

SACE Stage 2 Research Project B: OUTCOME

How Do I Reupholster A Chair?

Word Count: 1,891 (without in text reference)

SACE No.

S3 Introduction is generally clear and explains the purpose and scope of the research.

Introduction

When reupholstering a chair, or any piece of furniture, there are a variety of processes you will undergo to complete the job. From those processes you learn many different skills; skills that can be used time and again in the future. When people decide to reupholster a chair they usually have a reason behind their choice. One of the main reasons behind choosing to reupholster an item is its sentimental value. The chair that I reupholstered has been in my family ever since I was young; I wanted to restore it so that I would always have those childhood memories with me. Another reason why people reupholster furniture is to recycle. According to *Better Homes and Gardens* (BHG) recycling is the new fashion, and people will actively try and buy recycled products they can fix up.

S3 Step headings are appropriate to form of report - "how to guide".

Step One: Finding a chair

This is my chair before I started working on it.



S3 Photos are used to illustrate key ideas. Adds to understanding of text.

The most important step in your reupholstering journey is to find a chair. There are a few different ways to do this; the chair I used was already at my house, I wanted to recycle it. I wanted to recycle the chair because it held many of my childhood memories; I also like the idea of reusing something that we already had. You can also get chairs from friends and family (Better Homes & Gardens, 2014). Op shops and second hand stores are inexpensive ways to find chairs; you can also find chairs in hard rubbish. When looking for a chair, purchase one with a frame that you like, and make sure the frame is in good condition. As interior designer Expert mentioned, if you are thinking of using vintage modern as a style, do not take away from the chair's original shape (Wood, 2014).

S2 In-text referencing used to substantiate some research findings.

Step Two: Evaluating the chair

After finding the chair, the next step is to evaluate it so you know how much you have to spend to get the chair looking trendy. The processes you need to undertake when evaluating a chair are; first check the arms of the chair; to check them you push them in and out. You want the arms to remain unmoved. Next check the springs on the bottom of the chair. Make sure none of them need to be replaced. Lastly you check the legs of the chair. Make sure they have no cracks or splits. This is important because the legs take all the weight (YouTube, Clip One, 2014, Better Homes & Gardens, 2014).

This is the material that I chose for my chair.



S2 Some research images referred to but not appropriately acknowledged.

Step Three: Choosing the fabric

Choosing fabric for your chair may be difficult depending on what type of material you choose. There are lots of things to consider. What helped me when choosing the material was to research other chairs. I researched images of winged chairs and commented on my likes and dislikes. Doing this helps give you a clear idea of what fabrics that you like and do not. I found out that I didn't like over the top patterned or crazy coloured fabric. One of the materials I looked at was cream coloured, covered with red flowers. I really did not like the frill around the bottom of my chair because it made the chair look dated, so I decided to get rid of the frill. When picking fabric you should think about the grain of the material. The grain of the material is determined by the direction of the treads, you want all the grains running the same direction. Expert highlighted the importance of lining up the patterns of the material. Lining up patterned material is essential so that you get an even pattern

S2 Experts acknowledged to substantiate research findings.

throughout the chair. Expert suggested that I draw a picture of what I want the chair to look like finished, this helps you to keep you on track (Wood, 2014). The material that I chose is patterned, when I start putting the material on the chair I have to make sure that the grain of the fabric goes the same way. I wanted the flowers to face the same way, which meant lining up and finding the grain in the material. If you choose a fabric with no pattern it becomes easier, all you need to consider is the direction of the grain. Check whether the fabric needs to be stretched and washed before it goes onto the chair. Washing the material removes starch in the material, making it softer and easier to work with.

S1 Discussion of research findings are linked to practical application - in this case how to use the fabric.

Step Four: Removing the fabric

YouTube clip explaining types of tools
Image removed to protect copyright.

Removing the existing fabric is a fiddly process, but if done right it should be easy. When I started removing the fabric I did not know what I was doing, making this process quite hard. I researched the use of all the tools in the picture; the main tool used was the staple remover and the wooden mallet (YouTube, Clip two, 2014). The most important tip that was repeated throughout the clip was to keep and label old fabric from the chair (Better Homes & Gardens, 2014). The old material can

Staple remover
Image removed to protect copyright.

S2 Evidence of action research can be seen in the discussion of the "fiddly process".

S1 Evidence of synthesis of knowledge in the cross-referencing of two sources.

be used as a template. After learning how to safely remove material and tacks I found it a lot easier. To remove the tacks I used a staple remover; I did not have one of these at home (YouTube, Clip two, 2014). If you did not have a staple remover you could use a flat head screw driver and a pair of pliers (Better Homes & Gardens, 2014). This was a very delicate process and needed a lot of time.

Step Five: Repairing the frame

Image removed to protect copyright.

