

Hi e9 seat rebuilder,

You or your upholster may find the following helpful. I reupholstered my own seats using leather covers from GHH. But in that effort I found the horsehair seatpad of the seat-bottom unusable. The seat-back was still good and I reused - I only applied a 1/4 inch to the bolster, just to fill out the seat cover and I think the older horsehair and old bolster foam likely compressed with age.

But about the seat-bottom pad rebuild -

I bought foam from foamorder.com and it was -

EverFlex™ V34 Soft foam, as a top foam, 24 x 80 x 0.5 in thick

EverFlex™ V44 Medium foam, as a middle foam, 24 x 80 x 0.5 in thick

EverFlex™ V54 Medium-Firm foam, as a bottom foam, 24 x 80 x 0.5 in thick

1/2-ounce Dacron 60" wide sheet, for "fill" in areas where leather cover was not "tight"

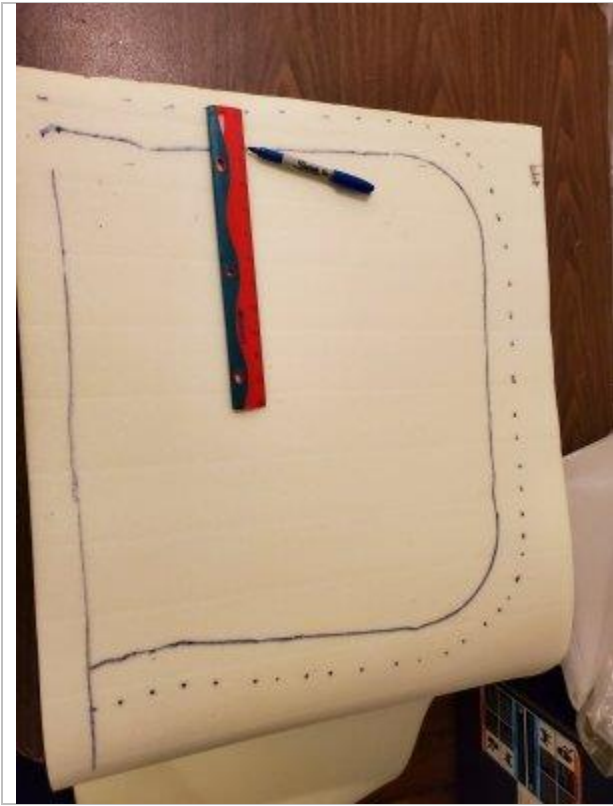
The upholstery guidance informs to have firm foam as a base upon the seat springs and then a medium layer and finally a soft layer under the touch. And a layer of burlap between springs and firm foam.

Gorilla spray glue melds the foam together, the individual layers, as well as the edge wrap around.

In the first and last picture look closely and you'll see I used upholstery wire to get the serpentine springs back to proper spacing. They had splayed out over time.



start tracing out



add some wrap around margin - I left 1-1/2 inch for wrap-around



You'll also see the simple burlap layer held down by hog rings.



ready to spray glue and fold over



near the back, on the side glue directly to frame.



Done with first layer. Firm foam wraps around and is glued back onto itself - glue penetrates the burlap.

Now do a 2nd layer of Firm foam. This is because the horsehair was 1.5 inches thick. After two layers of Firm foam, each 0.5 inch thick, you will add a 0.5 inch layer of Medium foam. That stack-up at 1.5 inch will match the base horsehair thickness (we will further build up the side bolsters later).

Pictures of the 2nd Firm layer "gluing back onto itself" ... and then see the 3rd layer of Medium foam spray glued to the base Firm foam but not wrapped around the sides or front – so not adding more width (but the final bolster wrap around will). This worked well with my GAHH seat covers. >>





Use the softest yellow foam to build up the bolsters, and wrap around the seat frame edges to soften and capture all layers by gluing underneath (as seen in 3rd picture) as well as to the Medium foam. Note This bolster layer does not cover the 2nd layer medium foam (white) in the center area. Note the old horsehair pad was done the same way in this bolster layer. See 2nd picture below.

All foam thickness, 3-layer bolster area and 2-layer center area, now are equal to the old thicknesses.

BTW, every layer is glued to next layer with mating foam surfaces both sprayed and wait for some tackiness/drying. The burlap-to-foam is also glued.



The softest yellow foam is used only on the bolsters. So bolsters have 3 layers of foam.



worn out horsehair pad and the new seatbottom. Also, notice I put a 0.5 inch foam “front spanner” between the two bolsters. Seems to make the cover fit more smoothly in the front.

In the picture below, if you zoom in and look near the coils spring you will see three wrap-around layer of foam. The two base Firm layers and the bolster layer. (Those two foam ‘tails’ are the excess of the bolsters and get cut-off when fitting cover.





Glue a small piece of the soft yellow foam under the front for continuity >>



When fitting the covers my bolsters didn't completely fill out the covers in that area and so I ended up adding a thinnest layer of foam, maybe it was dacron – can't recall, just to fill out the seat cover a bit more.



The seatbacks also have horsehair but yours will likely be reuseable as mine was. I only applied a 1/4 inch foam to the bolster, right onto the existing 1/4 inch foam. Once again just to fill out the seat cover and I think the older horsehair and old bolster foam likely compressed with age. You can use a steamer on old foam and it will fill out again and remove creases.

I also used some white upholstery batting, shape cut as required, to fill out the seatback covers in the shoulder areas, where the vertical pleat meets the side bolsters. Again just for stuffing as needed, always glued once you've fitted it as desired (in your 4th or 5th try).

Last tip - when leather is complete - if there are wrinkles or puckers... moisten with leather conditioner, cover with plastic and set out in the hot sun for 1-2 hours. Repeat for a few days and you'll see the difference. Almost all of the ripples in the picture below went away with the sunning/warming.



Foam on the left, horsehair on the right.

