

Chair Caning

Chair caning dates back to Egyptian times. The earliest example is a woven daybed belonging to King Tutankhamen from 1325 B. C. Chair seat weaving was practiced in South East Asia, Portugal, France and England in the mid-1600s. It became very popular and was extensively used up until the early 1900s. The techniques and materials have not changed much over the years and only a few common tools are necessary. The strand chair cane used in seat weaving is the shiny, glossy inner bark from the trunk of the rattan palm. This palm is a vine plant that grows in Malaysia, China, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Some confuse chair caning with wicker-style furniture, but they are two different things. Chair caning is the craft of applying rattan cane to a piece of wooden furniture such as the backs or seats of chairs. Wicker is the craft of weaving various materials -- willow, rattan reeds or man-made paper cording -- into furniture.

There are three types of chair caning – hand caning, pre-woven cane, and fiber rush. Hand caning is when the caning is woven onto the piece of furniture. Pre-woven cane is usually a machine-made sheet of caning that is applied to the furniture using glue and small dowel pieces. Lastly, fiber rush is a tough grade paper fiber twisted into a long strand. It is used on square chair seats with dowel rails.

Which type of caning do you find interesting?

If you learned to chair cane, what piece of furniture would you add caning to – a bed like the Egyptians, a table, or maybe a stool?



Chair Caning Word Find Puzzle

Find these words in the puzzle below.

Egyptian
Woven
Rattan
Palm
Fiber
Rush

Cane
Chair
Daybed
Willow
Wicker
Weave

H X G X W C R G U G D Z L S A
S C K E O P X L U T X G V Y R
G W M E V M Q Z P W N L V T U
R U D U E L F I B E R S W X S
U N P W N A L W G Y W E Z H H
C U T Q Q P N H P P A Q R T I
N A T T A R Y P W V D S C C E
H T O Y K I P W E I I N Y H H
A L S R I W O M I D C R S I W
A Q M M C L P E H S E K X S E
T X P J L W O L C S Z B E G U
C E S I U O R H F U P A Y R L
L A W C R X A E G Y P T I A N
L C N W U I U M Y S Y H U O D
I M V E R E H X M N K G K N G

