

Reupholstering Bearly's Footstool

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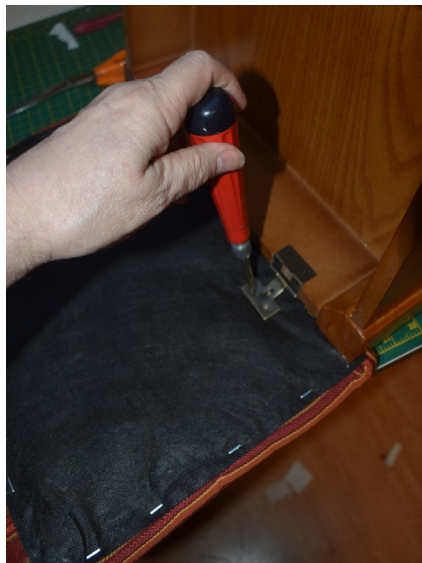
Originally posted 2024 March 15



A few weeks ago I wrote about repairing the broken leg on Bearly's step stool. That done, it was time to turn my attention to recovering the worn top.

The seat of this little stool lifts up to reveal a storage

compartment, so it's going to be relatively easy to recover.



I started by unscrewing the hinges in order to detach the seat from the base.



Next, I'm using a heavy-duty staple remover to remove the upholstery from the seat. The foam is dried out and disintegrating; I'll discard and replace it with new foam.





This piece of “egg crate” foam, gleaned from some product packaging, is just the right size to fit the seat. It’s also a bit cushier than the original piece, so the stool will be a little more comfortable. I’ll install this one nubbly side-in, against the seat board, and I’ll re-use the thin batting that covered the original foam.



I’ve begun to wrap the new fabric around the batting, foam, and board. I’ll use my staple gun to fasten it down. I turned the board upside down so I’m stapling to a fresh surface.

Next I’ll do the corners, pulling the fabric at a diagonal so it covers the point of the corner first. I’ve caught it in place with a staple.



For a neat corner, I’ve folded the fabric tightly and have anchored it with a couple of staples. Then I’ll finish stapling around the edges, working side to side and pulling the fabric tight as I go.



With the covering fabric stapled in place, I've cut a piece of cardboard to cover the bottom/inside of the seat board.



Again I'm using 1/4" staples in the staple gun to fasten it in place.



I've marked the position of the hinge screws, taking care to ensure that the stool top overhangs equally on all sides. I've drilled new holes with my rotary tool – the screws are tiny, so I used a really fine drill bit.

Below is the finished stool with the seat re-attached. I really like the playful quality of this vintage timepiece material, and the pouffier effect. I'm sure Bearly would have approved.

