

Chair Caners Tips - Basketmakers Tips

Hand Caning

One hank (1,000 ft) of select chair cane will do approx. three to four chair seat frames with drilled holes.

Soak cane in warm water for approx. 10 minutes.

To find the size cane you will need for hand caning, see following chart.

Size of Holes in Seat Frame	Distance between Holes Center to Center	Size of Cane to Order	
1/8"	3/8"	Super Fine	2.00 mm
3/16"	1/2"	Fine Fine	2.25 mm
3/16"	5/8"	Fine	2.50 mm
1/4"	3/4"	Narrow Medium	2.75 mm
1/4"	3/4"	Medium	3.00 mm
5/16"	7/8"	Common	3.50 mm

Binder Cane is used in hand caning as the last step to cover the holes in the chair seat.

4mm = 3/16" width; 5mm = 7/32" width; 6mm = 1/4" is available in 500 ft hanks

Press Cane (Prewoven Cane)

Press cane is used on chair frames with a groove around the edge. It is sold by the running foot. Press cane should be soaked in very warm water for approx. 30 minutes. Measure in vertical and horizontal directions from groove to groove at the widest point. Then add two inches in each direction. This is how much press cane you will need for each chair seat you are working on.

To determine the size of Press Cane you need, measure across one hole plus two strands of cane.

The sum of this measurement will equal the press cane size you need, e.g. 3/8", 7/16", 1/2", 5/8" or 3/4".

Chair spline is wedge-shaped reed that is used to hold press cane webbing into the groove around a chair frame. The size spline you use will depend on the size of the groove in the chair frame. The widest edge of the spline should just fit into the chair frame groove. Grooves must be cleaned before adding new spline. Refer to size chart below.

Spline Chart

Size #	Groove Width	Size #	Groove Width
7-1/2	11/64"	9-1/2	1/4"
8	3/16"	10	15/64"
8-1/2	13/64"	11	9/32"
9	7/32"		

Reed Chart

Approx. Width	Approx. Ft / 1 Lb	Approx. Ft / 1/2 Lb	Approx. Ft / 1/4 Lb

3/16" Flat	380	190	95
1/4" Flat	350	175	87.5
3/8" Flat	250	125	62.5
1/2" Flat	175	87.5	43.75
5/8" Flat	160	80	40
3/4" Flat	150	75	37.5
7/8" Flat	76	38	19
1" Flat	57	28.5	14.25
3mm Flat Oval	350	175	87.5
3/16" Flat Oval	260	130	65
1/4" Flat Oval	232	116	58
3/8" Flat Oval	171	85.5	42.75
1/2" Flat Oval	86	43	21.5
5/8" Flat Oval	66	33	16.5

Round Reed:

Gauge Size # -Fractional Diameter - Millimeter Diameter	Approx. Ft / 1 Lb	Approx. Ft / 1/2 Lb	Approx. Ft / 1/4 Lb
#1 1/16" 1.50mm	1660	830	415
#2 5/64" 1.75mm	1130	565	282.5
#3 3/32" 2.25mm	750	375	187.5
#4 7/64" 2.75mm	510	255	127.5
#5 9/64" 3.25mm	360	180	90
#6 11/64" 4.25mm	200	100	50
#7 13/64" 5.00mm	153	76.5	38.25
#8 7/32" 6.00mm	112	56	28
#9 1/4" 7.00mm	101	50.5	25.25
#10 19/64" 8.00mm	80	40	20

Mathematical Conversions

If you have the inches, and need to know the millimeters:	If you have the millimeters, and need to know the inches:	
1/16 inch = almost 2mm	1mm = just over 1/32 inch	14mm = almost 9/16 inch
1/8 inch = just barely over 3mm	2mm = just over 1/16 inch	15mm = almost 19/32 inch
1/4 inch = just barely over 6mm	3mm = almost 1/8 inch	16mm = 5/8 inch
3/8 inch = almost 10mm	4mm = 5/32 inch (= a bit over 1/8 inch)	17mm = almost 11/16 inch
1/2 inch = almost 13mm	5mm = just over 3/16 inch	18mm = just over 11/16 inch
5/8 inch = 16mm	6mm = almost 1/4 inch	19mm = 3/4 inch
3/4 inch = 19mm	7mm = almost 9/32 inch (= a bit over 1/4 inch)	20mm = 25/32 inch

7/8 inch = just barely over 22mm		8mm = 5/16 inch	21mm = just over 13/16 inch
1 inch = 25.4mm		9mm = almost 3/8 inch	22mm = almost 7/8 inch
		10mm = just over 3/8 inch	23mm = 29/32 inch
		11mm = almost 7/16 inch	24mm = just over 15/16 inch
		12mm = almost 15/32 inch (= almost 1/2 inch)	25mm = almost 1 inch
		13mm = just over 1/2 inch	