

MAY 2002

# housebeautiful

special family issue

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\$3.50



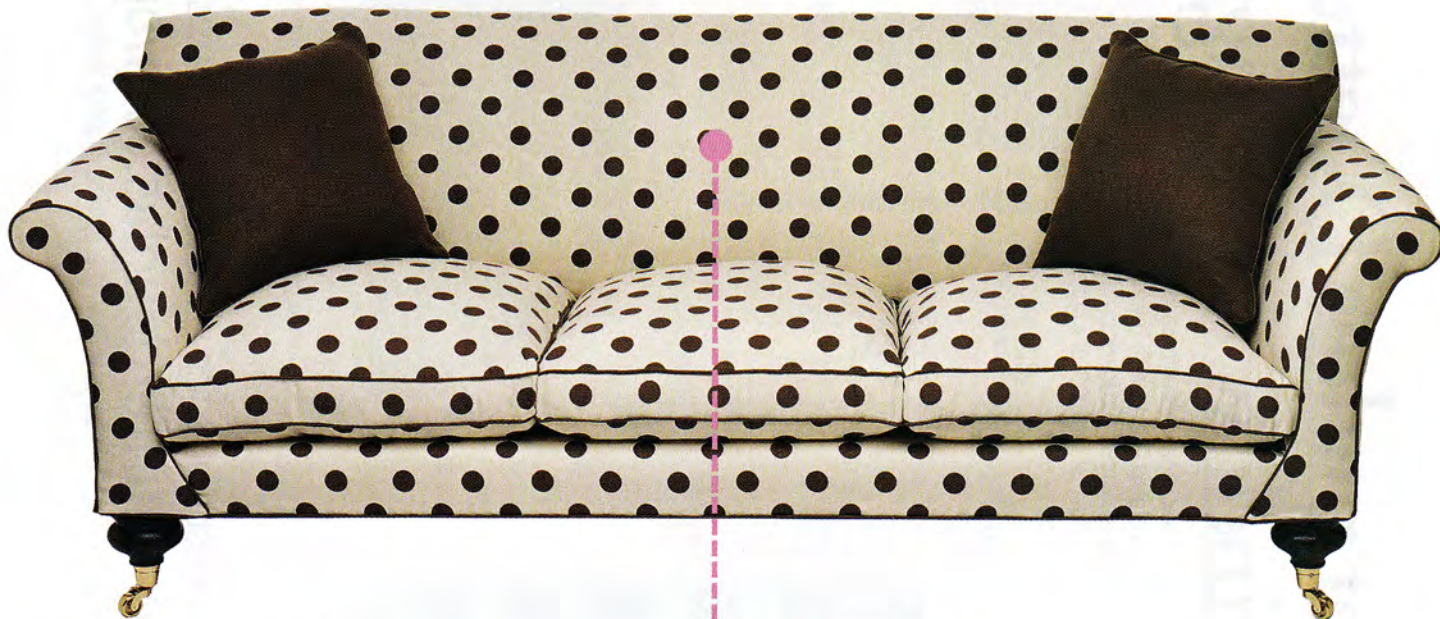


Bennison's Bollington Sofa; 90"w. x 35"d. x 33"h.

## Family Size

Bennison's Bollington sofa is big enough for almost any brood

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**T**HERE'S NO BETTER LONG-TERM INVESTMENT THAN A WELL-constructed, generously proportioned sofa with a classic shape. Bennison's three-seat, 90-inch-long Bollington sofa has it all: comfy down-filled cushions, a tight back, and a silhouette that suits almost every decorating scheme, from modern to traditional. We decided to test-drive it in nine family-friendly, nonsynthetic fabrics that stand up to sticky fingers and errant Cheerios. We also added two 20-inch-square throw pillows for contrast (and the occasional afternoon nap). Our upholstery expert, Carl Dellatore of D & F Workroom, helped us nail down specifics.

**China Seas' Charade (#2120-01)**  
in brown on untinted linen through  
Quadrille, 100% linen; 54"w.

We ran this polka-dot pattern across the seat and back, which saved yardage. A single row of dots runs across all edges of the seat cushions and along the bottom of the frame. Solid brown linen welting along the seat and bottom edge of the frame anchors the busy pattern; we used the same linen on the pillows. Dark colors always pull the eye in on a horizontal piece.





