

Lounge Chair & Ottoman

Charles & Ray Eames, 1956



vitra.



Eames Lounge Chair & Ottoman staged at the Eames House, Pacific Palisades, California © Eames Foundation, 2023

Lounge Chair

Charles & Ray Eames, 1956



„Why don't we make an updated version of the old English club chair?" With this comment, Charles Eames initiated the development of the Lounge Chair, a process that took several years. The design was intended to pair ultimate comfort with the highest quality in materials and craftsmanship, incorporating the combined expertise and insights Charles and Ray Eames had gained from all their past projects. The 1956 launch of the Lounge Chair set new standards: it was not only lighter, more elegant and more modern than the conventionally ponderous club chair, it was also more comfortable – not least because it was the first armchair to feature a swivel base. These characteristics led it to become one of the best known designs by Charles and Ray Eames and an iconic piece of contemporary furniture.

True to the spirit of the Eameses, Vitra has now further refined many details of the Lounge Chair, drawing on decades of production experience and ensuring its sustainability for the future.

There are now six different veneer options to choose from for the wooden shells – with the exception of palisander, all the wood is now sourced in Europe. The composition of the inner layers of the veneer shells has also been revised with a view to sustainability and the face veneer or surface is now treated with a water-based varnish instead of a polyurethane coating.

The fabric and leather covers can be removed for cleaning or replacement. And all the individual elements – wooden shells, covers in many colours and bases – can be freely combined. Thanks to this choice of new options, armchairs can be configured with an unprecedented level of customisation, making it easy to find the right Lounge Chair and Ottoman for every taste and need.

1-5	Eames Lounge Chair & Ottoman	14-15	3 frame and base options	44	Spare parts, cleaning and maintenance
6-7	2664 possible configurations	20-31	Curated recommendations		
8-9	Lounge Chair and Ottoman in two sizes	32-37	Colours and materials	45	Quality, longevity and Vitra product warranty
12-13	6 wood veneers	40-43	Sustainable materials		



6
Wood versions

2
Heights

2
Glide versions



37
Colours

3
Base colours

Lounge Chair & Ottoman in two sizes



Lounge Chair Classic

Lounge Chair Ottoman



Lounge Chair Contemporary

Lounge Chair Ottoman

The Lounge Chair is available from Vitra in two sizes: with classic dimensions or with new, larger measurements. The classic size is suited for people up to 184 cm in height, while the new dimensions are ideal for taller individuals.

Since the Lounge Chair first went into production, average human height has increased worldwide by nearly 10 cm. In close coordination with the Eames Office, Vitra developed the new larger version so that taller people, too, can enjoy the same exceptional comfort that Charles and Ray Eames intended with their original 1956 design.

Materials

- **Seat and back shells:** moulded plywood, face veneer. Chestnut (Central Europe), European cherry (Central Europe), Santos palisander (Bolivia; certified sustainability) or European black walnut (Southeast Europe, Central Europe).
- **Upholstery/cover:** removable cushions made of recyclable polyurethane V-Foam, removable covers in leather or fabric.
- **Seat height:** 380 mm (250 mm with applied load, measured in accordance with EN 1335-1:2000).
- **Armrests:** padded with recyclable polyurethane V-Foam, removable covers in leather or fabric. Attached to the seat and back shells with shock mounts (bonded rubber and metal connectors).

- **Base:** five-star swivel base or four-star non-swivel base (Ottoman). Both base and back braces in die-cast aluminium.
- **Glides:** all bases fitted with hard glides for carpet; felt glides optionally available for hard floors.



6 wood surface finishes



1. Chestnut, natural, lacquer finish

Chestnut exhibits prominent growth rings with an open grain that lends it a warm, inviting appearance. In the natural version, the wood has a honey-coloured tone that deepens over time into a light golden reddish-brown.

2. Walnut, natural

Known for its subtle grain, American walnut was brought to Europe centuries ago. European black walnut differs from its American counterpart due to its slightly lighter colour with more pronounced grey tones.

3. Walnut, dark

Wooden shells in dark European walnut have a refined, understated elegance. Thanks to its even grain, walnut offers a more subdued alternative to palisander, which is similarly dark but more expressive in character.

