

Eames Fiberglass Chairs

Charles & Ray Eames, 1950



Eames Fiberglass Chairs

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.

Vitra manufactures the Fiberglass Side Chairs and Armchairs by Charles and Ray Eames in several of the early original colours. The fibreglass shells are characterised by their lively visual appeal, which is much-prized today. Fibreglass owes its charm to an irregular surface, which appears almost like a natural material thanks to its clearly visible fibres. The version with a polypropylene shell – the Eames Plastic Chair – also remains available. 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.



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.
- **Base:** non-stackable wooden base in various Fiberglass Side Chairs available with seat cushion (screwed to the shell).

Materials DAW

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 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)



DAW



DSW



DAR



DSR



DSX



DSX



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



LAR



LAR



LAR



RAR



RAR



RAR

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair with seat cushion

vitra.



Seat cushions

The Eames Fiberglass Side Chairs DSX, DSW and DSR are newly offered with an optional seat cushion, which is securely attached to the shell with screws. The cushions can be covered in Checker fabric or in the many different colours of Hopsak.





Suggested colour combinations

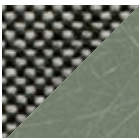
Countless colour combinations are available for the Eames Fiberglass Side Chair, with shells and seat cushions offered in a wide array of hues. Below are some suggestions for colours that harmonise particularly well with one other.



**Combinations with
Eames Sea Foam Green**

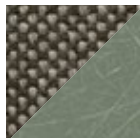


23
nero/ivory



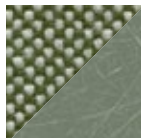
01
chrome

80
warm grey/moor brown



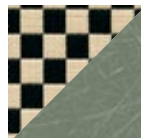
65
honey-toned ash

87
ivory/forest



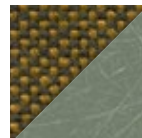
04
white powder-coated (smooth)

Checker
black/white



04
white powder-coated (smooth)

19
mustard/dark grey



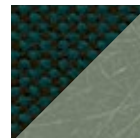
30
basic dark powder-coated (smooth)

24
dark grey/nero



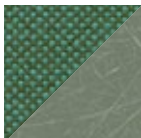
30
basic dark powder-coated (smooth)

73
petrol/moor brown



30
black maple

86
mint/forest



30
basic dark powder-coated (smooth)

SEAT CUSHIONS



Combinations with
Eames Parchment



79 warm grey/ivory

18 mustard/ivory

87 ivory/forest

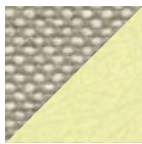
16 yellow/ivory

77 nero/forest

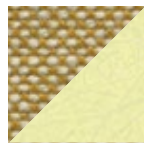
73 petrol/moor brown

19 mustard/dark grey

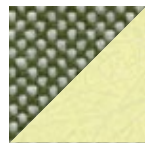
80 warm grey/moor brown



04 white powder-coated (smooth)



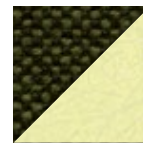
04 white powder-coated (smooth)



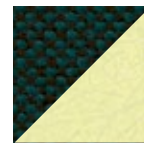
65 honey-toned ash



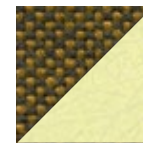
65 honey-toned ash



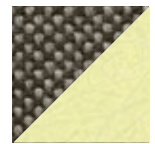
30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth)



30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth)



30 black maple



30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth)



Combinations with
Eames Raw Umber



23 nero/ivory

Checker black/white

79 warm grey/ivory

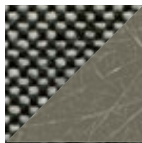
69 grass green/ivory

19 mustard/dark grey

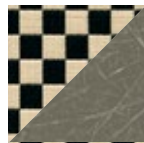
77 nero/forest

24 dark grey/nero

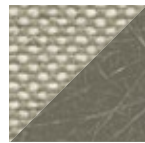
80 warm grey/moor brown



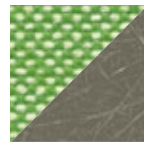
01 chrome



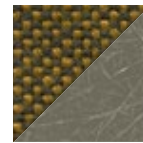
04 white powder-coated (smooth)



