REGAL RESTORATION

by Elizabeth Cecchettini

Before

Give a dilapidated chair new life by reupholstering the seat, arms and back with rich, luxurious fabric. Embellish the chair back with an embroidered vintage scroll design for a refined look. Take a picture of the chair before and after the update to marvel at the dramatic transformation.

SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ dining chair (with arms)
- ☐ faux suede (amount determined by cushion dimensions)
- ☐ 1 yard of fusible interfacing
- ☐ 1 yard of coordinating fabric
- ☐ double welt cord (amount determined by cushion perimeters)
- ☐ tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ water-soluble fabric marker
- ☐ thread: bobbin & embroidery
- ☐ staple gun & staples
- ☐ hot glue gun
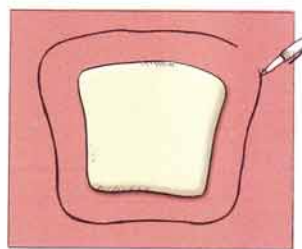- ☐ needle-nose pliers
- ☐ scroll embroidery design

Get Started

- Repair, sand, stain and lacquer the chair, if needed.
- Unscrew the seat cushion from the chair frame. Remove the staples or tacks from the cushion using needle-nose pliers. Discard the fabric. Repeat to remove the fabric from the chair back and arm cushions, if applicable.
- Position the seat cushion over the faux suede. Trace 7" beyond the cushion perimeter using a water-soluble fabric marker (A). Repeat to trace the back and each arm cushion 2" from each perimeter. Cut out each piece from the suede.
- Measure each cushion perimeter; record. Cut a piece of cord to each recorded measurement. Cut enough 2½"-wide bias strips from the coordinating fabric to achieve each recorded measurement, piecing together the strips as necessary.

- Trace the chair-back fabric onto a piece of interfacing; cut out. Fuse the interfacing to the fabric wrong side, following the manufacturer's instructions.
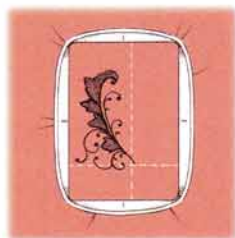
Embroider

- Mirror-image the chosen design on the machine screen or in embroidery software; save in the appropriate machine format. Print one template of each design.
- Place the chair-back fabric right side up on a flat work surface. Fold the fabric in half widthwise and lengthwise with right sides together; unfold. Baste or mark the foldlines using a water-soluble fabric marker on the fabric right side, forming quadrants.
- Place the original design template on the upper-left quadrant, positioning the template lower edge close to the widthwise foldline and slightly extending the lower-right edge beyond the lengthwise foldline onto the upper-right quadrant; pin. Hoop the fabric with a piece of stabilizer and place the hoop on the machine. Load the original design into the machine, and then position the needle
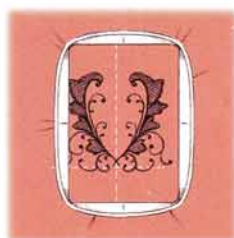
A Trace 7" beyond cushion perimeter.

over the template center. Remove the template and embroider the design **(B)**.

- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and fabric from the hoop. Place the mirror-imaged template on the upper-right quadrant, positioning the template lower edge close to the widthwise foldline and overlapping the template lower-left edge over the embroidered design lower-right edge; pin. Hoop the fabric and place the hoop on the machine. Load the mirror-imaged design into the machine, and then position the needle over the template center. Remove the template and embroider the design **(C)**.

- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Tear away the stabilizer beyond each design perimeter.

Construct

- Center the embroidered fabric over the chair-back cushion. Fold the excess fabric along the cushion upper edge to the cushion back. Holding the fabric taut with one hand, staple the fabric to the cushion using a staple gun. Fold the excess fabric along the cushion lower edge to the cushion back; staple to secure. Fold each excess fabric along each side to the cushion back; staple

to secure, pleating the corners and making sure the fabric remains smooth on the cushion front.

- Repeat to upholster the chair seat and arm cushions, making sure the fabric nap lies in the same direction for each piece. Screw each cushion back onto the chair frame.

- Position one cord length over the corresponding bias-strip wrong side, aligning one cord long edge with one strip long edge. Fold the strip long edge around the cord. Stitch down the cord center **(D)**.

- Flip over the cord to enclose the strip raw edge. Stitch down the cord center **(E)**. Trim the excess fabric beyond the stitching, using sharp scissors and leaving the raw edge along the welting back. Repeat to stitch the remaining cord to the corresponding bias strips to create each welting piece.

- Fold the fabric along each welting short end to the welting back; hot glue to secure. Abut the ends of each welting length; hot glue to secure. Run hot glue along one welting raw edge. Place the raw edge facing the corresponding cushion right side perimeter; finger-press to secure. Repeat to glue the remaining welting lengths to the corresponding cushion perimeters. ◼

DESIGN
Scroll: Jenny Haskins, Laura's Vintage Embellishments, #lve20; jennyhaskins.com

Tip
Find inexpensive chairs at online auctions, thrift stores or garage sales.