

CLASS INFORMATION: What to Bring/Access to the Workspace/Beginners/Returners

The Bureau offers excellent teaching and support in a relaxed environment. Through individual instruction and some group learning activities students are encouraged to engage creatively, critically and whole heartedly in the craft of upholstery.

Classes are small, bespoke and mixed ability so whether you are seeking out a new hobby, wanting to tackle an old project to update it for your home, or undertaking some re-upholstery work for a friend – you will be guided through every project with all the instruction you need to transform it.

What to bring?

A face mask – or two face masks to refresh if you are staying the whole day
Hand sanitisers are available in the workspace

Your project and some upholstery weight fabric (you can check this with Sara beforehand)
Dust sheet is required for larger projects

Two small containers with lids to hold tacks – everyone will be given their own tacks to use
Tools – if you have your own upholstery tools, please do bring them for your personal use
Dress making pins/small sharp scissors /dressmaking measuring tape – if you can
Pen, notebook & work apron – if you wish

Water or something to drink, snack or packed lunch - there is a kitchenette with a kettle in the hallway; if staying the whole day there are shops on the high street, a bakery/coffee shop in the hub.

Access: Please note, the workspace is on the third floor of The Factory. When you are facing the **Duke of London** car garages, the entrance to The Factory is to your right, through a double door and up a bright pink stairwell. There will be signposting.

If you are bringing a large armchair, you will need to access the workspace by a rear door. Let Sara mac know in advance what your project is and she will arrange access and some help with carrying.

saramac@upholsterybureau.com

Projects: You may leave your project in the workspace for the duration of your course. When your course finishes you should remove your project by the end of that week.

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Beginners: So if you are a BEGINNER – fear not! You can bring in a small project, anything that would fit into the front seat of a car – is a good guide. (See **Guide for Choosing Upholstery Projects** pdf) Please email saramac@upholsterybureau.com with a photo of your project to make sure it's appropriate. Always start with a small project as you'll have plenty to do and learn bearing in mind that everything will be new to you. The theory behind choosing a small project first, is so that you can experience the satisfaction of a finished piece of re-upholstery early on. You will have plenty of time to orientate yourself in the workspace, get to know all the tools and what they do, handle the upholstery materials and learn their names. It's a hands on class, so you'll be getting stuck in very quickly.

Tools - handling & H&S

Pneumatic staple gun – handling and H&S

Working with traditional materials – different sheet waddings and coir fibre, Hessians

Working with modern materials – foam or rubberised hair

Choosing the right fabric and different trimming and finishing options

We will cover the correct way to rip out a project. As topics arise, we'll look at simple frame repairs and preparation, discuss the different ways to re-upholster either by way of traditional techniques required for old chairs and projects, or modern techniques when we use foam and staples or a combination of both techniques. We'll look at the different corner pleats and the cuts used to allow fabric to pass around posts and rails to bring a professional finish to your project.

Returns: If you are returning to upholstery with quite a lot of experience, you will be guided through your project depending on your needs. It may just be that you need to activate the 'upholstery lobe' in your brain but there will be lots of opportunity to review different skills for stitching the perfect rolled edge, choosing, lashing and sewing in springs, making cuts and measuring up for a cutting plan. You might even need to refresh yourself with how to use a web stretcher. No problem!

As part of the craft, all students are encouraged to take notes, make sketches and take photos to record their excellent practise.