle.)

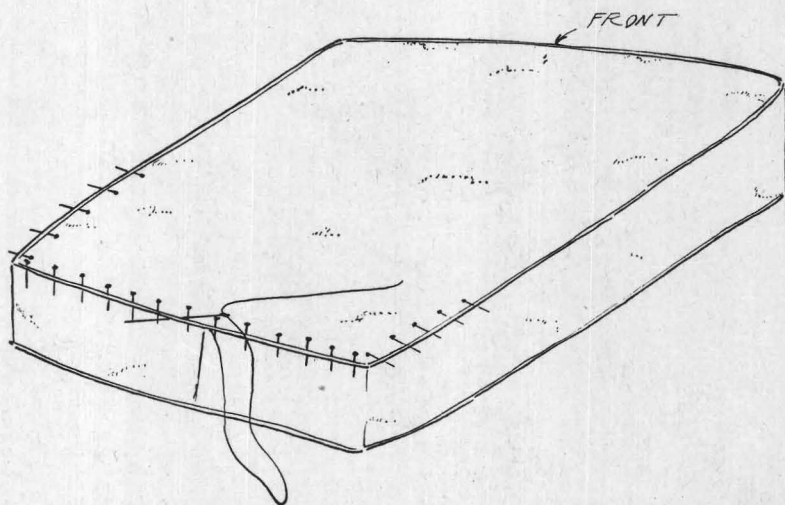


Figure 10.

2. Lift the padding and cotton together and put it quickly into the cover, so as not to break the stitches in the unit.
3. With the hand inside the cover, pull the filling as far to the front boxing as possible. Turn the cushion over and, with the hand inside, adjust all of the filling.
4. Add more cotton along the sides and edges and at the corners, if needed.
5. Stuff all of the extra cotton in at the back, if needed.
6. Smooth both sides of the cushion. Match colored threads as the material is drawn to the edge of the boxing.

Completing the cushion

1. Pin with a safety pin at the center back and sides after the fabric edges have been drawn together, then pin toward the corners. Place the straight pins 1 inch apart. Ease in any fullness.
2. Sew with a heavy needle and colored carpet thread, using long, slanting stitches. Sew from the center to the corner, and from the side to the corner. Sometimes the boxing stretches and this method eases in the fullness.

