Eames Fiberglass Chairs

Charles & Ray Eames, 1950

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In 1948, Charles and Ray Eames participated in the ‚International Competition for Low-Cost Furniture Design' organised by the New York Museum of Modern Art, entering a chair with a seat shell moulded to fit the contours of the human body along with a concept for a variety of bases. Their design won second prize. However, the metal shell proved too complex and expensive to achieve successful mass production.

The couple's search for alternative materials eventually led them to glass-fibre reinforced polyester resin, which until then had been primarily restricted to military applications such as aircraft radomes and cockpit covers. The Eameses recognised and fully exploited the advantages of fibreglass: mouldability, rigidity and suitability for industrial manufacturing methods. With this material, which was previously unknown in the furniture industry, they successfully developed the moulded seat shells for mass production: the Fiberglass Chair was born. Its organically shaped, one-piece shell proved to be a much-admired innovation at a time when chairs typically consisted of a seat and backrest. Fibreglass offered the added advantage of pleasant tactile qualities and a perfectly moulded form for optimal comfort.

Charles and Ray developed a striking series of individual bases that could be freely combined with these shells – such as the Eiffel Tower version made of welded steel wire or the wooden base reinforced with metal struts. This combination of revolutionary seat shells and innovative bases gave the chair family the iconic traits that are still instantly recognisable today.

Charles and Ray attached great importance to the use of colours – as fibreglass had previously only existed in a colourless version. They consequently spent many days in the factory, mixing hues for countless prototypes in their efforts to create colours that best accentuated the organic shape of both shell forms – with and without armrests – in a range of coordinated shades. The first colours developed by the Eameses were greige (a mix of grey and beige), elephant hide grey (to which Charles was referring when he said ‚What I really want is a black with feeling') and the slightly transparent tone parchment. Colours such as sea foam green, yellow, ochre and red followed shortly after in the very early days of production.

The Fiberglass Chairs were launched on the market in 1950, introducing a new furniture typology that has since become widespread: the multifunctional chair whose shell can be combined with a variety of bases to serve different purposes. In response to the enormous popularity of the chair, the choice of bases and colours was subsequently expanded. Over the course of the following decades, the Fiberglass Chairs became one of the best known furniture designs of the twentieth century.

The Eames Fiberglass Chairs are available alongside the Eames Plastic Chairs with polypropylene shells. Together the two chair groups form an extensive family, enabling countless variations of the classic Eames design, with a suitable version for almost every taste and purpose.

Contents

Eames Fiberglass Chair

Overview of models

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Wood Base

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair
DSW

Eames Fiberglass Armchair
DAW

Rod Base

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair
DSR

Eames Fiberglass Armchair
DAR

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair
LSR

Eames Fiberglass Armchair
LAR

Eames Fiberglass Armchair
RAR

X-Tube Base

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair
DSX

Eames Fiberglass Armchair
DAX

Eames Fiberglass Chair
Stool Medium

Eames Fiberglass Chair
Stool High

La Fonda Base

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair
DSL

Eames Fiberglass Armchair
DAL

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Dining at home – or eating out
The Fiberglass Chairs are exceptionally robust and durable. This classic design is not only ideally suited for home dining rooms, but can also be used in upscale restaurants, canteens and cafeterias.

- **Seat shell:** dyed-through, glass-fibre reinforced polyester (fibreglass). Just like the earliest models, today's fibreglass shells are also slightly transparent in some colours.
  Fiberglass Chairs available with seat cushion (screwed to the shell).

Materials DAW
- **Base:** non-stackable wooden base in various shades of maple or honey-toned ash, stained and lacquered finish. Steel rod cross struts in basic dark. (DAW = Dining Height Armchair Wood Base)

Materials DSW
- **Base:** non-stackable wooden base in various shades of maple or honey-toned ash, stained and lacquered finish. Steel rod cross struts in basic dark. (DSW = Dining Height Side Chair Wood Base)

Materials DAR
- **Base:** non-stacking four-legged wire base with cross struts. (DAR = Dining Height Armchair Rod Base)

Materials DSL
- **Base:** La Fonda base in polished die-cast aluminium. (DSL = Dining Height Side Chair La Fonda Base)

