

## **A Guide to Diagnosing and Assessing the Upholstery of Traditional Sofa's & Armchairs**

It's impossible for me to tell how much work is involved until you can see inside it and assess it!

Step 1 - Turn sofa or chair over and remove bottoming material.

Step 2 - With sofa still upside down remove the tacks that are holding the back fabric down. Unpick back fabric all the way up the sides and along top. If there is a sheet of hessian, or some other supporting cover, lying underneath the fabric, take that off too.

Step 3 – Remove any single piping

Step 4 - Do the same with the outside arm fabric.

Step 5 - Do the same with the seat front fabric.

You will then be able to look through into the cavity where the springs are and try and find out why the seat is lumpy!

This may be due to several problems:

1. The webbing may have gone
2. The lacing holding the springs up may have broken to cause the spring to go wonky
3. The hessian on top of the springs may have worn into holes causing some of the stuffing to fall through thus leaving a dimple in the top of the seat.

If any of the above 3 problems apply then the only way to rectify is to strip out the whole seat and start again.

Look out for any previous repair to the seat - extra webbing straps over the top of the old.

If there are signs of previous repair you need to start again. Otherwise you could be the ones to put some extra webbing straps on as an insurance policy ourselves if you think we can get away with just a top cover

If the above 3 are intact then we can leave alone and the stuffing can be adjusted from the top –

i.e. you will put extra on just under the top cover

As a general rule you get twice as much wear out of the arms and back to the seat. ie with these old pieces the 1st time they need doing the seat has gone but the arms & back will take another top cover before they need doing.

NB : The frame needs to be as sound as possible before you start re upholstery.

Joinery is a totally different trade to upholstery and I do not include this within my website.. Please try and glue and screw any joints you can. If a rail is actually broken then all the upholstery will have to be removed in order to repair or replace it.