How to Restore & Reline a Lamp Shade

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Many lampshades are conical with fabric on both top and the lining. You need to replace the outer fabric if it is fragile and has holes. Conversely, if the liner fabric is torn, you need to replace the liner fabric without damaging the outer fabric. Unscrew the finial and remove the lampshade. Clean the shade thoroughly with a soft brush and vacuum cleaner. Matching the lining and trims gives you the best visibility of the current color of the shade. It is difficult to match color since there are many variations of off white on most shades and linings. Check the front fabric of the shade. Don't remove the shade if it is in good condition. Remove and attach a stable new fabric carefully if you want to keep the fabric when the shade is fragile with small areas of damage. Remove the decorative tape that is glued or sewn on the top and bottom edges of the shade. Set the tape aside for reuse. Usually, manufacturers glue the tape about 2 inches long and about 1/2 inch wider at the top framing cross members. Now, remove this tape, and set it aside. Lift and peel the lining fabric to overlap the front decorative fabric. Carefully lift the lining again since it is probably glued on. Slide the liner out of the frame from the bottom. Remove the fabric from the shade in case you want to save your existing decor fabric. Open the two seams of the lining fabric. Iron this fabric to retain its original shape as soon as possible. Open the seam on the decor fabric. Flatten the edges of the seams and areas where the fabric wraps over the frame once the decor fabric is shirred or pleated. Peel the back fabric off an iron-on fabric adhesive sheet. Place the decor fabric face down, and then place the sticky side of the sheet over it. Place scrap cotton fabric over the sheet. Iron the sheet until it adheres to the back of the decor fabric. Make decor fabric face side down. The backing was peeled off the adhesive sheet. Place the lining fabric face side up. Use scrap cotton fabric to cover the lining fabric. Iron the fabric to add the decor fabric to the stable lining fabric. Now, cut the lining fabric and make sure it can match the edges of the decor fabric. Flip the decor fabric face sides together and stitch the seams together. Install the fabric on the frame and align it with one of the frames. Apply a layer of glue to the top of the wrapped frame and bend the fabric to its original position. Allow the glue to dry completely. Hold the fabric to the frame tightly with bulldog clamps. Do the same for the bottom edge. Place the new liner material under the old and secure the fabric together. Each piece requires cutting around the old liner. Make sure the new liner pieces face sides, and sew the seams, and trim the seams short to 1/8 inch. Slide the liner into the frame. Put the seam side toward the back of the decor fabric. Make sure the finished side of the seams face the light bulb. Glue the decor fabric at the top edge of the frame to fit the top of liner. Hold the fabric in place with bulldog before the glue dries. Do the same for the bottom edge. Place the short pieces of tape under a framing cross member. Replace the old trims with new or glue the trims back into place. Useful tip: Please stretch the inner liner to leave an air pocket between the inner and outer shade that will diffuse the light and soften its look.