Once fabric is removed from the chair you can finally evaluate the chair's framework. This is important because you want the chair to last. Once I took the material off my chair I realised that one of the wings was slightly split. One way of repairing a broken wing is to glue the broken piece of wood and clamp the wing



S1 Judgement about the selection of the appropriate process is made.

The wing being repaired (YouTube clip)

together until it dries (YouTube, Clip ten, 2014). After speaking to a cabinet maker (Bartel, 2014) I decided to fix my wing differently. To fix my wing I put glue in the split and then screwed it together, I did it this way because it was easy and less time consuming. This process still has the same effect as using the glue and clamp.

This is the split in the chair's wing

Step Six: Putting a of burlap on arms and wings



The arm of my chair with old burlap

Once I repaired the wing on my chair I started covering the arms and wings with burlap, burlap is the same as hessian it is a thick and durable material. The burlap is used as a foundation for the arms of the chair. I put a new layer of burlap on the arms of my chair, since the old burlap was brittle. After taking off the old material I found out that I did not have to cover the wings with burlap because my chair's wings are solid wood. You can build up the arms of a chair with horse hair;

S1 Synthesis of information to resolve issue of availability of materials.

the horse hair is held down by webbing that is stapled to the chair (YouTube, Clip thirteen, 2014). Horse hair was too hard to get and the process was too fiddly, so instead I decided to build the arms and wings up with cotton (Better Homes & Gardens, 2014).

Step Seven: Covering arms and wings with cotton and muslin

I gained insight into how to install cotton and muslin on the arm and wings of the chair (YouTube, Clip fourteen, 2014). This is a crucial step to learn in your reupholstering journey, it is a step you will keep repeating. This process needs to be done well because cotton and muslin go through a lot of wear and you will see every mistake. Another important tip is to not leave any fingerprints in the cotton because you will see them through the muslin. I struggled with this; I struggled because I still had to touch the cotton to fit the muslin. To avoid touching the cotton, make sure you have overlay so you can grab onto extra material.

Image removed to protect copyright.

The chair covered in muslin.

S1 Reflection on knowledge gained from action research. Knowledge is applied to research outcome in the form of "tips".

Step Eight: How to finish the deck of the chair

Building up the deck of the chair. Image removed to protect copyright.

The deck of a chair is the bottom of the chair under the seat cushion, most winged chairs have built up decks. The deck is built up with cotton; the design of my chair does not have a built up deck. The back of the deck is covered with white material, while the front is covered with cover material; I used two different materials to save fabric. The hardest process when making the deck is sewing the fabric to the deck (YouTube, Clip fifteen, 2014).

Step Nine: Covering the inside back of chair with cover material

Measuring the chair's back is the first step. Initially I tried to measure my chair by outlining the chair with paper; this was suggested by a family member. This way of measuring was really hard and took too long. I overcame this by passing a measuring tape through the back and sides of the chair (YouTube, Clip seventeen, 2014). I liked fitting the cover material to the back of the chair because you did not have to cut the material to shape; I cut a rectangle and once it was tacked onto the chair I cut it to shape. It is suggested to cover the arms in an extra layer of cotton but I do not think this is necessary (YouTube, Clip fifteen, 2014); the cotton just adds extra comfort. The chair does not need another layer of cotton because the inside back already has foam on it.

Image removed to protect copyright.

Measuring the back of the chair

S1 Synthesis of skills can be seen in the cross referencing by the application of one skill to be used in a different task.

Step Ten: Cover the arms and wings with final material

Image removed to protect copyright.

Use the same measuring technique to measure the arms as you did to measure the back of the chair. Just like the inside back, you cut a rectangle that fits the arms. I wanted to increase comfort on the arms so I put on an extra layer of cotton on the arms (YouTube, Clip eighteen, 2014). Putting on the cover material was a tricky process; the trickiest part was making the folds on the arm fronts. It was hard making the folds even. The folds are created by making relief cuts in the material and folding the material underneath its-self. I also found it fiddly work trying to tack down the folds. This was one of the hardest processes.

The folds in the chair's arm

S2 Substantiation of findings in discussion of the application of the action research - i.e. description of process used.

Step Eleven: Attaching the welt cord

Welt cord is cording that goes around the arms, wings and back of chair making the edges look neat. It is used to cover up the edges of the chair and creates a professional finish. There are three processes to undertake when attaching the welt cord. First, I sewed the cover fabric around the cording. Then I tacked the welt cord onto the side of the arm. I added a tack strip just behind the welt cord; this creates a crisp edge for the cover fabric. This is repeated around the wings, and back of chair.

The welt cord and tack strip on the side of the arm
Image removed to protect copyright.

Step Twelve: Covering sides and back of chair with cover material

Image removed to protect copyright.

