

The original of these instructions were written by Ann Kempen from Fish Hoek near Cape Town who helped me find a riempie supplier many years ago.

The riempies should NOT be soaked.

Tools:

- Apart from buying the riempies and the tacks, you will find you probably already have all the tools you need in the house. If not, these items are useful to have, and can be used for a million other things.
- Upholstery tack remover (not absolutely necessary, but useful, however, you can use a screwdriver and small hammer to remove old tacks)
- Sharp Stanley/craft knife or a pair of strong scissors to chamfer the ends of the riempies to make them thin enough to get through the holes. If you get them thin enough, it is not difficult pull the whole length through.
- Prestik (*I think this is like Blutak*) My hubby superglues the end of the riempie into a piece of plastic tube
- Riempies – these come in strips about 2m in length each – you normally use 4 to 5 per chair (with 8 to 9 holes per side)
- Something to hold riempie in place once it is threaded and pulled taut – long thin nosed pliers are ideal as they are sprung, but a thick nail or thin dowel can also work. **Knitting needle will cause less damage to the hole. Or golf tees as we use for caning.**
- Upholstery tacks - +/- 13 mm tacks or other similar small nail or staples. **Alternatively, the ends can be knotted.**
- Hammer

Tips

- Cut one end of riempie using the cutter so that it tapers – easier to thread through holes. **(Image 1)** It is important to make sure when threading the riempie that the "right side" is uppermost all the time, particularly when pulling the riempie through, it can get twisted and the underside shows, so keep straightening the riempie as you work. There is a right side and a wrong side, but it's easy to see.

Method

- Remove old riempies and tacks using cutter and tack remover.
- Clean any grime that settled under the old riempies. **(Image 2)**
- Thread riempie through first hole (from underneath of chair) leaving about 1- 2 cm underneath. **(Image 3)**
- Turn chair over and secure end of riempie to the chair frame using an upholstery tack and the hammer. **(Image 4)**
- Thread riempie through hole opposite the first one (from top of frame down).
- Pull the riempie as taut as you can (but not over tight or the strain on the frame will be too great) and secure it in place by inserting nail (or whatever) in the hole together with the riempie. This prevents the riempie from becoming loose and sagging. **(Image 5)**
- Thread the riempie up through the next hole then across to the opposite side. Once it has been threaded down through the opposite hole, pull it taut, remove the nail from its first position and insert in the new position. **(Image 6)**
- Continue in this way until the riempie is used up. Leave enough that you are still able to pull the riempie taut. **(Image 7)**
- Turn the chair over, secure the end with a tack and cut off any excess riempie. **(Image 8)**

Notes:

When you get to the corners, you can either cut the riempie there and tack it, before starting with a new riempie, or you can pull it across the corner, however, just make sure it can't be seen when the chair is the right way up. **(Image 9)**

- Continue with horizontals and weave under and over the verticals in a basic 'basket weave' pattern until the panel is finished. **(Image10-11)**

Note: The riempies will sag fairly quickly when they are sat on, especially if the atmosphere becomes humid (warm wet summer's day!) If this becomes too great, just pull taut and re-tack but don't over stretch.





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Happy rieming

Sue