

No-Sew Ottoman Cushion

online
extra!

On the following pages, you'll find step-by-step instructions and illustrations that will help you create this seat cushion. For more information about the ottoman project, see the May/June 2011 issue of *My Home My Style*.



Having cushions custom-made can be expensive. However, making your own, as we did for this storage ottoman, will save you a considerable amount of money. And don't worry if you're not handy with a needle and thread—these simple assemblies of plywood, high-density foam, muslin, and upholstery fabric don't require a single stitch (*Illustration, right*). Here's how to make yours:

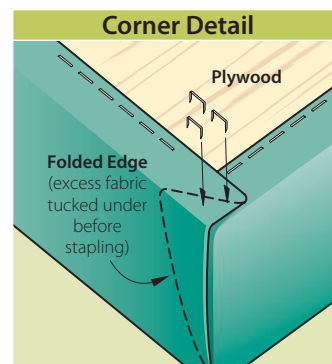
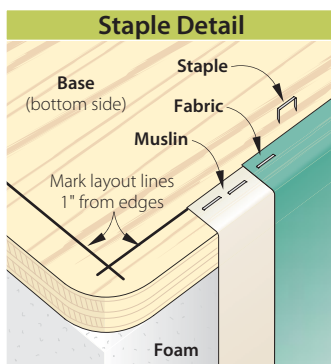
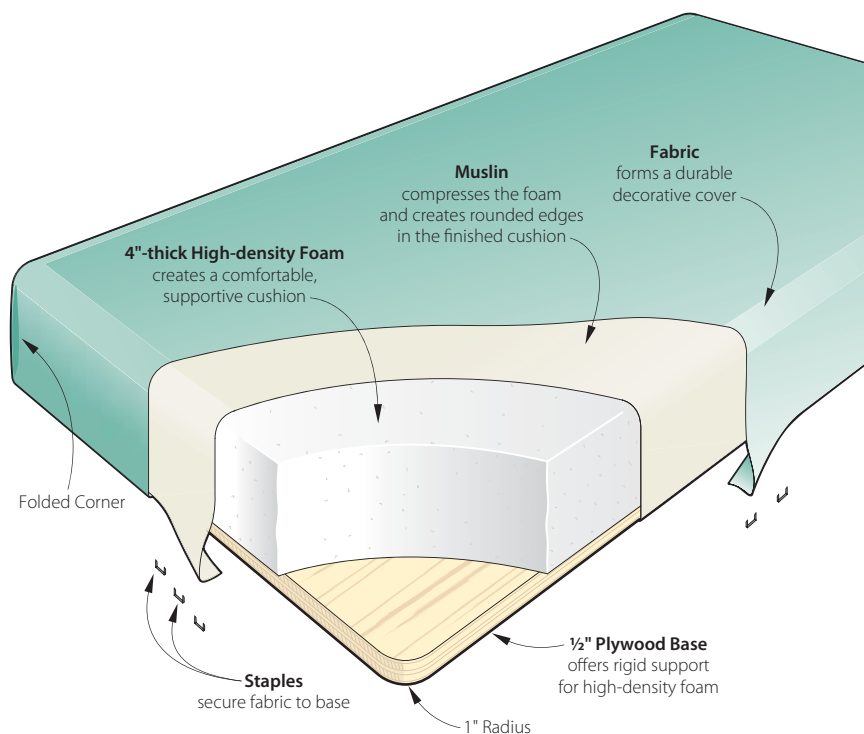
1] Determine what the dimensions of the finished cushion need to be, and have the foam cut to match.

2] Subtract ½" from the length and width of the foam, and cut a plywood or MDF base to these dimensions. Use a jigsaw to cut round corners on the base.

3] Mark layout lines on the base 1" in from each edge. These will be a reference when stretching the fabric over the foam and base.

4] To determine the length of the muslin (front to back of the cushion), pull a flexible tape measure snugly around the foam and base to compress the foam (*Fig. 1*).

5] Transfer that dimension onto the muslin (*Fig. 2*). To do that, measure from one end of the muslin, and draw a line. Now draw two more lines, one on each side of the first line, 1" away. These lines will come into play if you need to tighten or loosen the tension on the muslin as you attach it.



STEP BY STEP

Start with Plywood, Foam, and Muslin



To measure for the muslin, hold one end of a flexible tape on the layout line at one edge of the base, wrap it around the foam to the opposite line, and pull it taut.



After squaring the end of the fabric, transfer the measurement from Step One to the "muslin line" (the middle line). Then mark a guideline 1" on either side of the middle line.

**STEP
BY
STEP**

Wrap and Staple to Form the Cushion



3

Line up the edge of the muslin with the pencil line on the base, and starting in the center, staple the material in place.



4

Fold excess muslin around a ruler, have a helper pull to apply tension, align a pencil line with the layout line, and staple.



5

Cut off some of the excess muslin to remove material that would create a bulge in the finished corners.



6

Staple the fabric to the front and back edges. Stop 4" short of the corners to allow room for the final corner folds.



7

Now continue stapling the fabric along both sides of the cushion. Here, you can go all the way into the corners.



8

Trim, fold, tuck, and staple the fabric in each corner. Make it so the seam in the fabric faces the side of the cushion.

6] Now measure 15" beyond the line furthest from the end of the muslin, and cut the material here. This extra length will make it easier to grip the muslin as you pull it.

7] Use your flexible tape once again to measure around the width (side to side on the cushion) of the foam and base. Just as before, pull the tape taut, slightly compressing the foam. Cut the muslin to this exact dimension.

8] Mark centerlines on all four edges of the muslin and base. These will help

you center the foam and base on the muslin and avoid twisting the material as you pull it.

9] Staple the muslin in place along one edge of the plywood, making sure the staples sink in completely (Fig. 3).

10] Now pull the muslin so the middle line on the fabric aligns with the layout line on the base. For a rounder edge, pull the muslin to the next guideline. For a crisper edge, ease tension off the muslin until the first guideline matches the line on the

plywood base. Staple the muslin at the desired tension (Fig. 4).

11] Repeat the process for the sides of the cushion, and then trim the excess muslin at each corner (Fig. 5).

12] Cutting, marking, and applying the fabric is similar to the procedure used for the muslin. Two important differences are that you'll cut the fabric to exact dimensions (no extra for pulling), and you'll need to stop stapling short of the corners, so you can fold and tuck the material (Figs. 6, 7, and 8).