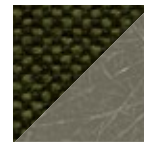
65 honey-toned ash



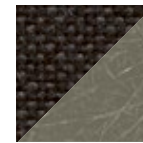
65 honey-toned ash



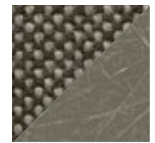
95 dark maple



30 black maple



30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth)



30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth)

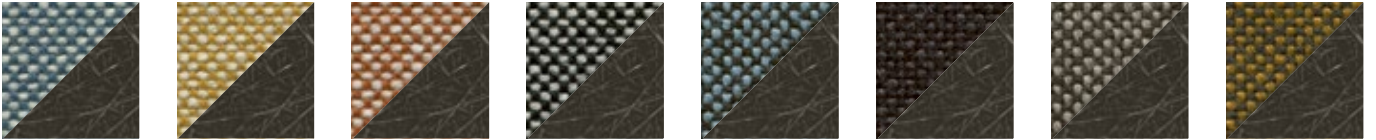
SEAT CUSHIONS



Combinations with
Eames Elephant Hide Grey



- 25** sea blue/ivory
- 18** mustard/ivory
- 88** cognac/ivory
- 23** nero/ivory
- 82** ice blue/moor brown
- 24** dark grey/nero
- 80** warm grey/moor brown
- 19** mustard/dark grey



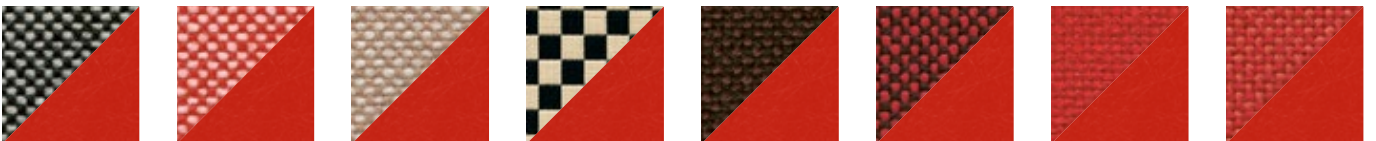
- 04** white powder-coated (smooth)
- 04** white powder-coated (smooth)
- 65** honey-toned ash
- 01** chrome
- 30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth)
- 95** dark maple
- 95** dark maple
- 30** black maple
- 95** dark maple



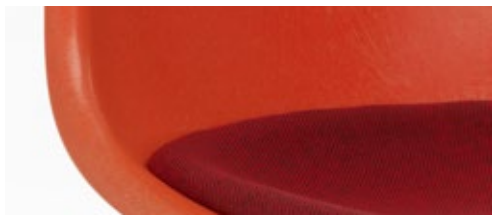
Combinations with
Eames Classic Red



- 23** nero/ivory
- 67** poppy red/ivory
- 17** nude/ivory
- Checker** black/white
- 76** marron/moor brown
- 62** red/moor brown
- 63** red/poppy red
- 65** coral/poppy red



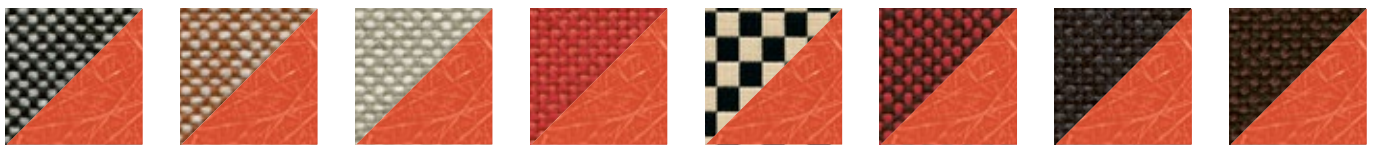
- 01** chrome
- 04** white powder-coated (smooth)
- 65** honey-toned ash
- 01** chrome
- 95** dark maple
- 30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth)
- 30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth)
- 30** black maple



