



How To Re-Cane Your Seat Using The Pre-Woven Method

Introduction:

There are 2 ways to cane your chair seat, pre-woven and hand woven methods. Here we explain how to use the pre-woven method.



Follow These Easy Step by Step Instructions

Materials: Rattan webbing, Cane spline, PVA glue, **Tools:** Stanley knife, Router or Drill, Wooden wedge.

1 To remove the old rattan from the seat, first dismantle the seat from the chair frame, this makes it much easier to work on. For best results use a router or an electric drill to remove the old cane spline, making sure not to damage the timber.

Soak the rattan webbing (but not the cane spline) for at least 20 minutes in warm water, then place the rattan webbing over the seat, making sure you have the glossy skin side upwards. Align the horizontal and vertical strands with the seat frame.



2 Starting at the centre of the front rail of the timber frame, use a blunt wooden wedge or half a wooden clothes peg to push the rattan webbing into the groove. Now proceed to the rear of the seat frame and carry out the same procedure. Once you are happy that the rattan webbing is sitting true and square with regard to the seat frame **continue** by pushing the rattan webbing around the other sides.



3 Now the difficult part- but don't panic. Using a sharp Stanley knife, cut and trim off the excess rattan webbing no more than a couple of millimetres below the outer edge of the groove. Please try not to cut your wrist whilst doing this as it is very difficult to remove blood stains from the rattan webbing.

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4 If you're now this far - and without serious injury or a nervous breakdown, then that's great. Now pour some PVA glue into the groove, not too much, but enough to cover the rattan webbing at the bottom of the groove. Now sit back, have a coffee and allow the glue to settle. (5 mins)



5 Now that the caffeine has calmed you down, place the cane spline into the groove, and using a hammer gently tap the cane spline into the groove, starting at the front and then working your way around the back of the seat to finish at the corners of the seat. If there are tight corners on your seat, dampen the cane spline first as this will make it more flexible and will eliminate any breaks.



6 Use the Stanley knife to cut the cane spline at 45 degrees, nice and easy here, you don't want to cut the timber seat.



7 It should look quite good now, just wipe away any excess PVA glue with a damp cloth. Allow the rattan webbing to dry naturally - do not put it in front of a heater or out in the hot sun. Allow the rattan webbing to dry slowly and please be patient, and do not sit on it just yet. Wait at least 12 hours before staining, if required, or sealing with a lacquer, polyurethane or shellac. Rattan webbing likes to breathe so do not seal the underside. It is also advisable to clean the rattan webbing with a damp cloth, especially if the seat is in a dry environment ensuring that the rattan webbing does not become brittle. Well done!



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NOTE: This method of re-caning your seat is suitable for most chair seats or backs that already have the groove in the frame. Should your seat or back have holes around the frame, then this indicates that the cane work was done by hand (strand for strand, and that's a different process which I can help you with). Otherwise you will need to have a groove professionally routed in, that is provided that the timber frame is thick enough, and then you can carry out re-caning using the above instructions.

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