

VIBIEFFE PRODUCTION

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Vibieffe >>

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Vibieffe production choices result from the values it wants to favor.

Everybody talks about “quality”. However, as for a sofa, quality often seems to lie exclusively in the quality of what is visible to the naked eye, such as an attractive shape or a nice fabric. People buy a sofa that they like. It looks truly comfortable, however, after a few months nothing but a rickety piece is left in the middle of their sitting room.

Vibieffe obviously pays an exceptional attention not only to the aesthetic quality of its sofas but to that of their frames as well.

Vibieffe sofa frames are conceived industrially. Products are built up to be systems.

Let’s see together what’s the meaning of this statement.

PRODUCTION STEPS

The manufacturing steps of our upholstered furniture are as follows:

1. Material arrival and control of frames’ quality
2. Elastic belting operations
3. Coupling
4. Lining
5. Fabric cutting
6. Sewing and quality control
7. Cushion machining
8. Assembly, quality control and packing

1. MATERIAL ARRIVAL AND CONTROL OF FRAMES’ QUALITY



Frames are checked upon arrival and stored in our warehouse, favoring a “just in time” logic as well as a quick rotation.

As previously mentioned, our frames are conceived and manufactured on an industrial basis. A frame is just built up to be a frame: no production “scrap” is used to this purpose. Vibieffe sofas are considered as industrially conceived products and not as artisan-like items.

Let’s see the reason why.

In the first place, the materials we favor in our manufacturing process are: first rate multilayer boards or solid fir, just because of their features of long service life and stress resistance.

Fir, when too knotty, is certainly less expensive (and, once again, this is not visible to the naked eye), but it cracks if subjected to stress. Conversely, multilayer offers the ironware we employ the best possible wear-worthiness.



Frames are pantographed and drilled. All this takes place using numerical control equipment, so as to achieve the utmost precision and uniformity in our cutting and drilling operations. This guarantees as well that the products' final look will result steady at all times.



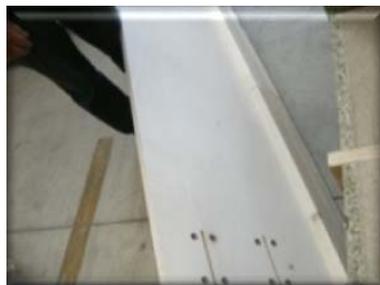
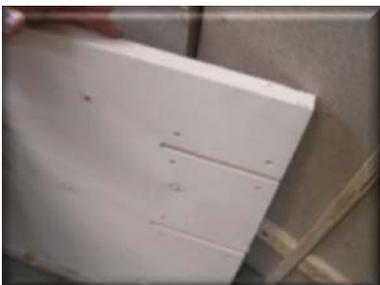
In certain models, the stress brought about by the weight falling onto the back or seat front leads Vibieffe to offer its customers special guarantees. Therefore, frames are reinforced with double layers of material, so that the maximum resistance is ensured.



Here are two further examples of concealed quality: on the left, the back is made by a single piece in multilayer. Manufacturing it in more than one piece or in chipboard would have been less expensive and demanding; however, such a long piece (290 cm) in chipboard would have warped and, in a short time, one seating portion would have tilted more than another one.



Conversely, the element on the right is the front portion of a sofa, for which a metal reinforcement was conceived in order to prevent its front portion from deforming. Needless to say, this is also an option aiming at ensuring a far better quality.



Till further details of our first grade fir (overall homogeneous) as well as our care in the frame shaping should also be noticed.

2. ELASTIC BELTING

One of the peculiarities of Vibieffe is represented by its unidirectional belting by means of 80 mm belts with reduced pitch. Its unidirectional belting ensures homogeneous comfort over the whole sofa width (even when one is sitting in between two cushions).



Our belt quality lies in its high rubber percentage (less rubber, lower cost but lower elasticity, too, therefore such belts are at higher risk of slackening quickly).



The width and the reduced pitch (i.e. the distance between one belt and the other) of our belts avoid an excess belt torsion whose tendency would be to cut, in the long run, the above cushion. It is apparent that, like this, the tensile strength and consequently the frame stress become considerably higher.



As a consequence (see picture on the right), our belts are fixed by means of a double fastening, such that the frame stress is sensibly reduced and our belts will certainly not tear off.



A noise absorbing stripe is fixed on top of the two only transverse belts, such to avoid the unpleasant noise due to friction whenever one sits down (on the other hand, the sofa frame serves as a sound box, thus amplifying the noise) and prevent our belts from wearing in the overlapping positions.



3. COUPLING



In this stage, our frames are padded with layers in polyurethane foam. On the right, you see our glue booth. In the past, layers used to be stored in our warehouse as in the picture on the left. Such a system brought about a little mess and increased handling costs.



As of today, Vibieffe stocks up with “kits” of layers that are already arranged and packed in accordance with the type of sofa (see picture). This ensures more accuracy, more tidiness, and lower handling costs.



4. LINING

Here are a few details showing the shaping of the linings in velveteen coupled with a resin-bonded material of a Vibieffe sofa. Drawing a right angle would be easier and faster, however excess fabric might result in unaesthetic reliefs when sewing around the corners. Conversely, the mathematical precision of our frame lining should be noticed in the pictures that follow.



