# Fabric and leather *yardage*, COM and COL

COM and COL mean you buy the cloth or hides and the workshop upholsters them, so the quantity is your risk until the workshop confirms it. A quantity is the cut pieces plus allowances, laid onto the usable width, plus repeat, plus a margin. Every figure is typical practice for the partner upholsterer to confirm.

## AT A GLANCE

| Piece | Metres of cloth, 137 cm wide (typical) | What pushes it up |
|---|---|---|
| Dining chair, loose seat pad | 0.5 to 0.7 | Piping or buttons; a repeat; ordering one rather than a set |
| Dining chair, seat, inside and outside back | 1.1 to 1.6 | Piping, a large repeat, arms, a skirt |
| Armchair or club chair | 5 to 8 | A loose seat cushion, a skirt, deep buttoning, a large repeat |
| Two-seat sofa | 9 to 12 | Loose cushions with boxed edges, piping, pleats, a large repeat |
| Three-seat sofa | 13 to 16 | As for a two-seat sofa; more cushions |
| Banquette, per metre of straight run | 1.0 to 1.3 | Buttoning or channelling, end panels, a repeat, upright instead of railroaded cloth |

Metres of plain cloth, or one with a repeat up to about 4 cm (the basis of our fabrics page), before contingency. Typical practice, not figures from a standard: the partner upholsterer confirms each from your drawings. Leather is quoted by hides or square metres from a cutting plan, not by the metre.

## WORKED EXAMPLE: SIX DINING CHAIRS

Cut sizes: seat 64 x 60 cm, inside back 62 x 54, outside back 62 x 58 (finished size plus 6 cm each side). Usable width 130 cm, 10% contingency.

| Case | Rows (cm along the cloth) | Cloth before contingency | With 10% contingency, rounded up | Against plain |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plain cloth | 3 x 60 + 3 x 54 + 3 x 58 | 516 cm = 5.16 m | 5.7 m | baseline |
| Repeat 4 cm | 6 x 60 + 3 x 56 | 528 cm = 5.28 m | 5.9 m | +2% |
| Repeat 32 cm | 9 x 64 | 576 cm = 5.76 m | 6.4 m | +12% |
| Repeat 45 cm | 9 x 90 | 810 cm = 8.10 m | 9.0 m | +57% |
| Plain, usable width 125 cm | 6 x 60 + 3 x 54 + 3 x 58 | 696 cm = 6.96 m | 7.7 m | +35% |

Leather, same pieces: 6.47 $m^2$ for six chairs; a 52 sq ft hide is 4.83 $m^2$; at 75% usable, 1.79 hides so 2; at 65% usable, 2.06 so 3.

## SPECIFICATION WORDING

### COM SUPPLY AND QUANTITY

Cloth [name, colourway, batch] supplied by the client (COM) to [workshop address] by [date], in one batch, with [test reports and fire evidence]. The workshop is to confirm the quantity from the approved shop drawings, stating width, usable width, repeat and direction rules, within [ ] working days of receiving them. The client is to supply the confirmed quantity plus [10]%.

### FAULTS AND SHORTFALL

The workshop is to inspect the cloth within [ ] working days of delivery and report any fault or shortfall in writing. Rejected or short cloth is replaced by the client from the same batch where possible; programme effect [to be agreed in writing]. [Wording to be checked by the client's contract adviser.]

### COL SUPPLY

Leather [name, finish, colourway, batch] supplied by the client (COL): [ ] hides of [ ] $m^2$ each (area to BS EN ISO 11646), delivered to [workshop address] by [date]. The workshop is to confirm the hides needed from a cutting plan, stating the usable share, and to inspect hides before cutting; rejected hides are replaced by the client.

### PATTERN AND DIRECTION

Pattern [name], [straight match / half-drop], vertical repeat [ ] cm, centred on [ ]. Pile or nap direction [as on the approved drawing], the same on every piece. Not to be railroaded unless shown on the approved drawing.

## TERMS USED

### COM (customer's own material)

Cloth that the designer or client chooses and buys and has delivered to the workshop, which upholsters it. The quotation states the metres each piece needs; delivery, batch and test evidence are agreed before ordering.

### COL (customer's own leather)

The same arrangement with hides, with hide size, usable share and inspection before cutting as extra points.

### Pattern repeat

The distance after which a printed or woven pattern repeats. Large repeats and half-drop patterns need more cloth to line up across seats and backs, so quantities must be increased.

### Railroading

Turning the fabric through 90 degrees so the width of the roll runs along the length of the sofa or banquette, avoiding a seam. It only works with plain cloths or woven patterns made for it.

### Pile direction

The way the surface fibres of velvet or other pile fabrics lie. If panels are cut with the pile running different ways they look different shades, so direction must be controlled across the whole piece.

### Half-drop repeat

A pattern in which every other column is stepped down by half a repeat. It is matched along a longer length of cloth, so it usually needs more than a straight match.

### Usable width

The width of the cloth that can be cut, after the selvedges and any printed edge. It is less than the width quoted for the cloth.

## STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- No standard sets yardage: quantities are trade practice; every figure is an example or typical, to confirm with the workshop.
- BS EN ISO 11646:2014: Leather, measurement of area. BSI listing: current; scope read, the standard not read.
- Make Bespoke Studio: Upholstery fabrics: COM quoted on a standard 137 cm cloth, repeat up to 4 cm.
- Make Bespoke Studio: Leather for furniture and upholstery: standard hide 50 to 55 sq ft; COL accepted.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/fabric-and-leather-yardage-com-col. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.