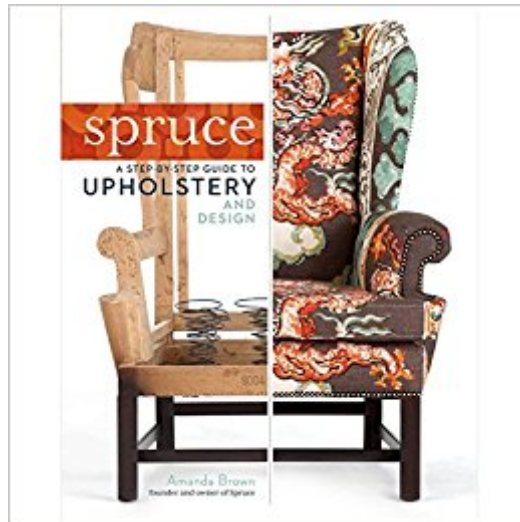




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# Spruce: A Step-by-Step Guide To Upholstery And Design



## Synopsis

Discover the joys of upholstery and bring new life to your worn-out furniture. With a few basic tools, an eye for color, and some ingenuity, you can customize your home with fabrics and textures that reflect your unique personality. This comprehensive guide features more than 900 photographs and includes five projects designed to teach you all you need to know to reupholster any piece of furniture. You'll soon be confidently stripping down old sofas, stuffing sagging ottomans, and revamping chairs with your own distinctive style.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** It stands to reason that a big, heavily illustrated book of instructions on how to upholster furniture should be as attractive as the finished projects it presents. And that is certainly the case with this gorgeous book, which perfectly matches complete, precisely written directions with correspondingly crisp, helpful photographs. Brown is an Austin, Texas-based upholstery shop owner whose expertise simply leaps off every page. Her guiding philosophy is that "upholstered furniture is the root of an interior," and to that end, she addresses nonprofessionals who are learning to upholster their own furniture, taking them through six projects that can be categorized as advanced but for which all necessary skills are taught along the way. These projects include a pair of slipper chairs, an ottoman, and a sofa. Specific activities required for completing the projects include padding and constructing boxed arms, attaching webbing and burlap to the arms, attaching the dust cover to the bottom of the sofa, and cutting out fabric for the

cushions. Sound dizzyingly complicated? Take a breath and follow Brown step by step, and you'll be surprised at how talented you may become in the art of upholstery. This is a bible, a catalog, a wish book, and an excellent library reference source. --Brad Hooper

"Brown, a professional upholsterer in Austin, TX, knows how to breathe life into tired old furnishings. Her style is hip, eclectic, and delightful, and she injects her personality into the projects, showing off her upholstery prowess. Brown rounds out the manual by offering interior design options. Accompanying photographs demonstrate technique and illustrate each step. Readers will find information on skills requiring much more detail, such as the sewing and stripping furniture, in the appendixes. VERDICT Though the author only covers five projects – a sofa, an ottoman, and three chairs – she does so in such great depth that quality wins out over quantity. Upholstering is for the brave, and there are a lot of specialty tools here that might intimidate would-be DIYers. Despite these limitations, this is a wonderfully readable volume that speaks to current style. Very highly recommended for any DIY collection. Library Journal, starred review

Few things make me happier than watching the people we work with here at D\*S do well. Amanda Brown from Spruce has been our resident upholstery expert for a while and we were thrilled when she told us she was working on a book. That gorgeous book, *Spruce: A Step-by-Step Guide to Upholstery and Design*, officially launched yesterday and is chock-full of beautiful (and helpful) upholstery instructions, illustrated by more than 900 step-by-step photographs. Upholstery has always been daunting to me, but Amanda is an excellent teacher and everything she's shared in this book will help you master the techniques and skills you need to reupholster any piece of furniture to suit your own taste and style. If you have ever had an inkling to try to upholster a thrift store find, this awesome book can show you how.