Combinations with
Eames Red Orange



23 nero/ivory **88** cognac/ivory **79** warm grey/ivory **65** coral/poppy red **Checker** black/white **62** red/moor brown **24** dark grey/nero **76** marron/moor brown



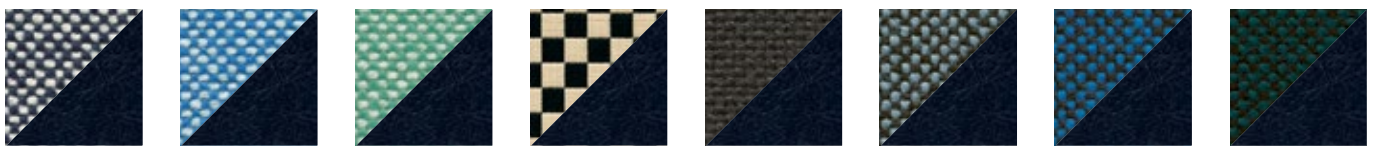
01 chrome **65** honey-toned ash **04** white powder-coated (smooth) **65** honey-toned ash **30** black maple **30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth) **30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth) **95** dark maple



Combinations with
Eames Navy Blue



74 dark blue/ivory **83** blue/ivory **85** mint/ivory **Checker** black/white **05** dark grey **82** ice blue/moor brown **84** blue/moor brown **73** petrol/moor brown



01 chrome **65** honey-toned ash **01** chrome **04** white powder-coated (smooth) **30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth) **30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth) **30** black maple **30** basic dark powder-coated (smooth)

SEAT CUSHIONS



Combinations with
Eames Ochre Light



79
warm grey/ivory



18
mustard/ivory



87
ivory/forest



Checker
black/white



19
mustard/dark grey



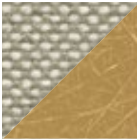
24
dark grey/nero



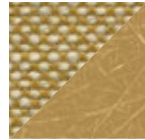
82
ice blue/moor brown



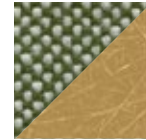
62
red/moor brown



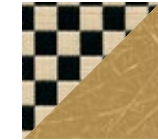
04
white powder-coated
(smooth)



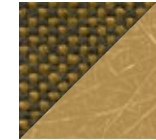
04
white powder-coated
(smooth)



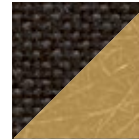
65
honey-toned ash



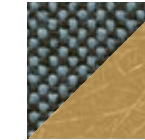
65
honey-toned ash



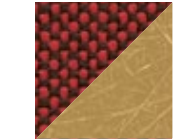
95
dark maple



30
black maple



30
basic dark powder-coated
(smooth)



30
basic dark powder-coated
(smooth)



Combinations with
Eames Ochre Dark



18
mustard/ivory



17
nude/ivory



88
cognac/ivory



23
nero/ivory



19
mustard/dark grey



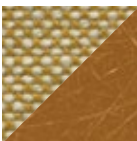
76
marron/moor brown



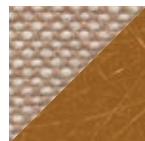
05
dark grey



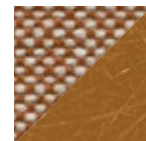
24
dark grey/nero



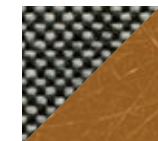
65
honey-toned ash



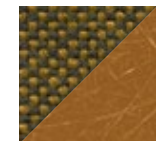
04
white powder-coated
(smooth)



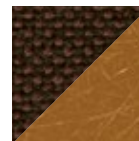
65
honey-toned ash



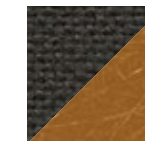
01
chrome



30
black maple



95
dark maple



30
basic dark powder-coated
(smooth)



30
basic dark powder-coated
(smooth)

When the pertinent legal and conceptual conditions are met, one can speak of a design original.