Putting the cover fabric on the sides of the chair is pretty simple. Putting a layer of cotton on before the cover fabric is crucial. To keep the cotton on, I tacked it. Putting the cover fabric on was more difficult. I overcame this by tacking the underside of the material on the chair hiding the tacks (YouTube, Clip twenty, 2014). Putting the cover fabric on the back of the chair was harder. The final layer of cotton was tacked on, but the cover fabric had to be stitched on. This process was very time consuming because the stitching was done by hand.

Final material on back of chair

Step Thirteen: Attaching dust cover

The dust cover on my chair does not need to be replaced, but if yours does this is your final step. To replace your dust cover you will need to use a material called cambric. Cambric is a good quality fabric that will last.

Image removed to protect copyright.

Tips to remember

When taking on the task of reupholstering a chair the main rule to stick to is take your time. Make sure you thoroughly research upholstery methods, and do not be afraid to ask other's opinions.

Dust cover being installed

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S2 Substantiation of research findings.
Some of these are referred to in the text.

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C

S1 Satisfactory synthesis of knowledge is seen in the step by step guide. Description of action research processes applies knowledge and ideas that are gathered from other research sources. Some reflection is made about the success of the application of knowledge to the development of the skills needed to complete each step.

S2 Some findings are substantiated, in particular reference to websites and YouTube clips. Not all sources are acknowledged appropriately.

S1 Expression is generally clear and coherent. Style is not suitable to a “how to guide” as it is conversational and includes information that is not always directly relevant to the development of each task.

Performance Standards for Stage 2 Research Project B

	<i>Planning</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Synthesis</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>
	Assessment Type 1: Folio		Assessment Type 2: Research Outcome	
				Assessment Type 3: Evaluation
A	<p>P1 Thorough consideration and refinement of a research question.</p> <p>P2 Thorough planning of research processes that are highly appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p><i>D1 Thorough and highly resourceful development of the research.</i></p> <p><i>D2 In-depth analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</i></p> <p><i>D3 Highly effective development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</i></p> <p><i>D4 Thorough and informed understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</i></p>	<p>S1 Insightful synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Insightful and thorough substantiation of key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Clear and coherent expression of ideas.</p>	<p>E1 Insightful evaluation of the research processes used, specific to the research question.</p> <p>E2 Critical evaluation of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities specific to the research processes used.</p> <p>E3 Insightful evaluation of the quality of the research outcome</p>
B	<p>P1 Consideration and some refinement of a research question.</p> <p>P2 Considered planning of research processes that are appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Considered and mostly resourceful development of the research.</p> <p>D2 Some complexity in analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Effective development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Informed understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Considered synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Substantiation of most key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Mostly clear and coherent expression of ideas.</p>	<p>E1 Considered evaluation of the research processes used, specific to the research question.</p> <p>E2 Some complexity in evaluation of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities specific to the research processes used.</p> <p>E3 Considered evaluation of the quality of the research outcome</p>
C	<p>P1 Some consideration of a research question, but little evidence of refinement.</p> <p>P2 Satisfactory planning of research processes that are appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Satisfactory development of the research.</p> <p>D2 Satisfactory analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Satisfactory development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Satisfactory understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Satisfactory synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Substantiation of some key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Generally clear expression of ideas.</p>	<p>E1 Recount with some evaluation of the research processes used.</p> <p>E2 Some evaluation, with mostly description of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities specific to the research processes used.</p> <p>E3 Satisfactory evaluation of the quality of the research outcome</p>
D	<p>P1 Basic consideration and identification of a broad research question.</p> <p>P2 Partial planning of research processes that may be appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Development of some aspects of the research.</p> <p>D2 Collection rather than analysis of information, with some superficial description of an idea to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Superficial development of some knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Basic understanding and development of one or more capabilities</p>	<p>S1 Basic use of information and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Basic explanation of ideas related to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Basic expression of ideas.</p>	<p>E1 Superficial description of the research processes used.</p> <p>E2 Basic description of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities specific to the research processes used.</p> <p>E3 Superficial evaluation of the quality of the research outcome</p>
E	<p>P1 Attempted consideration and identification of an area for research.</p> <p>P2 Attempted planning of an aspect of the research process.</p>	<p>D1 Attempted development of an aspect of the research.</p> <p>D2 Attempted collection of basic information, with some partial description of an idea.</p> <p>D3 Attempted development of one or more skills that may be related to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Attempted understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Attempted use of an idea to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Limited explanation of an idea or an aspect of the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Attempted expression of ideas.</p>	<p>E1 Attempted description of the research process used.</p> <p>E2 Attempted description of decisions made in response to a challenge and/or opportunity specific to the research processes used.</p> <p>E3 Attempted evaluation of the quality of the research outcome</p>