

My Favorite Upholstery Tools



The Staple Gun

Don't waste your time with a hand-held stapler or an electric stapler for upholstery projects. Your hands will ache and the staples will not go all the way in. Your best investment is to get a pneumatic stapler. Don't buy the cheapest one or the most expensive, but rather get one that is middle of the road. My favorite one is the PORTER-CABLE Upholstery Stapler, C-Crown, 1/4-Inch to 5/8-Inch, 22GA (US58) for around \$100. Another option is the Woodpecker - N7116 Full Metal Power Upholstery Stapler- 22 Gauge 71 Series for around \$75.



Don't forget the staples! I recommend the 3/8-Inch Crown x 22 Gauge Galvanized Fine Wire Staples.

You will need an air compressor for the pneumatic stapler. Any compressor will do, but I'm a fan of the California Air Tools 10020C Ultra Quiet Air Compressor.



Quiet air compressors are not really quiet, but they are not as loud as regular compressors.

The Air Compressor

Stripping Tools

The other tools you need don't cost very much. You need a rubber mallet, CS Osborne staple lifter, and needle nose pliers. These tools will help you remove the staples and tacks from your chairs as you strip them.



Hot Glue Gun

I personally like a small hot glue gun. No need to spend a lot of money here! A smaller glue gun helps me to not over-glue as I apply the double welt cord. It's easier to store and works great with the mini glue sticks. I also use an old clipboard where glue can spill with no problems.



Metal

Regulator



My favorite tool is my metal regulator. It doesn't matter what size, this tool helps tuck in fabric threads as I apply double welt cord trim and wipe away excess glue.



Scissors

Any scissors will do, but my personal favorite is Kai 7250 10 Inch Professional Shears. Kai makes several different sizes and any of them would be a great investment if you want super sharp scissors.



Sewing Machine

You don't necessarily need to know how to sew for upholstery. I use my industrial Consew machine for sewing double welt cord. It's possible to get a double welt foot for a regular machine, too. But there are other trims you can apply that don't involve sewing at all.



Chair Whimsy



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