I've looked at quite a few upholstery books since I don't have any places nearby that teach upholstery. This one by far is my favorite. Reasons I prefer this book above the rest: The author covers enough different styles of furniture so that you can tackle anything - and shows you how to determine which instructions would be best in her book for different pieces of furniture. The upholstery lingo isn't over my head. This is a book that will help the beginner, intermediate and advanced. I feel like I don't need to look anywhere else to learn how to reupholster. She is truly an expert, but remembers how it was to be a beginner. Many upholstery books I look at seem very dated. They use techniques that aren't current - from what I've seen on blogs and youtube videos.

The author combines more modern techniques (using foam and pneumatic stapler) with techniques that will help your piece of furniture stand the test of time. Her style is lovely. Very inspirational. Combines traditional, vintage with a modern flair. Great pictures and instructions. High quality book (even has a few book marks built in). If you're considering buying any upholstery book...you don't need to look any further. The only reason you wouldn't need to buy this book is if you lived in Austin, TX and could take a class from her personally.

This is an amazing book: it is comprehensive, yet to the point. Since I had taken apart my antique dining chairs I could see how they had been made. But the stuffing was burlap, straw, felt, cotton, so I had to adapt with modern material for the seats and backs. I was kinda stumped with adapting to foam: 1" for the backs and 2" for the seats. But I found the answer: "burlap pulls:" the secret to attaching square foam backs/seats to an open square hole and achieving a rounded-off finished edge. Hooray! I am not a seamstress, have never sewed anything except an apron in Home Ec course in the 50's. Amanda's level of detail is perfect: just enough to help you figure it out with the specifics of your project. Highly recommended.

Who doesn't like to do it yourself (DIY) books? Well over the years I have purchased dozens of them. Many of them attempt to show how to accomplish anything. Well this book actually does it. From the "Mix and Match Upholstery" pages, there is every kind of chair or couch shown and what chapter covers the repair or reupholstering technique. The author covers the basics first, like what kind of chair this is; to what kind of fabric is needed to the tools you will need to complete the job at hand. Estimating fabric yardage is covered. I have used this book to reupholster several chairs already and every time I open the book I learn something new. If you want to learn to reupholster or just some tips on how to repair some furniture you have, this is the book for it. The book is hard covered and full of excellent illustrations and photos, to walk you thru the complete project. I would recommend this book and definitely would purchase this book again if they release another version. Happy reupholstering everyone, Thank you.

I received this book 2 weeks ago and have not been able to put it down! I took an upholstery class last year but I have not used my skills much because of demands on my time. This book has not only refreshed my memory but it has taught me some new things that I did not learn in class such as channeling, tufting, and working with leather. This book will be my reference manual! I also ordered

the first DVD that correlates with the book. I have not reviewed much on this site but this book warrants a good review! If you are contemplating buying the book, get it because it's worth every penny!

This is a great book and It's been a huge help on my first reupholstery project but my only complaint is that this book does not tell you how difficult it is to locate upholstery materials. She offers alternatives to tools like the Klinch-it (on average this tool is \$300) but needs to go into more specifics about staplers and springs. Locating new upholstery springs, tacks, and some other minor upholstery items has been difficult, but it's not impossible. If you're going to take on a reupholstery project, be prepared to spend some money! You won't spend as much as you would on a nice, new couch, but you will spend a bit more than buying some crap from Ikea. It's a nice project and this book has been a major help, but don't expect any of this to happen quickly. Waiting on parts and materials has been the biggest downside to this whole project, but this book makes the actual work go by easy.

This is a lovely book. It is very well presented and feels nice in the hand. If you have someone who might be interested in upholstery, this would be a great gift, the printing is that high quality. There are even ribbon bookmarks sewn into it. Classy. I've not yet reupholstered anything under its tutelage, but I have taken upholstery intensive workshops in the past. The instructions here look very succinct and correct, she has some really great and simple ways of visually presenting her ideas too.

This is a fantastic book covering the basics of upholstery. Big clear pictures and excellent explanations. I looked at several books and watched a lot of you tube upholstery porn, but this is the best. You need a bunch of sources to flesh out a DIY upholstery project, but this book earns its keep. Only place with really good explanations of eight way ties on springs.

I've read dozens of upholstery books, but this is by far the most useful and comprehensive. I just finished my first wing chair using this book as a step-by-step reference. My project turned out fantastic.

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