LIBERTY HALL
HISTORIC SITE

Making a Fancy Chair

Fancy chair at Liberty Hall made in Lexington or Frankfort around 1820-1830

Like many wealthy families of the early 1800s, the Browns owned fancy chairs. A fancy chair was a wooden chair decorated with paint and other finishes. Popular colors for fancy chairs decorations included green, red, yellow, and black.

You can make a plain chair fancy by wrapping yarn around parts of it. Here's how:

Supplies and equipment

☐ Wooden, plastic, or other chair without up-holstery

☐ Yarn in several colors

☐ Masking or painter's tape

☐ Scissors

Instructions

1. Decide what you want to decorate. The easiest places to wrap with yarn are the *posts* (1), the *slats* (2), the *legs* (3), and the *stretchers* (4).

2. Cut a piece of yarn about 1 yard long, and put a small piece of tape on one end.

3. Tape the end of the yarn to the section you want to decorate. Then wrap the yarn around it as many times as you like to make a stripe.

4. Tuck the end of the yarn under the stripe and cut it short with the scissors.

5. Repeat on other parts of the chair. When you finish, you can tidy up the decorations by turning the yarn so the ends are in the back. You can also push the yarn together or pull it apart to adjust the size of the stripes.