

22. Paint the nails on the inside:

Paint all of the nails that you can see on the inside of the trunk. Most of them will be clinched over and readily visible. Some will be a little harder to see so you will want to look carefully. Some will be only noticeable by a tell-tale brown spot on the wood. Those brown spots should be painted because they are left by iron deposits from the nails. It will save you some headaches later. If you don't paint the nails or miss some they may bleed through the liner material and leave a small rust colored stain. Now,

wouldn't that be awful if you had a nice white background on your liner?

You will also want to paint any washers, rivets, or cleats that may be used, also to prevent bleed-through.

Use a rust inhibitor type of paint. We use flat black, oil based, Rustoleum or any comparable, high quality paint. Depending on the way the nails are and other factors you may want to give it two coats. Allow about 24 hours in between. You're not in a rush, anyway.



Interior of the trunk with the exposed nails painted with Rustoleum flat black.

23. Lining:

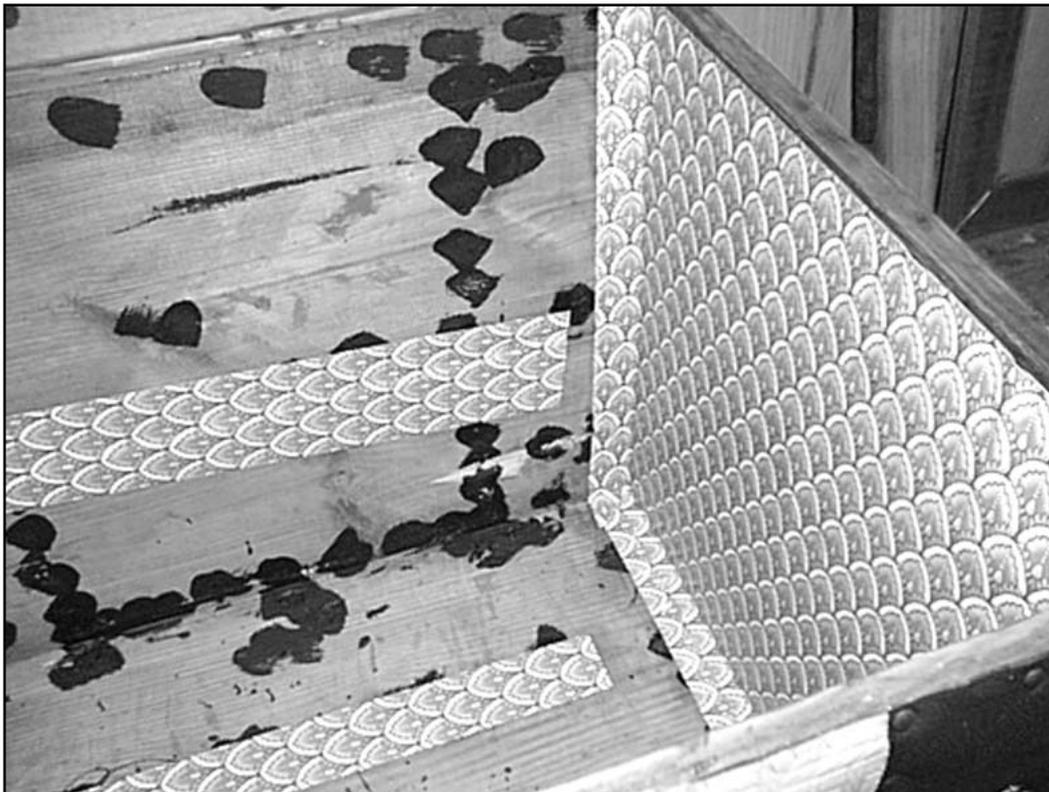
There are basically three types of liners you might use. 1. Paper (wallpaper or antique newspaper). 2. Cloth (cotton, velvet, linen, etc.). and 3. Wood, most notably, cedar.

