



CAL 117 CHANGING

In 1975, California released Technical Bulletin 117 (CAL-117), which defined the standard for flame resistance in upholstery foam and material. The test involved exposing the material to a candle like flame, and a passing score was required in order to be legally sold in California. California is one of several states who set policy and standards for the nation because of how much they use. The test requirements of the CAL-117 standard had the result of making all foam intended for sale in the US to have a large amount of flame retardant chemicals added in the manufacturing process. Since this rule was enacted, there have been claims that the chemicals in the flame retardant additives were dangerous to humans and the environment. These claims focused on birth defects and mutagenic or cancer causing properties. There was enough evidence to get some of them banned as being shown to cause cancer.

But the most troubling aspect of upholstery foam in current use is that, according to the Chicago Tribune and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), these chemicals do not slow or prevent the spread of fire. If there is a risk to the customer's health, and no apparent benefit, continued use of the flame retardants would have to be called squarely into question.

Which seems to be the core of California's decision process. Due to the risks, lack of benefit, and trends that make continued use of chemicals to fix problems, the time to revamp CAL 117 has come. The end result, for consumers, should be a better flame resistance, a more realistic standard, and less risk from chemical exposure. Additionally, the removal of flame retardants could cause the price to drop, as the chemical additives are approximately 5% of the total cost, but some in the industry are not expecting it to happen. In part this is because of the other flame standards.

The most commonly used would be the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, commonly known as FMVSS. This standard will still require the use of flame retardant chemicals. While some foams are more exclusive, many in the automotive aftermarket use 'upholstery' foam in vehicles - and as a result, many of the foam products made for the upholstery trade meet both the CAL 117 and the MVSS standards. By not revamping the federal standard, the end result is the same; potentially ineffective and dangerous chemicals remain in the foam product.

We at DLT applaud the move to make the industry safer. We will be keeping up with the situation, and providing more information as the situation develops - and when the new standards are released, we will cover their meaning and impact on the foam products you use on a daily basis. This is information that will be important to your customers, and if you have any questions, we are ready to help clear the confusion over fire resistance, foam, and any other topic.

Highlights:

- ◆ Furniture foam must meet the CAL 117 flame spec
- ◆ The chemicals in flame retardants can be very dangerous, even causing cancer
- ◆ New information questions if these chemicals even work
- ◆ California will revamp their standard to remove the chemicals, and make foam safer
- ◆ This will not impact any multi-use foam or the non-furniture foams (auto, aviation, etc.)
- ◆ While it should cause a price drop, even some foam distributors don't expect that to happen.

2013 Catalog Now Available!



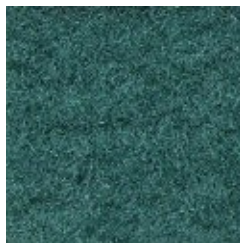
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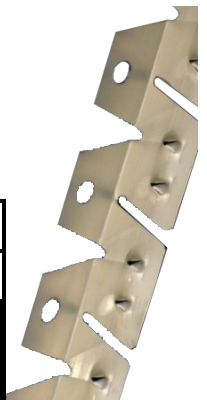
6' Retails at \$34.98
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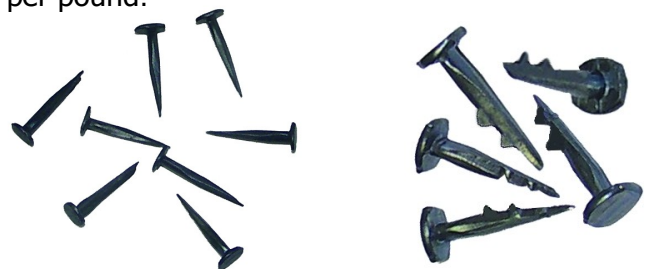
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Get Tack-y!

DLT Upholstery tacks are the classic blued & sterilized steel tacks. We offer standard leather tacks, barbed webbing tacks as well as the smaller gimp tacks. Tacks are sized in ounces, and that refers to the thickness of the leather the tack is used to clinch. The size of the tack and weight of the box are different, and should not be confused.