Materials DSR
- **Base:** non-stacking four-legged wire base with cross struts. (DSR = Dining Height Side Chair Rod Base)

Materials DAX
- **Base:** non-stacking four-legged tubular steel base. (DAX = Dining Height Armchair X-Base)

Materials DSX
- **Base:** non-stacking four-legged tubular steel base. (DSX = Dining Height Side Chair X-Base)

Materials DAL
- **Base:** La Fonda base in die-cast aluminium, polished or powder-coated finish. (DAL = Dining Height Armchair La Fonda Base)

DAW DSW DAR DSL DSX DAL

Living
The iconic RAR (Rocking Armchair Rod Base) and LAR (Lounge Height Armchair Rod Base) in fibreglass are compact but expressive lounge chairs.

- **Seat shell:** dyed-through, glass-fibre reinforced polyester (fibreglass). Just like the earliest models, today's fibreglass shells are also slightly transparent in some colours. Fiberglass Chairs available with seat cushion (screwed to the shell).

Materials RAR
- **RAR base:** wire base with cross struts, solid maple runners. (RAR = Rocking Armchair Rod Base)
- **Origin of wood:** maple (Acer platanoides) from Western Europe and/or Poland.

Materials LAR
- **LAR base:** wire base with cross struts, chrome-plated or powder-coated finish. Seat height 256 mm. (LAR = Lounge Height Armchair, Rod Base)

Materials LSR
- **LSR Base:** wire base with cross struts, chrome-plated or powder-coated finish. Seat height 260 mm. (LSR = Lounge Height Side Chair, Rod Base)

LSR

LAR

RAR

The Fiberglass Chairs by Charles and Ray Eames were the very first industrially made plastic chairs. Their organically shaped seat shells are available with a variety of different bases. The four-legged base of the Eames Fiberglass Stool comes in a choice of two heights: medium for standard kitchen counters and high for standing-height tables. The base is equipped with a footrest and has a black powder-coated or chrome-plated finish.

Materials Fiberglass Stool High
- **Base:** tubular steel, chrome-plated or powder-coated, non-stackable. Height of seat front edge: 820 mm; ideal for use at counters and tables 110 to 115 cm in height (without seat cushion). The powder-coated version may show signs of abrasion on the footrest due to the anti-slip coating.

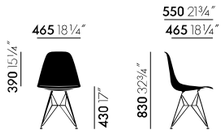
Materials Fiberglass Stool Medium
- **Base:** tubular steel, chrome-plated or powder-coated, non-stackable. Height of seat front edge: 700 mm; ideal for use at counters and tables 95 to 100 cm in height (without seat cushion). The powder-coated version may show signs of abrasion on the footrest due to the anti-slip coating.

Stool High

Stool Medium

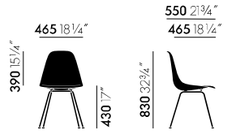
Dimensions

(in accordance with EN 1335-1:2000)

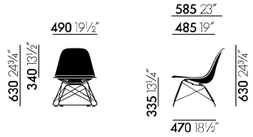


Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR

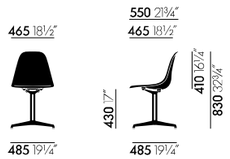
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW



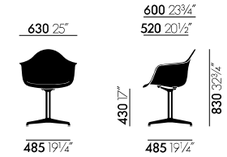
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX



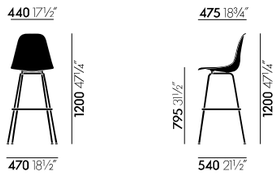
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair LSR



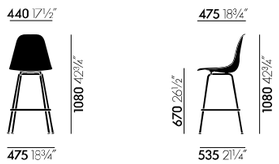
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSL



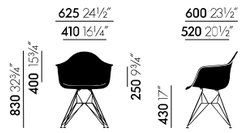
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DAL