This term means that a design – independent of its production date – was fabricated by the authorised manufacturer in the true spirit of the designer. These factors guarantee its authenticity.

The status of an original is determined by the relationship between the designer (or rightful heirs) and the manufacturer of the designer's products. There is not only a legal component to this relationship, but also an immaterial one based on shared ideals and collaboration.

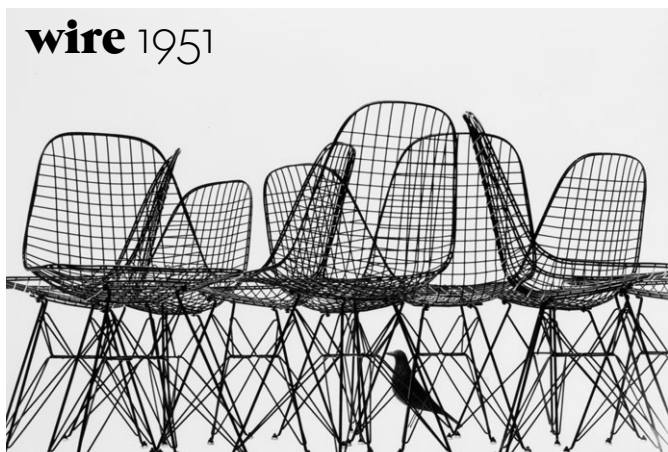
For any product to be designated as an 'original', the designer must have given the manufacturer the authorisation to produce it. Anyone who produces a design without legal permission is appropriating property that belongs to someone else. This applies not only to the manufacturer, but also to the consumer who buys an unlicensed product.

Equally important is the creative connection between the designer and manufacturer. It is evident in their close cooperation at every step of the production process. Because the plagiarist does not have this relationship, there is always uncertainty about the degree to which the copy deviates from the original idea, whether for reasons of ignorance, carelessness or cost reduction.

