1. Use a utility knife to score the old cane along both sides of the spline in the groove all the way around the chair.

2. Use a hammer and a spline chisel (or a chisel that’s narrower than the width of the groove) to cut off the old cane and remove the spline. Be careful not to chip the seat.
   **Note:** If you have trouble removing the spline, it’s possible it was installed with hide glue. Mix a solution of 1/2 pint warm water and 1/2 pint distilled white vinegar and pour on the spline. Let the spline soak until it’s loosened. (Be sure to check that the solution won’t harm the finish on the piece. And because this is a messy job, work where the solution and dirt won’t harm flooring.)

3. Make sure that all pieces of old spline and cane are removed from the groove. If you used the vinegar solution, be sure to let the groove dry fully before installing new cane and spline.

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Installing New Cane and Spline

1. Select spline that, when dry, fits loosely enough in the groove that it can be removed with your fingers without prying.

2. Soak the spline in water for 10 to 20 minutes to make it more flexible for measuring. Do not bend the spline material too much, as it will break. **Note:** If the seat is round or has rounded corners, the spline can be installed in one continuous length. (Be careful when bending the spline around the corners.) If the seat is square or has mitered corners, the spline must be installed in cut lengths.

3. **For round seat or rounded corner applications:** Place the spline in the groove with the ends overlapping 1/2". Mark the spline for exact length, then remove it and cut to length. A very sharp utility knife works well for this.

   **For square or mitered corners:** Mark, cut and fit separate lengths into the grooves, trimming as necessary to achieve tight-fitting joints. Remove spline.

4. Gather 6 to 10 caning wedges (41426, sold separately). If you make your own, make them at least 3/4" wide x 3/4" high x 3" long, tapered to 1/8" on the narrow end.

5. Mark and cut the new cane so that the strands extend beyond the outside edge of the groove by at least 1/2" to 3/4".

6. Soak the new cane webbing in warm water for 30 minutes to an hour to make it pliable, then let it drip for 3 minutes to remove excess water.

7. Place the cane webbing over the area to be covered, being sure that the strands are in the correct position for installation. On a square area, the strands of the cane should be parallel with the groove.

8. Dip a wedge in water, then use it to slowly press the cane webbing into the back groove. Leave the wedge in.

9. Pull the cane webbing snug in front, then dip and use another wedge to press it in the front groove. Leave this wedge in also.

10. Using the same process with the other wedges, press the cane webbing into the groove all the way around the frame, enough to show the outline of the groove. Cane strands running parallel to but outside of the groove may be pulled off to make it easier to push the cane into the groove. Diagonal strands outside the back corners also should be removed. **Note:** Do not try to drive the webbing down all the way on one side at once. Tap or push lightly all the way around, being careful not to break the strands of the cane.

11. After the cane has been pushed to the bottom of the groove, cut off the excess strands of cane 1/8" under the top of the outside edge of the groove with a hammer and sharp chisel. (A knife might pull the cane out of the groove.)

12. Pour a small amount of liquid hide glue (50252, sold separately) all around and on both sides of the groove.

13. Insert spline and tap down lightly with a smooth piece of dampened wood to prevent bruising the spline. Remove excess glue with a wet cloth or sponge.

14. Let chair dry at normal room temperature for 24 to 48 hours before using. Do not set out in the sun to dry.