

A reversible chair cover lets you easily go from breakfast chic in a pretty cotton, to dinner elegant in gold satin (all fabrics shown, HartsdaleFabrics.com).

Reversible Chair Covers

Redecorate your dining room for every event

Whether for a holiday party, a children's birthday celebration, or simply for everyday use, reversible chair covers give your dining room a unique style for any occasion. Easy to sew with just a few seams, they require merely two $\frac{3}{4}$ -yard pieces of fabric for each cover, making them an economical way to transform a room. Choose a unique brocade for an elegant celebration, a whimsical cotton print for a day of make-believe, or a modern home décor fabric for everyday style. In only a few steps—measure the chair, cut the fabric, and sew the seams—you'll complete this easy and fun home decorating project.

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Supplies

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard decorative fabric for the main side
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard decorative fabric for the reverse side
- Matching thread

Choose, measure, and cut the fabric

Reversible chair covers enable you to get two looks in one. The two sides can be different materials, but should be close in weight. Prewash the fabrics before cutting if you want them to be machine washable after construction.

1 SELECT TWO MID- TO LIGHTWEIGHT FABRICS. The materials should not be too lightweight (you don't want show-through) or too heavy (to avoid bulky covers). Since the covers are reversible, the two sides do not have to coordinate in color.

2 DETERMINE THE CHAIR BACK WIDTH. Measure the chair back's widest point and add the chair back depth. Add 2 inches for seam allowances and ease.

3 MEASURE THE CHAIR BACK HEIGHT. Starting at the bottom of the chair back, measure from the seat to the top of the chair, and add half of the chair back depth, plus 1-inch seam allowance.

4 CUT THE COVERS. Cut two rectangles on grain from each fabric, using the height and width determined in steps 2 and 3. If the fabric has a motif, be sure to center it.



Measure your chair and add ease and seam allowances.

Decorative options

These covers are the perfect canvas for showing off your home decorating style.



Piece it together.

Give your covers an artistic look by piecing together fabrics before constructing the covers.



Add a ruffle.

Before sewing the lower edge, insert a ruffle trim made from one of the fabrics or a coordinating fabric.



Tie it up.

Before sewing the side seams, add self-fabric or ribbon ties. This is especially helpful to give the cover shape if the chair back is much wider at the top than the bottom. Note that if the ties are large, they may be difficult to hide inside. Therefore, you may want to use only one side and the reverse side is now a lining.

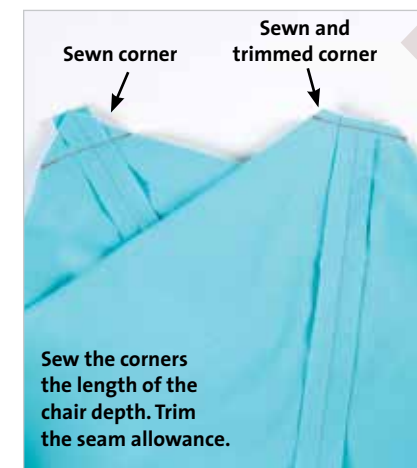
Sew the covers

A few simple seams make these stylish and practical covers. Since the seams are enclosed, they are left unfinished. All seam allowances are 1/2 inch wide.



Sew the top and side seams.

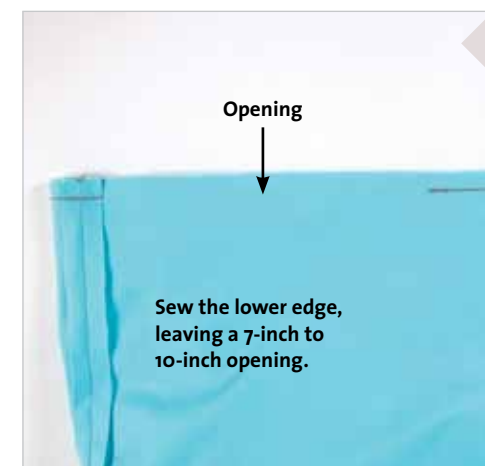
1 SEW THE SEAMS. With right sides together, align, pin, and sew the top edge of the first fabric, then press the seam allowances open. Repeat this for the second fabric (the cover's reverse side). Next, with right sides together, align, pin, and sew the side seams on the first fabric. Repeat on the second fabric. Press open the side seam allowances.



Sewn corner Sewn and trimmed corner

2 SEW AND TRIM THE CORNERS. At each corner, align the top-edge seam with the side seam. Sew perpendicular to the seams the depth of the chairs. Press and trim the seam allowance.

Sew the corners the length of the chair depth. Trim the seam allowance.



Opening

Sew the lower edge, leaving a 7-inch to 10-inch opening.

3 SEW THE COVERS TOGETHER. Turn one cover right side out and place inside the other cover, so the covers are right sides together. Align and pin the lower edges. Sew three-quarters of the way around, leaving a 7-inch to 10-inch opening for turning.



Turn the cover right side out, and hand-sew the opening.



Finish the covers by topstitching around the lower edge.

4 THROUGH THE OPENING, TURN THE CHAIR COVER RIGHT SIDE OUT. Press the seam allowances to the inside. Hand-sew the opening closed (A), or topstitch around the lower edge (B). Press all the seams.

Chair variations

The chair covers shown are simple and can be adapted to fit a variety of dining room chair shapes.



Finials

If the chair has finials, you can create cutouts to allow them to show. Sew the top and side seams. Cut the corners to fit the finials (the width and depth of the largest point of the finials) and tack the cut seams. Sew the bottom edge as directed on the facing page. Either bind the finial openings with bias tape or turn the edges under and hand- or topstitch.



Shaped top

Some dining room chairs have decorative shaping at the top edge. To support the cover over these cutouts, add a 4-inch- to 5-inch-wide midweight interfacing strip to each top edge before sewing.



Rounded back

Follow the steps on the facing page to sew the top and side seam. Then, place the cover, wrong side out, on the chair. Pin the cover to fit around the curve, remove, sew the new seam, and trim the excess seam allowance. Copy this curve to the second fabric and sew. Continue as usual.



Dramatic width difference

If the chair back is much wider at the seat than the top, you may shape the cover accordingly. However, if the chair back is narrower at the seat and wider at the top, keep the cover a simple rectangle and attach ties to cinch it (see "Decorative options").

PHOTOS: SLOAN HOWARD, STYLIST: JESSICA SAAL, ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN LEPAK