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70 Pages of Romantic Rooms

How to Make Your Bedrooms Magical

Swedish Style Rules!



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▼Country Swedish's
Gustavian Bench (#1811)
70"w. x 29"d. x 32"h.

Red White & New



▲Jane Churchill's
Sail Broad Stripe
(J129F-07) in red
through Cowtan & Tout;
100% cotton; 55"w.

{A **Gustavian bench** goes from classic to graphic}

SWEDISH STYLE—WITH ITS REVERENCE FOR LIGHT, SIMPLE shapes, symmetry, and painted woods—is the perfect antidote to interiors of the last few years, when masculine forms prevailed and wenge fever raged. Named for King Gustav III, who reigned from 1771 to 1792, the Gustavian style was a Swedish interpretation of the European antiques and decorative arts the royal saw on his travels throughout the Continent. Using less expensive local woods and materials, the Swedish paid homage to fine European furnishings while developing a humbler style of their own.

Our modern Gustavian bench is from Country Swedish,

a family-owned firm specializing in antique reproductions. For upholstery, we chose fabrics in tones of red and white. "The palette of traditional Swedish fabrics has always been just two colors, whether it's stripes, checks, or prints," says *HB's* upholsterer, Carl Dellatore, of D & F Workroom. "With our nine fresh takes on red and white, we went from Old World to outrageous."

Essentially a small daybed, the bench has an upholstered head and foot and a comfortable cushion. Two typical Gustavian fabrics—Gripsholm Check from Country Swedish and Sail Broad Stripe from Jane Churchill— >



▲Country Swedish's
Gripsholm Check
(#432-06);
100% cotton; 59" w.



▲Anna French's
Cupola in color 1
through Sanderson;
52% linen,
48% cotton; 54" w.



▲Lulu DK Fabrics'
Evil Eye (#11118)
in red through
Decorators Walk;
100% cotton; 54" w.



▲Brunschwig & Fils'
Bagnols Cotton Print
(#79384.01/121);
100% cotton; 54" w.

Nuts & Bolts

- To be faithful to a classic Swedish bench, choose fabrics in two tones, but have fun experimenting with a variety of designs.
- Fabrics with dark grounds give more weight to a piece.
- Fabrics with selvage borders, like Lulu DK's Evil Eye, offer many decorative possibilities. We cut off the small paisley border and used

it to edge the plinth of the bench and as a trim around the bolsters.

- Before button-tufting a fabric with a stripe in the design, like Brunschwig & Fils' Bagnols print, lay it out on the piece and decide how many tufts you want and how they should be distributed.
- Geometric patterns require the most careful matching.



▲ Lee Jofa's
Trianon Toile
(#970050/1916) in red;
100% cotton; 54" w.



▲ Kathryn Ireland's
Graham (#2612) in
red through John
Rosselli & Associates;
100% hemp linen; 56" w.



▲ Angela Adams's
Lulu in Tangerine;
50% cotton,
50% linen; 54" w.



▲ Lee Behren Silks'
Crewel Embroidery
(#L57960) through
Decorators Walk;
100% cotton with wool
decoration; 48" w.

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

have their seat cushions upholstered with a traditional mattress edge (the check was tufted, the stripe left plain). Picturesque Trianon Toile from Lee Jofa was carefully placed on the frame to show off its charming motifs. Even the bolsters were sewn so that a little angel is on one end and a sailboat on the other. Two florals, Brunswick & Fils' dainty Bagnols Cotton Print and Lee Behren Silks' grand Crewel Embroidery, although vastly different in

scale, required careful matching of the patterns. For a reverse tonal effect, Kathryn Ireland's Graham and Anna French's Cupola have red grounds with white printed designs; white welting gives Cupola a crisp finish. Would Gustav III turn in his grave if he saw his bench done in Lulu DK's Evil Eye paisley or in Angela Adams's Lulu, with its red ovals spinning in orbit? Not a chance. The Swedish have never been short on style. ●

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