**Robert Allen @ Home's Hill and Dale by Susan Sargent; 100% cotton; 54" w.** Because its repeat is small, this horizontal zigzag pattern was railroaded across the sofa's seat and back. We found a cotton broadcloth in the print's darkest hue for the pillows, which are trimmed in a pale pink linen, sewn with a half-inch fan-edge French knife pleat. The pleats echo the fabric's wavy pattern.

**Brunschwig & Fils' Oh Susannah (#79530-207) in sky blue; 51% linen, 49% cotton; 54" w.** We centered this summery pattern's white orchids on each seat cushion and both arms. For pillows and welting, we chose inexpensive lime-green linen.



**Raoul Textiles' Kala (#132B81) in plum through AM Collections; 100% linen; 49" w.** The repeat in this large-scale floral is slightly irregular. You must lay out the fabric on the sofa before choosing where to match the pattern. The tiny leaves are picked up in the pillows' jade green linen; crisp welting is in bright red linen.

**Bennison's Dragon Flower in original on beige, 70% linen, 30% cotton; 55" w.** This tree of life print features two large organic motifs, both of which are centered on the sofa's back. Because the print is so elaborate, there was no need to get matchy-matchy; the trim is self welt. A simple red linen on the pillows echoes the red in the print; the gold pom-pom trim repeats the fabric's circular swirls.

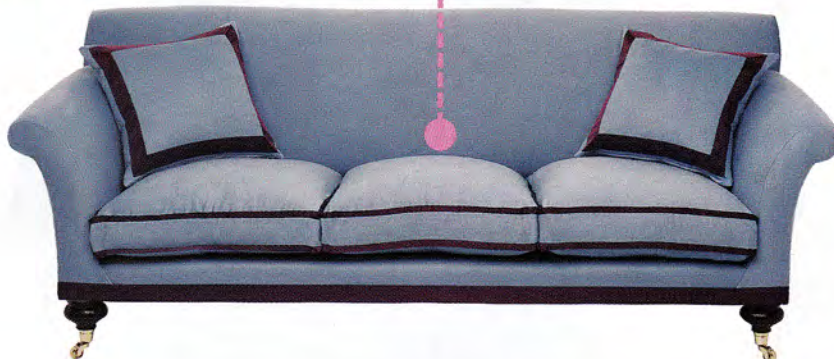






**Kravet's #13649 in color 505; 100% cotton; 54" w.** We eyeballed the fabric as it came off the bolt, so that the dark blue stripe would run vertically, making the sofa look taller. The fabric was cut on the bias for the welting and the pillows, which required extra yardage. An inch-wide hot-pink raffia trim outlines the pillows.

**Manuel Canovas's Le Drap (#4419-60) in mer through Cowtan & Tout; 100% wool; 59" w.** A solid fabric demands clever details to add interest. Two-inch-wide purple grosgrain ribbon was applied along the bottom of the frame; for the pillows, it was mitered and inset one inch. On the seat cushions, we folded the ribbon in half to make a flange trim. The sofa's arms have no welting, which makes for a clean look.



**John Robshaw's #JRLC 31 through AM Collections; 60% linen, 40% cotton; 58" w.** This hand-blocked lattice print is slightly irregular in color saturation, so we were careful to lay out the pattern evenly. To complement the fabric's soft, washed look, we used no welting. We trimmed the pillows in a half-inch looped brown raffia.

**Donghia's Espadrille in color 04 Monaco; 100% cotton; 54" w.** The asymmetrical repeat of the stripes did not fit the sofa's width evenly. To make it symmetrical, we cut the stripe and seamed it so that the pattern would line up in the center of the sofa back. To match the stripes, we flipped one side of the seam upside down to create a mirror image. For contrast, we ran the stripes vertically on the sofa back and horizontally on the cushion edges and pillows. To keep the look modern, we used no trim.



tips

Nuts & Bolts

- Before choosing fabrics for furniture that gets lots of wear and tear, think about cleanability. Many fabrics can be prewashed for easier spot-cleaning or fiber-sealed for stain resistance. Check with your upholsterer.
- To make horizontal furniture look taller, use fabrics with vertical patterns and add contrasting pillows in corners to draw the eye in.
- Sofas with loose seat and back cushions are comfortable, but they tend to look sloppy with lots of use. A sofa with a tight back and loose seat cushions is still comfortable but has a neater look.
- Furniture on casters tends to roll. To make sure your sofa doesn't take off, put skid pads under the legs or make sure the two front legs are resting on your carpet.

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