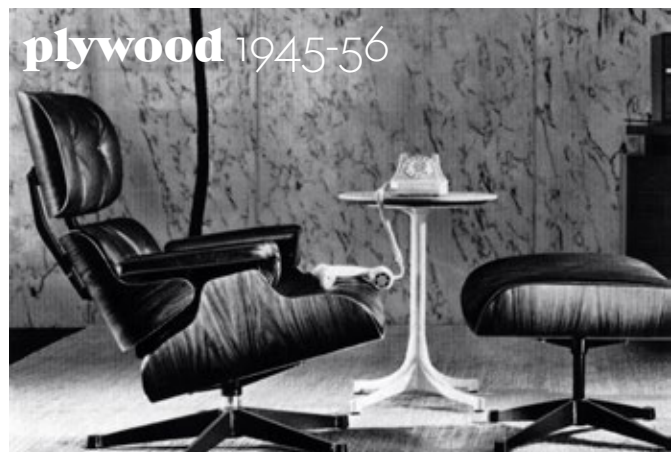
Rolf Fehlbaum



plastic 1948-61



wire 1951



plywood 1945-56

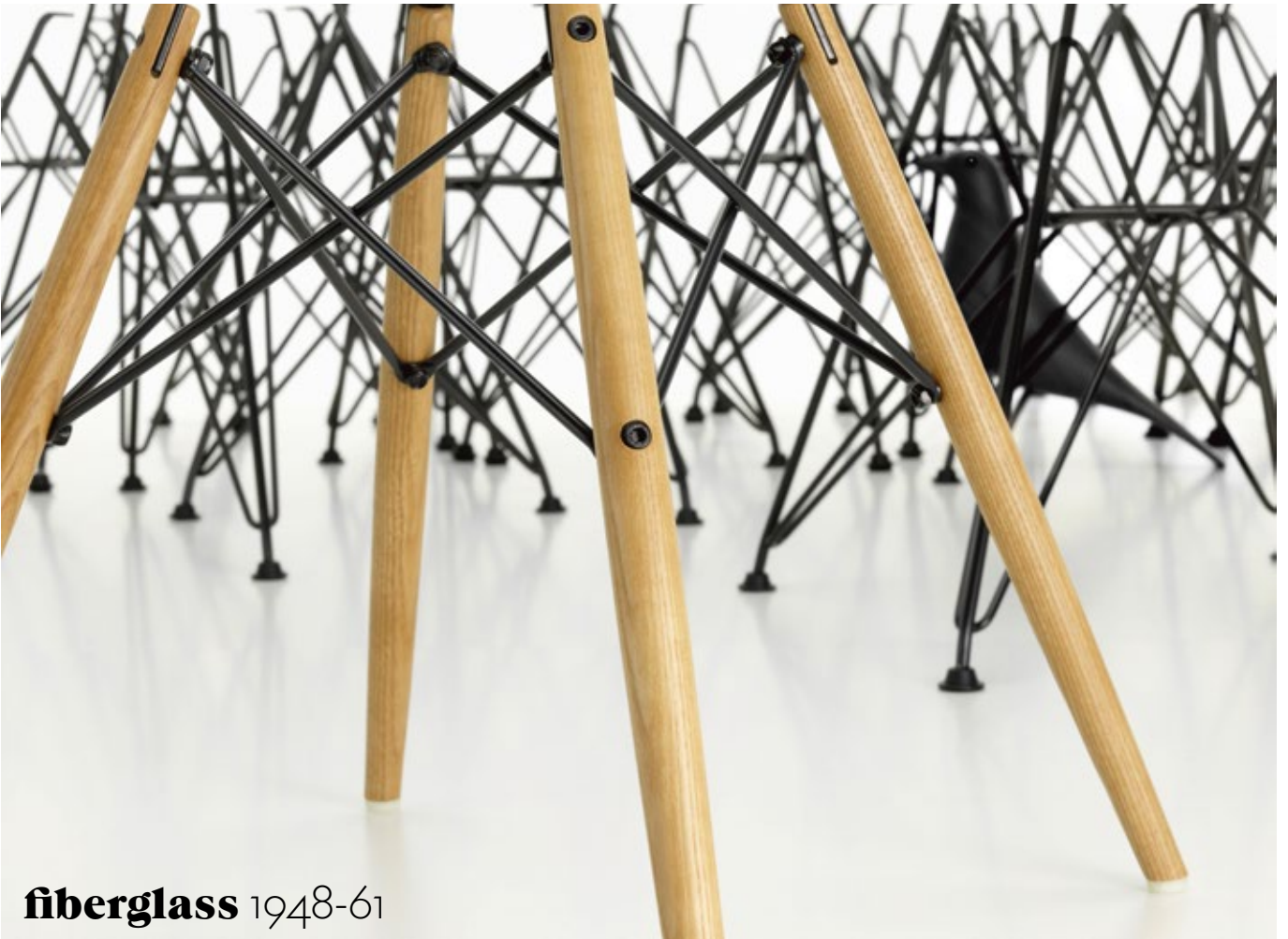


Authenticity

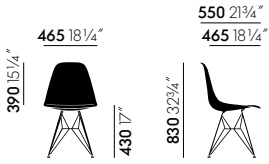
In close cooperation with the Eames Office, which represents Charles & Ray Eames' family, Vitra guarantees that each Eames Fiberglass Chair gives the exact design experience of comfort, aesthetics and quality that Charles & Ray Eames intended for the user – a feeling that only the original can offer.