4. European cherry

European cherry has a golden yellow to reddish hue that darkens with age into a warm reddish brown. Its fine-pored texture and uniform grain give it a calm, elegant appearance.

5. Santos palisander

With its lively grain pattern, palisander was an integral part of the original design by Charles and Ray Eames and is still considered the 'classic version' today. Vitra uses santos palisander from FSC-certified forests in Bolivia.

6. Chestnut, black, lacquer finish

Even in the black lacquered version, chestnut veneer retains its warm, natural look and can be attractively paired with dark leather and fabric colours as well as the black base frame.

Base



Metal

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.

03 polished aluminium

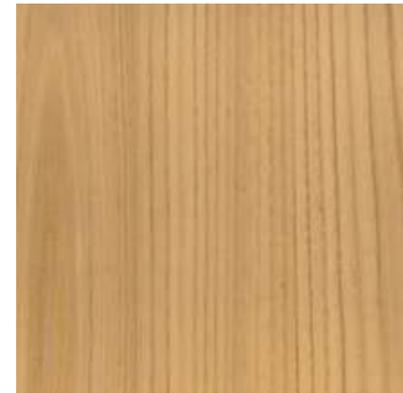
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03
polished aluminium
- 

03/12
aluminium polished/
deep black powder-coated (smooth)
- 

12
deep black powder-coated (smooth)

Seat and back shells



Veneer

Complex industrial methods are used to produce sheets of wood veneer, which are further processed by hand. In most cases, wood from a single tree is utilised for a piece of furniture to ensure the uniform appearance of all surfaces. With only two exceptions, Vitra exclusively purchases veneers with a certificate of sustainability from European producers. Vitra's veneers are finished with a protective lacquer; exposure to light will alter the colour over time.

26 Chestnut, natural, lacquer finish

- 

26
Chestnut, natural, lacquer finish
- 

31
Walnut, natural, lacquer finish
- 

27
Chestnut, black, lacquer finish
- 

28
Cherry, natural, lacquer finish
- 

32
Walnut, dark, lacquer finish
- 

05
Santos palisander, lacquer finish

Nubia Medium use, F100



Nubia is a blended fabric with a very lively, natural appearance. Its fine substructure is interspersed with voluminous bouclé yarn, which gives the fabric depth and a soft, inviting touch. The varying combinations of yarns yield either contrasting or calm colour compositions with a distinctly Mediterranean flair.

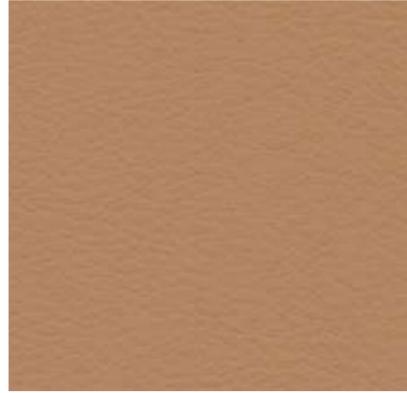
Nubia is available in 11 colours.

Material	2% polyamide, 30% new wool, 25% polyacrylics, 43% polyester
Weight	570 g/m ² (16.8 oz/y ²)
Width	140 cm (55")
Abrasion resistance	35,000 Martindale
Fastness to light	Type 5
Pilling	Grade 4
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 3-4 dry and wet

Nubia



Leather Premium F Medium use, L50



Leather Premium F is a relatively smooth cowhide leather with a flat grain and fine top sheen. It is dyed-through, lightly pigmented and processed with a tanning agent extracted from olive tree leaves (a waste product of the olive harvest).

Leather Premium F is available in 22 colours.

Material	Semi-aniline nappa leather with a very soft and supple feel, vegetable tanned
Fastness to light	Type 5
Thickness	1,1–1,3 mm
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4 dry and wet

Leather Premium F



Leather Natural Residential use, L60



Leather Natural F is a very soft cowhide leather with an untreated grain. It is porous, breathable and acquires a lively patina through use. It is processed with a tanning agent extracted from olive tree leaves (a waste product of the olive harvest), and any chemicals used are harmless and applied in the smallest possible amounts.

This sustainable aniline leather exists in a choice of 4 colours.

Material	Aniline nappa leather with a natural open-pore grain, vegetable tanned
Fastness to light	Type 3
Thickness	1,3–1,5 mm

Leather Natural F

