

January 2008

OBSS Custom Contoured Cushion Fabrication Updates

As part of our on-going effort to continuously improve OBSS cushions, we are delighted to share news of some recent fabrication innovations that give you, and your clients, a better seating solution.

- T-nuts: we have developed a technique for installing t-nuts to eliminate interference between the cushion foam and the backing materials (ABS or plywood). Removing t-nut interference enables a better bond between the cushion foam and backing materials.
- Lateral strength and stability: we have developed a method to further strengthen the bond between cushion backing material and lateral reinforcements. We have found this method to yield greater stability in the fixed lateral support areas for the client.
- Adhesives: we recognized the need to produce a smooth, uninterrupted surface for OBSS cushion users. We have identified an application technique that achieves the best bond while avoiding hard edges that can result from some adhesives. Soft spot adhesion at this point is ridge-free!
- Neoprene thickness: we have begun fabricating cushion covers with a different thickness of Neoprene. For overall cover use, this material will provide better immersion in to the cushion for the patient. For use on the cover perimeter, this material will create smaller side seams and will make the rail cut fittings easier.

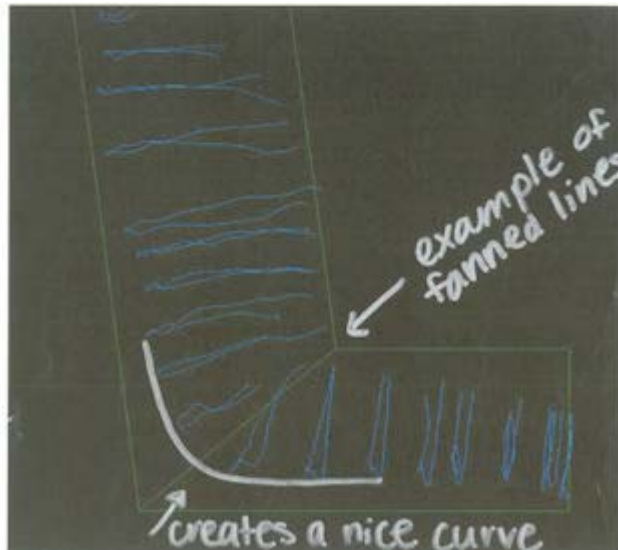
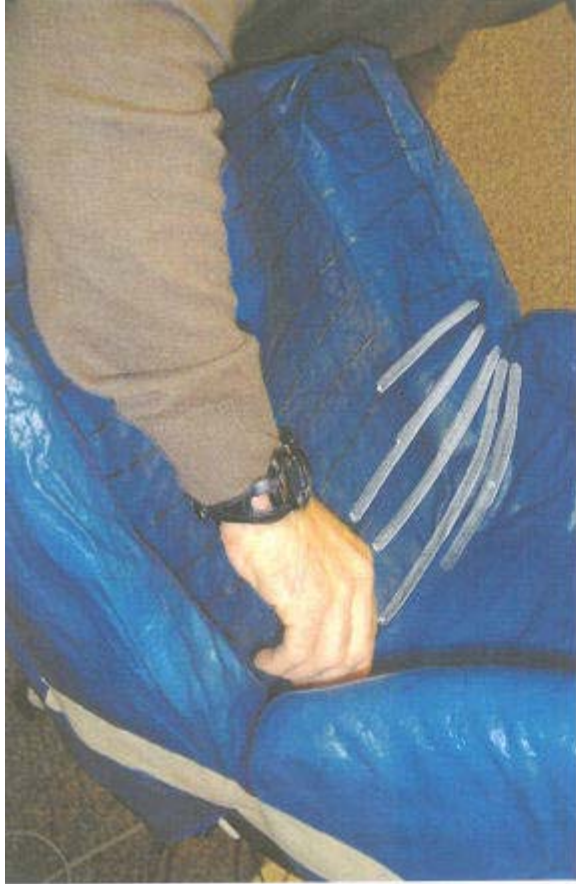
Digitizing Tip: Fan Your Lines!

When drawing your digitizing reference lines on a full system (seat and back) with a water based marker or chalk, be sure to start in the “closed end” of the system. That is the part of the mold where the seat and back bag meet. Starting at the proximal end of the seat bag, draw a reference line that begins in the hip lateral area (either side) of the seat bag and continues across to the same area on the other side. Standing over the back bag and looking down (transverse view), the reference line will look like a capital letter ‘C’. Continue this process, placing the reference lines approximately 1.5 inches apart, until you’ve completely finished the seat. Be sure to begin straightening out the reference lines as you move towards the distal end of the seat, so that by the time you’ve drawn your last few lines their straight across the molding bag.

Following this tip will guarantee a smooth transition between the seat and back cushion when it’s carved and give you great results!

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