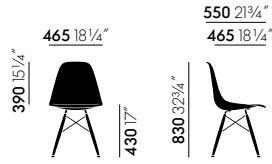
Eames Demetrios



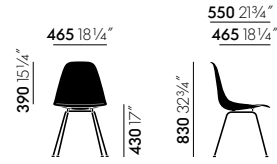
fiberglass 1948-61



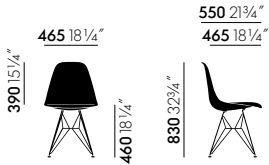
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR



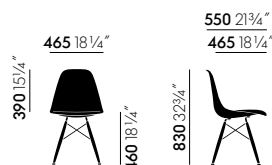
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW



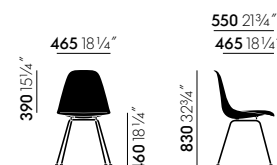
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR with seat cushion



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW with seat cushion

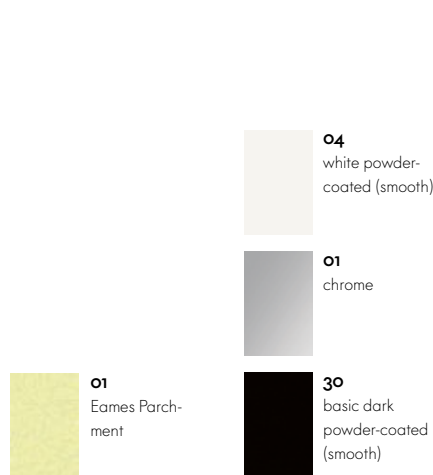


Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX with seat cushion

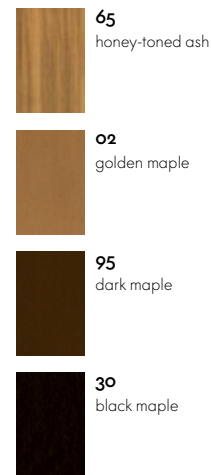
COLOURS AND MATERIALS



Seat shell (Eames Fiberglass Side Chair)



Base DSR, DSX



Base DSW





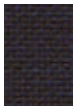











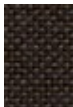
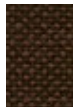





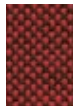
Hopsak Home/Office, F60














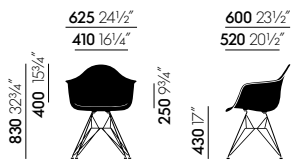
Hopsak is an expressive, flat plain-weave fabric made of polyamide. The duotone colours offer a multitude of design possibilities in high-contrast, brightly hued or subtle combinations of warp and weft threads. Highly durable and robust, Hopsak can be used in private interiors as well as public areas.

Hopsak is available in 35 colours.

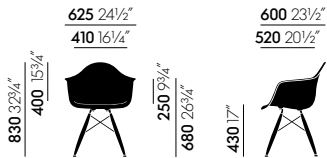
Material	100% polyamide
Weight	550 g/m ² (16.2 oz/y ²)
Width	127 cm +/- 2 cm (50")
Abrasion resistance	200,000 Martindale
Fastness to light	Type 6
Pilling	Grade 4-5
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4-5 dry and wet

 71 yellow/pastel green	 85 mint/ivory	 73 petrol/moor brown	 84 blue/moor brown	 75 dark blue/moor brown	 23 nero/ivory
 69 grass green/ivory	 20 green/ivory	 81 ice blue/ivory	 83 blue/ivory	 05 dark grey	 80 warm grey/moor brown
 70 grass green/forest	 86 mint/forest	 82 ice blue/moor brown	 25 sea blue/ivory	 24 dark grey/nero	 76 marron/moor brown
 87 ivory/forest	 77 nero/forest	 22 sea blue/dark grey	 74 dark blue/ivory	 66 nero	 62 red/moor brown

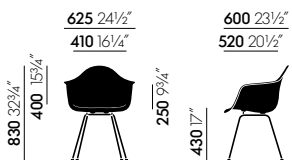
 96 red/cognac	 67 poppy red/ivory	
 63 red/poppy red	 88 cognac/ivory	 16 yellow/ivory
 65 coral/poppy red	 17 nude/ivory	 18 mustard/ivory
 68 pink/poppy red	 79 warm grey/ivory	 19 mustard/dark grey



Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAR



Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAW



Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAX
