

Used as a durable yet supple seating material for hundreds of years, rattan cane is the outer bark of the rattan palm, a climbing vine that grows to the top of tropical forest canopies. Pre-woven cane is ideal for restoring a family heirloom or flea-market find, and can also be incorporated into new furniture.

The pre-woven panels are suitable for frames with perimeter grooves. This format makes it easy to install, requiring only the correct size of reed spline, some wooden wedges, a utility knife, a tape measure, PVA glue, and a mallet. In case the cane gets a little dry while you are working, keep a bucket of water and a sponge (or cloth) on hand.

Reed spline has a tapered cross section that wedges snugly into a groove that is 1/32" wider than the spline. Caning wedges are used to temporarily hold the cane panel in position as well as drive it into the groove.

Spline Size/ Width	Groove Width
#7 (5/32")	3/16"
#8 (3/16")	7/32"
#9 (7/32")	1/4"

Using Pre-Woven Cane

1. Measure the width of the groove in your frame to determine the spline size you will require. The spline should not need to be forced into place, nor should there be a space between the groove and the sides of the spline. If replacing an old seat, measure the groove at various points to ensure it is a consistent width. If necessary, use a block plane to dress the spline to produce a perfect fit.
2. Measure the distance between the front groove and back groove of your frame, rounding up to the next whole number.
3. Measure the distance between the left side groove and the right side groove, again rounding up to the next whole number.
4. Cut the pre-woven cane 2" wider and longer than the above measurements.
5. To make the piece of cane pliable, soak it in hot water for about an hour, keeping it weighted down to ensure it stays completely submerged.
6. Mark the center of the frame at the top, bottom and sides.
7. Center the shiny side of the piece of cane over the frame opening, aligning the pattern with the center marks.

- Starting in the middle back of the frame, hold a wedge over the groove and push the cane into the groove just enough to make an indentation. Keep moving the wedge along the groove. To maintain even tension, work from the middle of the frame toward a corner, and work a few inches at the top, then at the bottom, and on each side. Hold the cane as flat as you can and keep it centered on the marks on the frame.

***Note:** The goal of this step is not to trap the cane into the groove, but simply make an indentation. If you try to set the cane into the groove in one go, you'll break the cane.*

- Once you have an indentation around the entire perimeter, work around the frame once again and push the wedge a little harder so the cane goes deeper into the groove.
- Go around once again; only this time, use a mallet to tap the wedge and push the cane right to the bottom of the groove. The deeper you push the cane into the groove, the tighter the panel will get. (The panel will also tighten further as it dries.)
- Trim the exposed ends of the cane with a utility knife to just below the outside edge of the groove.
- Soak the spline in water for about 15 minutes.
- Place a long length of spline over the groove on one side of the frame. As the ends of the spline look best mitered, mark the location of the miter, then cut the spline with the utility knife.
- Apply a bead of PVA glue into the groove.
- Set the spline into the groove, tapered end down, and tap in place using the side of a wedge and a mallet.
- Repeat steps 13 to 15 for the front, other side and back of the frame.

***Note:** On chairs where the corners are rounded, you can install the spline in one piece. It is not necessary to repeat steps 13 to 15. Place the mitered end of the spline at the back and off to one side.*



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