We carry tacks from 1.5 to 18 ounces, as well as webbing and gimp tacks. Upholstery tacks retail from **\$22.00** to **\$33.98** per pound. Gimp tacks retail at \$20.00 per pound, and webbing tacks retail at **\$13.00** per pound!



Online at <http://dltcorp.uberflip.com/i/111611>

It May Still Be Cold Out There, But SEMmer Is Coming

SEM's 77743 XXX Gun Cleaner is a heavy-duty cleaning solvent and paint gun cleaner. SEM 77743 quickly removes grease, adhesives, dirt, grime and paint overspray from metal surfaces and spray equipment. It is important to note that that SEM 77743 is not recommended for use on plastic or painted surfaces as it may soften and discolor the substrate. Yeah, it's that powerful! It literally eats the excess and caked on glue to get even the worst gun back to functionality with ease. SEM XXX retails at **\$16.98**.

SEM's line of Trim Black is the industry standard for restoring faded and peeling exterior trim parts. Perfect for use on grills, wiper housings, mirror housings and window trim. Easy to apply with the quality and reliability you have come to expect and demand from SEM Products. The line comes in gloss and flat black, as well as a charcoal metallic. SEM trim blacks retail at **\$23.98 - \$29.98**.

SEM 39003 Euro Trim Black is a new addition to the SEM trim line. SEM 39003 is a satin black coating formulated for maximum coverage and matches the color of many of today's foreign model automobiles. In addition, the SEM 39003 has a new comfort spray tip that sprays both vertically and horizontally with a spray gun fan pattern. SEM 39003 retails at **\$23.98** per can.



Don't forget the SEM Soap! Cleans and prepares vinyl for re-coloring with any SEM product! Retailers for only **\$26.78!**

DLT Open House Update!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone **June 7 & 8** for the first DLT Open House! So far we have confirmed SEM, Leggett & Platt, Marlen Textiles, Outdura, Nassimi, Rontex, Kee Top, Futura and Vicar will be here, and are waiting to hear back from several more vendors.

The first reminder cards are headed out now! We hope to start hearing back soon confirming that you will be joining us.

We will be running a staple gun repair clinic on-site, while you wait! Bring your gun, and Rob will check it out and replace any missing O-rings! Look forward to seeing you!





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THE HOG RING

10 Questions for Sue of 'Fast N Loud' - Part 1

By Nadeem Muaddi, Trimmer & Founder of TheHogRing.com

Thanks to a regular appearance on Discovery Channel's hit TV show Fast N' Loud, Yu-Lan Haiso Martin – known the world over as "Sue" – has become the most recognizable figure in auto upholstery. Fans of the show tune in each week to revel in her witty humor and relentless bashing of costars Richard and Aaron of Gas Monkey Garage. However, it's not just her highly charismatic personality that keeps viewers coming back for more. Sue is, in fact, a talented trimmer who always manages to breathe new life into the "junk" interiors that customers bring her.

Of course, Sue's success cannot be simply attributed to a television show. On the contrary, she has earned her stripes the old fashioned way: hard work. Sue founded her shop, ASM Auto Upholstery, 23 years ago after immigrating to the United States from Taiwan and teaching herself the craft. Since then, she has worked day and night – sometimes even sleeping in her garage – to build a strong reputation for quality and dependability. Sue's hard work has certainly paid off. Today, she operates a busy nine-person auto upholstery shop in Dallas, TX; stars in a hit reality TV show about the auto restoration industry; and is revered by peers and car enthusiasts alike. As her website states, "Sue is an example of the true American dream."

We are proud to interview Sue of Fast N' Loud and ASM Auto Upholstery for this installment of our "10 Questions" series.



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1. How long have you been an auto upholsterer for? How and where did you learn the craft?

23 years, a friend introduced me to the industry. I learned the craft by working side by side with my first employee, Adan De La Rosa, who has since passed away.

2. How did you link up with the fellas of Gas Monkey Garage and get involved in the whole Fast N' Loud project?

Richard's shop was down the street when he came by and saw our quality work and decided to use us. That was 12 years ago and we've had a business relationship since.



The Hog Ring is the #1 blog and online community for auto upholstery professionals. Here you can read industry news, search jobs and connect with others who share your passion for auto upholstery.

Email: info@duboisfabrics.com
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