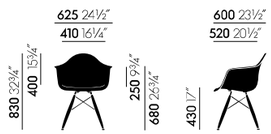
Eames Fiberglass Stool High



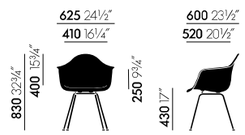
Eames Fiberglass Stool Medium



Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAR

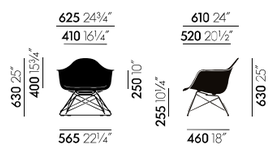


Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAW



Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAX

Eames Fiberglass Armchair RAR



Eames Fiberglass Armchair LAR

Colours and materials

05
Eames Sea Foam Green

Fibreglass

Fibreglass is a very robust and durable fibre composite made of polyester resin and glass fibres. The glass fibres visible in the plastic lend it a lively surface texture with a lustrous reflection and pleasant tactile qualities. This so-called 'fibreprint' may not only vary between different products but can also be a distinguishing characteristic of individual models of the same product. These tiny irregularities and distinctive features are what make each object a unique piece.

When manufacturing fibreglass, Vitra uses materials from Central Europe to avoid long transport distances.

Seat shell (Eames Fiberglass Side Chair)

Seat shell (Eames Fiberglass Armchair)

Metal

01
chrome

Vitra most frequently uses aluminium and steel for metal components. Since 94% less energy is required to produce recycled aluminium in comparison to primary aluminium, Vitra utilises aluminium consisting of 95% recycled material whenever possible.
Depending on the product, metal surfaces are either powder-coated, chrome-plated, polished, galvanised, lacquered or blasted. A smooth or textured powder-coated finish provides colour and surface protection.

01
chrome

04
white powder-coated (smooth)

30
basic dark powder-coated (smooth)

Base DSR, DSX, LSR
Base DAR, DAX, LAR
Base DAL, DSL
Wire base RAR

Solid Wood

65
honey-toned ash

Wood is characterised by variations in grain, texture and colour, making each wooden furnishing a unique object. Vitra has strict quality standards for the woods selected for its products and uses wood from several trees for the manufacture of a single furniture object made of solid wood. As a result, every piece has a lively and distinctive appearance.
The solid woods used by Vitra are mainly sourced in Europe and have an oiled or lacquered finish, depending on their application. Exposure to light will alter the colour of wood over time.

65
honey-toned ash

02
golden maple

95
dark maple

30
black maple

Base DAW

Cover materials
Hopsak Medium use, F60

Hopsak is an expressive, flat plain-weave fabric made of polyamide. The duotone colours offer a multitude of design possibilities in high-contrast, brightly hued or subtle combinations of warp and weft threads. Highly durable and robust, Hopsak can be used in private interiors as well as public areas.

Hopsak is available in 35 colours.

Material	100% polyamide
Weight	550 g/m² (16.2 oz/y²)
Width	127 cm +/- 2 cm (50")
Abrasion resistance	200,000 Martindale
Fastness to light	Type 6
Pilling	Grade 4–5
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4–5 dry and wet

16
yellow/ivory

71
yellow/pastel green

69
grass green/ivory

70
grass green/forest

86
mint/forest

20
green/ivory

87
ivory/forest

80
warm grey/moor brown

23
nero/ivory

85
mint/ivory

81
ice blue/ivory

83
blue/ivory

84
blue/moor brown

22
sea blue/dark grey

73
petrol/moor brown

75
dark blue/moor brown

77
nero/forest

82
ice blue/moor brown

25
sea blue/ivory

74
dark blue/ivory

79
warm grey/ivory

17
nude/ivory

88
cognac/ivory

18
mustard/ivory

19
mustard/dark grey

05
dark grey

24
dark grey/nero

66
nero

67
poppy red/ivory

68
pink/poppy red

65
coral/poppy red

63
red/poppy red

96
red/cognac

62
red/moor brown

76
marron/moor brown

Checker Residential use, F200

The soft double weave fabric, with a high percentage of cotton, demonstrates exceptional purity of colour and its geometric pattern lends a striking note to any environment.

Material	23% polyester, 77% cotton
Weight	467 g/m² (13.8 oz/y²)
Width	140 cm (55″)
Abrasion resistance	20,000 Martindale
Fastness to light	Type 6
Pilling	Grade 4–5
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4–5 dry and wet

01
black/white