Another important quality factor just lies in the selection we make for the velveteen coupled with a resin-bonded material. In fact, the material we employ is pre-sheated. This means that the velveteen coupled with the resin-bonded material selected by Vibieffe is subjected to a process which makes its thickness perfectly even and uniform to the full advantage of the final aesthetic side of its products.

The final result of our piece in its “blank” form (without fabric) is of peerless tidiness and extraordinary beauty.





It is worth emphasizing the special processing adopted by Vibieffe in certain models to fasten the velveteen with Moltoprene (black fabric) to the sofa frame.

In fact, the lining tends to come off and the velveteen to flake off when removing the set of cushions from the sofa (attached with Velcro strips), whenever one wants to fluff the cushions up or wash the linings.

The wear progress is considerably slowed down if the lining is fastened to the lower frame.

We ask our customers to remove the cushions using their best possible care, and pulling them off the frame extremely gently. Like this, the linings of Vibieffe sofas will remain well preserved for a long time.



5. FABRIC CUTTING

Vibieffe recently purchased a further new machinery to cut fabrics. (It is employed for leather as well). From the quality point of view, the advantages offered by such an avant-garde equipment lie mainly in:



- the opportunity to computerize our cutting templates, thus eliminating our far less precise cardboard templates.
- the optimization of the machining time for our cutting operations as far as very large orders are concerned (in fact, virtual templates can be arranged by the computer automatically, thus reducing scraps and waste).

- the perfect matching of the fabric repetitive patterns carried out by the computer itself.
- the cutting exactness thanks to its rotary blades which eliminate easy fraying.



6. SEWING AND QUALITY CONTROL



At the same time, our sewing station serves as a further quality control point, where possible faults are rectified right off.



7. CUSHION MACHINING



Our sofa is on its way to taking its final shape. The various kinds of cushions are stored in our warehouse. Each sofa model is designed to accommodate a different type of cushion so to comply with the desired shape and comfort.



Cushions in genuine feather

As far as the employed materials are concerned, many Vibieffe sofas foresee set of cushions filled with genuine feather. In the past, feather was certainly considered as a first-rate, breathable, natural material, etc; however, the production cycle of feather cushions was not enough accurate: a polyurethane thin mattress was positioned in between two feather layers; however, this wasn't usually fastened to anything and therefore tended to move inside the cushion itself bringing about its deformation when the sofa was being used. As a consequence, feather was not considered as a so-to-say valuable material for some time, let alone all that feather without certification (because of its obscure provenance or because not duly treated) that helped (and still helps) create puzzlement about such excellent material.



Talking about feather quality, Vibieffe only stocks up cushions certified and guaranteed by Assopiuma, in other words, only highest grade goose feathers, duly subjected to processes of dust removing, sterilizing and drying, which ensure an anallergic product.



As for the quality of our seat cushions in feather, this application has considerably improved. Our cushion is filled with feathers, then glued onto a polyurethane cushion, with additional reinforcements in the proper density, if need be. The whole thing is then stuffed into a lining in 100% cotton.



Vibieffe cushions can be always inspected.

A feather cushion always needs a little extra maintenance and has to be regularly fluffed up, otherwise feathers tend to come out of the lining (to be honest, considering this kind of material, some individual feather will always tend to come out once in a while, however this event is limited and quite normal)

Cushions in polyurethane foam



Cushions made from polyurethane foam are covered with a lining in 100% cotton, supported by an acrylic lapping. They offer a firmer, less soft comfort and do not need maintenance. Cushions made from polyurethane foam usually foresee various density grades, according to the reinforcement that each sofa design has to have in its



centre, front or rear portion.

It should be noticed that polyurethane foam cushions, after a few weeks' use, lose some of their carrying capacity; after that, however, they even out, stabilize and become slightly softer. This is no fault at all, it is instead the normal behavior of such material because of its nonstop use.

Memofill



Memofill is a new material obtained by drilling holes into our bed's cushions (see picture); it blends the feather softness with the polyurethane elasticity. It is stuffed, too, inside thin mattresses positioned on the supporting polyurethane cushions, thus preventing them from deforming.



In the same way as pillows on which we sleep are constructed to be breathable, anallergic and capable to memorize our head's shape, sofa cushions, too, feature these very same characteristics for the user's benefit.



8. ASSEMBLY, QUALITY CONTROL AND PACKING

Assembly and quality control



Well, we have arrived into our assembly division, where our professional workers complete our sofa manufacturing process.



The crucial ironware pieces are manufactured with utmost accuracy expressly for Vibieffe: plates are laser cut to ensure uniformity and exactness. Hardware is galvanized to avoid rust and mechanisms are conceived by Vibieffe to accomplish final requirements.



User's instructions referring to our products are attached to every single piece; lately, to avoid any risk or misunderstanding, instructions for opening and closing sofa-beds are being additionally glued directly onto their metal frames.

Every mechanism is tested before packing.



Packing and delivery



Here is our warehouse, where our products are packed pending delivery.

Packing in export triple cardboard boxes (more expensive but extra strong) is employed for products for consignment both abroad and on a national scale.

Vibieffe special packing features, which are also industrially conceived, consist of a central element to which two side boxes are further fastened. Such perfect modularity optimizes the cardboard use and avoids waste.



Our sofa is ready to reach your family's home interior.....

