

*Stylish Solutions***Vintage Décor**

The back will be finished off in our custom lining, making the muslin covered chair ready for a custom slipcover.

If I had contracted my frame maker to create this same model from scratch, the wood construction alone, not including springs and eight-way hand ties, would have been \$650-\$700, wholesale. It has a curved front edge and curved wing flanges – not inexpensive details, yet they were ‘hidden’ under ugly.

As it was, we had a terrific model to work from for less than half the cost. Score!

2) Strip the upholstery using the proper tools. When I purchased this chair, before I sent it off to my upholstery shop, my warehouse manager stripped the fabric to make sure we had a great quality frame.

I like doing this before it goes out because it gives my upholstery shop a clean slate to work with. It also lets us examine the frame to see if glue, pegs or screws will be required to strengthen it before any fabric goes on. You can also change paint/stain at this point.

3) Cover in well-made muslin. People often ask us why we do this. I want to make sure it sits properly. By covering a frame with muslin, a client can sit and test. It costs more, but better before than after.

The muslin is an undergarment for slipcovers and a test model for upholstery.

4) Have a slipcover made (even if re-upholstery is the goal). Yes, we still do this. Many slipcovers of old have bad raps – poor quality, with no lining or details. I like slipcovers because they suit mind-changing. We often spec seasonal incarnations for rooms, so spaces are refreshed easily. They also protect upholstery

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fabric from sun during harsh summers. It’s why we line and interline whenever possible.

Let me know of your finds and frames, hits and misses, and if you find the perfect “Little Black Dress Frame.”

Happy Summer!



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog. Join Ann and her team at the annual Designer Clearance Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 31 at 5 Tappan Lane in Orinda. For our exclusive sale email list with coupons, visit <http://couturechateau.com/designer-clearance/>. To see what a sale is like enjoy this video from 2012: <https://youtu.be/jgxl4XmOYQ>.

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