Paper:

Go to your nearest wallpaper supply store and you will find somewhere in the back of the store an “overstock or close-out” section. This is where you will find the best buys on a selection of liner material. You can usually find something suitable in this section for less than

\$10 for a double roll. Otherwise you may have to pay two, three, or even four times that if your tastes are not met.

Your first choice is paper with no vinyl because vinyl surfaces tend to come up when they are overlapped. We search out paper that is similar to those used originally. This is somewhat arbitrary and it really boils down to a matter of personal choice unless you are refinishing a trunk for a customer. Even then it's still personal choice. Just not yours. If



Trunk with cracks covered and ends papered. Notice how the liner wraps around the edge about one half inch or so.

you can't find paper with no vinyl choose vinyl coated paper rather than solid vinyl.

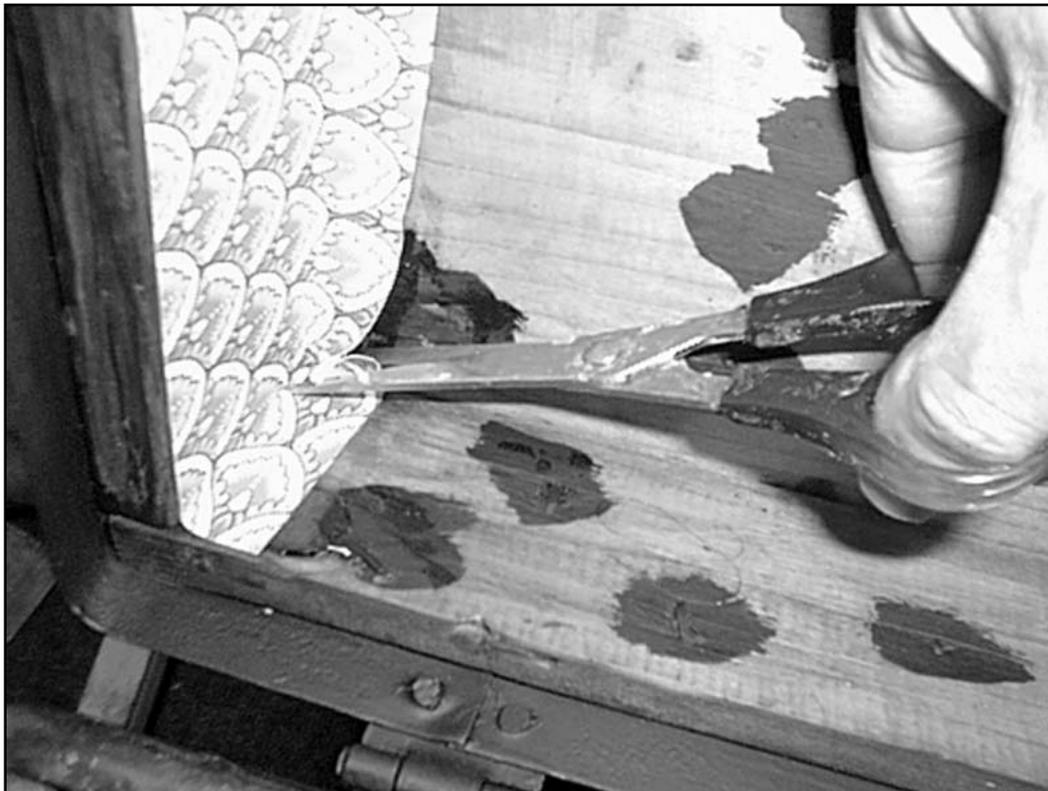
Set up all your lining tools. A t-square, a two foot straight-edge, utility knife with extra blades, tape measure, sharpening stone, large sponge, a couple of large flat surfaces, one for rolling out, measuring, and cutting the liner and the other for pasting up and folding over the liner. You will also want a damp cloth, a pair of scissors, and plenty of light.

Line the trunk in this order: The ends of the trunk body first, then the back, the front, and bottom. Next, the

ends of the lid, back and front of the lid, and the top of the lid.

Measure one end and cut the liner about one inch wider and about 1/2' taller than the measurement. Slather on some paste which you have already made up, fold the piece over on itself (called booking), and let it sit for about 3-5 minutes. The paste will soak in a little and the paper will expand a bit.

Unfold the liner and apply it to the end of the trunk. Push it down from the edge about 1/4" or so. If you bring it right to the edge it will have a tendency to pull away or catch. The ends will wrap around the front



Cutting the corners.

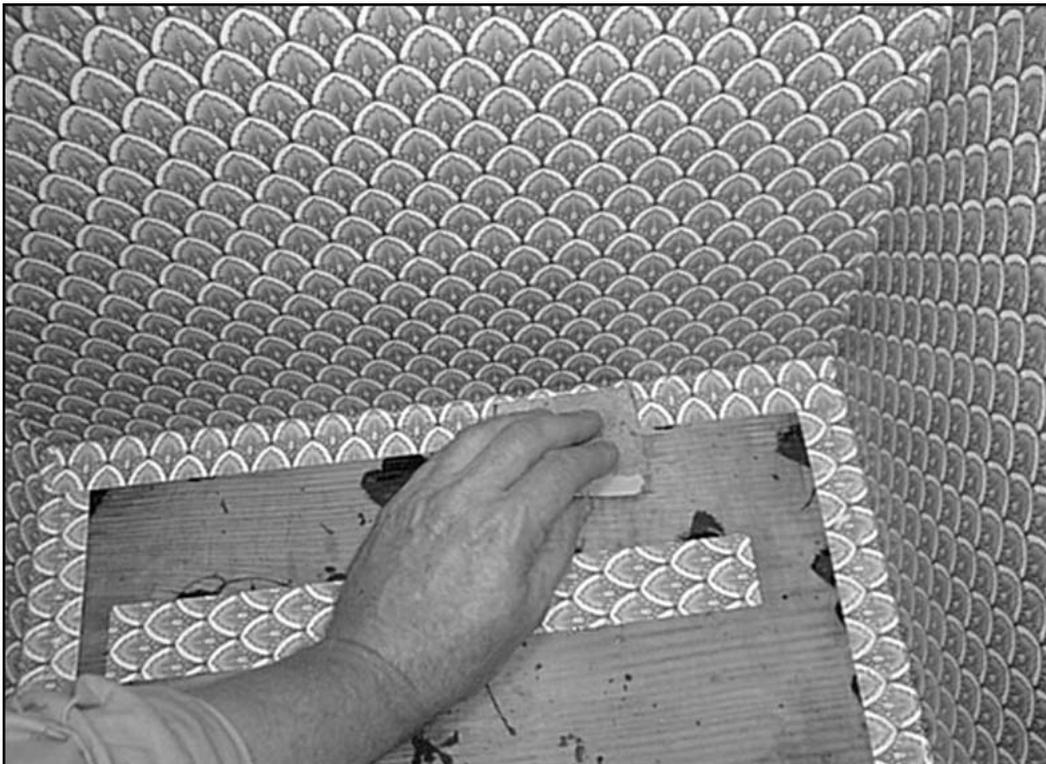
and back of the trunk by about 1/2" and wrap across the bottom by about 1/2". Use your scissors to cut into the lower corners and the pieces will overlap for a nice fit. Otherwise it will bunch up in the corner.

Use a damp sponge to wipe across the liner in broad strokes to remove the air bubbles then repeat the process for the other end.

Next, measure the width of the back. Measure the liner a little shy of the actual width because it will tend to stretch out when it is wet. And because

you have wrapped the ends around the corners it won't show if the back is a little short. Unless you have a very wide roll of liner you will have to use two pieces on the back, bottom, and front. So cut a piece for the back being sure to add an extra 1/2" to come out along the bottom of the trunk. Butter it up with paste as you did with the end pieces, fold it over on itself and let it sit. Apply when ready and cut the next piece.

Now comes the tricky part. Some patterns will overlap nicely at any given point. Others



Sanding along the wrap-arounds so the next piece will stick. If you don't sand, the next piece may not stick where they overlap.

must be lined up precisely or it will show. In order to line up the patterns you may have to cut off a couple of inches from the roll. A little experimenting is called for here.

So cut off another length and measure the width of the added piece you will need. Allow an inch or two to overlap the piece that's already in and paste. Repeat with the front.

The bottom piece should be cut a little shy of the actual measurements because the

paper tends to expand or stretch a little after it is wet. About 1/4" ought to do the trick but it may take a little trial and error.

The ends of the lid are treated much the same as the ends of the bottom section. With this exception. If the trunk is a curved top or hump-back trunk you will have to cut in every two or three inches so it doesn't bunch up. (See diagram)

The front and back of the



Cutting the top on a curved top trunk. Make about six to eight cuts evenly spaced along the curve to keep the liner from bunching.

lid are done the same way as the front and back of the bottom.

The top of the lid is done the same way as the bottom unless it's a dome top trunk. if it's a dome top you will want to cut strips the width of the trunk (minus a little to allow for stretching) and about four inches high. Overlap these strips about a half inch starting at the bottom and working up. If you try to do the lid in one piece the liner will just bunch up and there's no way it will flatten down.

Newspaper:

Some folks like to use antique newspaper to line their old trunk. It's a very effective method. However, newspaper is very fragile when wet so be prepared to do a lot of experimenting. It's put on the same way as wallpaper. Use wallpaper wheat paste and go to it.

Cloth:

If you prefer to use cloth the method for relining is quite different from wallpapering.

The average trunk will take between three and four yards of cloth to line.

Lay out your cloth on a clean, dry flat surface. You will need some sort of backing for the cloth such as cardboard or

Dome top verses curved top.

Dome top, curved top, carrot top? What the heck is he talking about?

A dome top trunk (also called a camel back) comes to a curved point at the center of the top. It rises from the front and back as well as the ends. In other words it's sort of like a rounded pyramid.

A curved top trunk rises from the front and back to the center. It doesn't rise from the ends.

A dome top is the most difficult trunk to line. Not so a curved top.

poster board. We use poster board. Measure the ends and cut the poster board to fit just a little loosely and about 1/4" down from the rim. Cut a piece of cloth large enough so that it will fold over the poster board by about an inch. Lay the cloth down on the table back side up. Lay the poster board down on top of the cloth. Trim the corners of the cloth at a diagonal so that they almost meet the corners of the poster board. Spread some glue along the edge of the poster board about 1" wide. Fold the cloth over onto the glue and press down. It

should stick at this point. If it doesn't just hold it down for a while.

Another way of gluing the cloth would be to use a spray adhesive. We don't really advocate this method because there will be overspray and fumes involved.

Take up the whole section before the glue has dried completely and place it into the trunk. It should fit nice and snug. If it's too tight remove it, pull back the cloth from one edge and trim a bit off to fit. If it's too loose you might be able to take up the slack when you

put the back in. Otherwise you may have to redo it.

There are several ways you can attach these panels to the trunk. You can glue them in if you'd like. We usually like to tack them in. You can use decorative tacks, just plain black carpet tacks, or small escutcheon nails.

Do the back, front, and bottom the same way. Ditto for the top. Unless, of course, it's a dome top.

For a dome top trunk you will want to make up three equal sections that will cover the lid from top to bottom and

Paste and Problems with vinyl.

Most wallpaper that is available today is either solid vinyl or has a vinyl coating. If it is just coated it's not too hard to work with. Overlapped pieces will almost always come up along the overlap. Here's how to prevent this. Take some 220 grit sand paper and sand the surface of the liner paper that will be overlapped. In other words you will be sanding about a 1/2" strip. This breaks through the vinyl and allows the paste to hit the paper backing. This will make a good joint that won't come up.

Another way to deal with the problem is to buy a tube of vinyl glue, sometimes called border or trim glue. It's specially formulated to hold fast to vinyl. We prefer the sandpaper method.

If it's solid vinyl you will have to use the vinyl glue.

If you use a paper with no vinyl, use old fashioned wheat paste. This needs to breathe as it dries and can only do so if there is no vinyl coating on the paper.

If you use solid vinyl or vinyl coated liner use vinyl paste. It's specially formulated for use with this type of liner.

about 1/3 of the width. Be sure to cut them wide enough so that they overlap about an inch or so. Tack these pieces in starting with the two edge pieces and finish up with the center piece. Make sure that your tacks are not so long that they go all the way through the trunk.

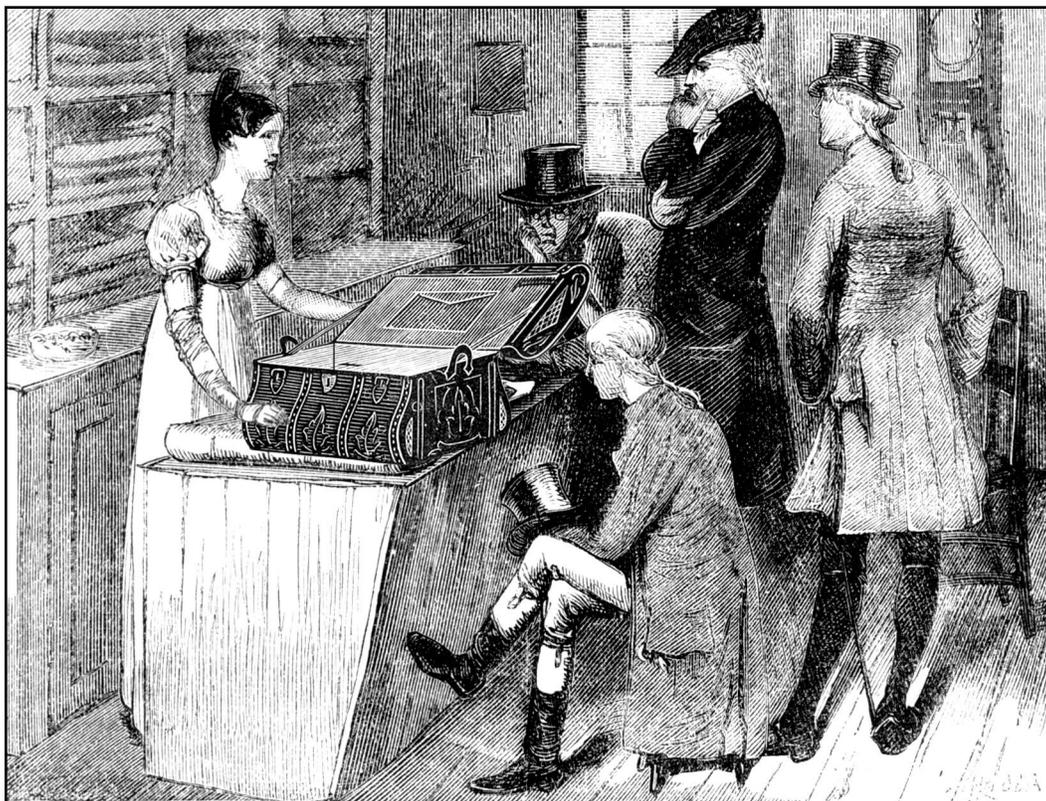
Cedar:

Narrow cedar boards can be found at most lumber supply houses. They are about 3" wide and 1/4" thick. This is what you want to use if you are going to line your trunk with cedar. The most straightforward way is to line the bottom only. The whole trunk doesn't have to be lined for the cedar to be effective. The

boards will lay flat on the bottom. You can use a little glue to hold them down or just let gravity take over. Then line the rest of the trunk with cloth or paper.

If you decide that you want to line the sides with cedar as well, you will want to tack the pieces in with small escutcheon nails. Make sure the nails are not too long or they will go through the wall of the trunk and stick out.

Cedar makes a nice liner and has a pleasant aroma but few antique trunks are airtight and won't do a 100% job in keeping moths and other fabric destroying insects out.



"How do you like this liner?"