

# "SK: Written by Restorers for Restorers"

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## VIDEOS for the AMATEUR UPHOLSTERER

◆ REVIEWED BY BILL SIURU ◆

**Video #1 -- Diamond Tufting/Pleating, 2 hours;**  
\$39.95 plus \$5.95 S&H

**Video #2 -- Auto Seat Rebuilding, 1-1/2 hours;**  
\$29.95 plus \$5.95 S&H

Available from: *Concours d'Elegance Upholstery*, 1607  
Pine Ridge, Bushkill, PA 18324; 1-888 ELEG-UPH.

Most amateur restorers leave the upholstery work to the professionals, as probably they should. Few things detract more from an otherwise well-done restoration than a very amateurish upholstery job. If you decide to do the upholstery work yourself, you should spend a few hours viewing these two "Upholstery Training Videos." The videos are prepared and narrated by Vince Iacouzze, who has been doing car interiors since he was 15 years old and now owns Concours d'Elegance Upholstery, which specializes in upholstery for classic and antique automobiles, street rods and customs, plus antique furniture, yachts, and aircraft.

You should really start with Video #2 because it covers the restoration work you have to do before you install mail-order seat covers or the seat covers you make yourself after viewing Video #1. This video covers everything you need to know to prepare a seat properly so that you will have a good foundation before you do the upholstery. The video starts with information on the materials and tools you will need to do the job right. Next Iacouzze shows how to remove the old

material from his example project: the front bench seat from a 1963 Chevrolet. Then there are instructions on cleaning, derusting, and painting, as well as repairing, replacing, and reinforcing weak and broken springs. This is followed by instructions on how to cut and install padding, then how to install new foam and a final undercovering material. The video takes you to the point where the seat is ready for the new seat cover.

According to Iacouzze, if you can do diamond tufting, you can do any type of upholstery that involves pleating. It is covered in great detail in Video #1. You will need access to a sewing machine. A regular sewing machine will work on regular fabric, but you will need access to a commercial walking foot machine if you want to work with heavier materials like vinyl or leather.

Both videos are designed for beginners and thus the instructions are very detailed and easy to understand. Not only are there instructions on how to do the job right, but there are frequent cautions on what will happen if you do it wrong. There are lots of hints, do's and don'ts, and ways to improvise when original materials are not available or you want to make improvements. While not professionally edited, the videos get the job done, though you won't be entertained.

Finally, there are no refunds except exchange of defective videotapes. Iacouzze says too many people like to copy the tapes, then send them back.