

# Eames Fiberglass Side Chairs

Charles & Ray Eames, 1950



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.

Materials

Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR

- **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. Available with a seat cushion (screwed to the seat shell).
- **Base:** non-stacking four-legged wire base with cross struts. (DSR = Dining Height Side Chair Rod Base)

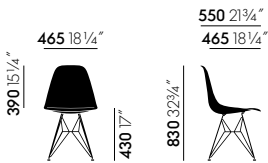
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW

- **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. Available with a seat cushion (screwed to the seat shell).
- **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)
- **Origin of wood:** ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and maple (*Acer platanoides*) from Western Europe and/or Poland.

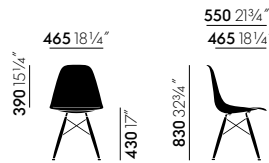
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX

- **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. Available with a seat cushion (screwed to the seat shell).
- **Base:** non-stacking four-legged tubular steel base. (DSX = Dining Height Side Chair X-Base)

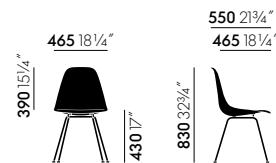
DIMENSIONS



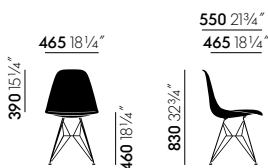
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR



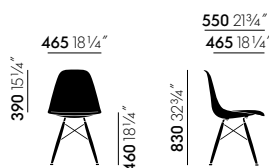
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW



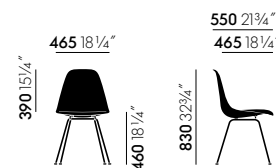
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX



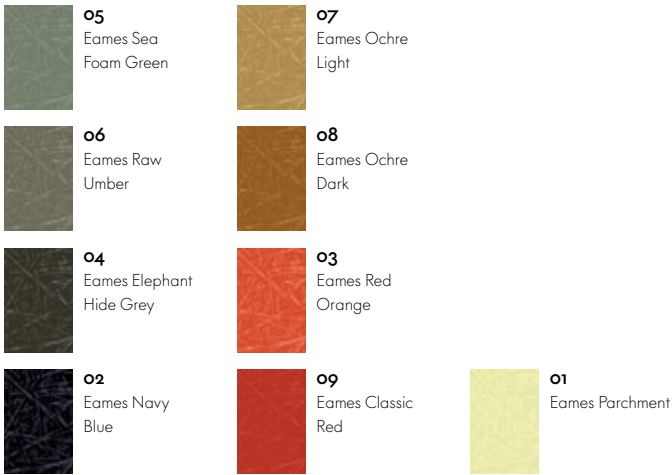
Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR with seat cushion



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW with seat cushion



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX with seat cushion



Seat shell (Eames Fiberglass Side Chair)



Base DSR, DSX

Base DSW

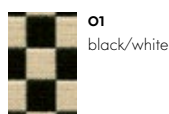
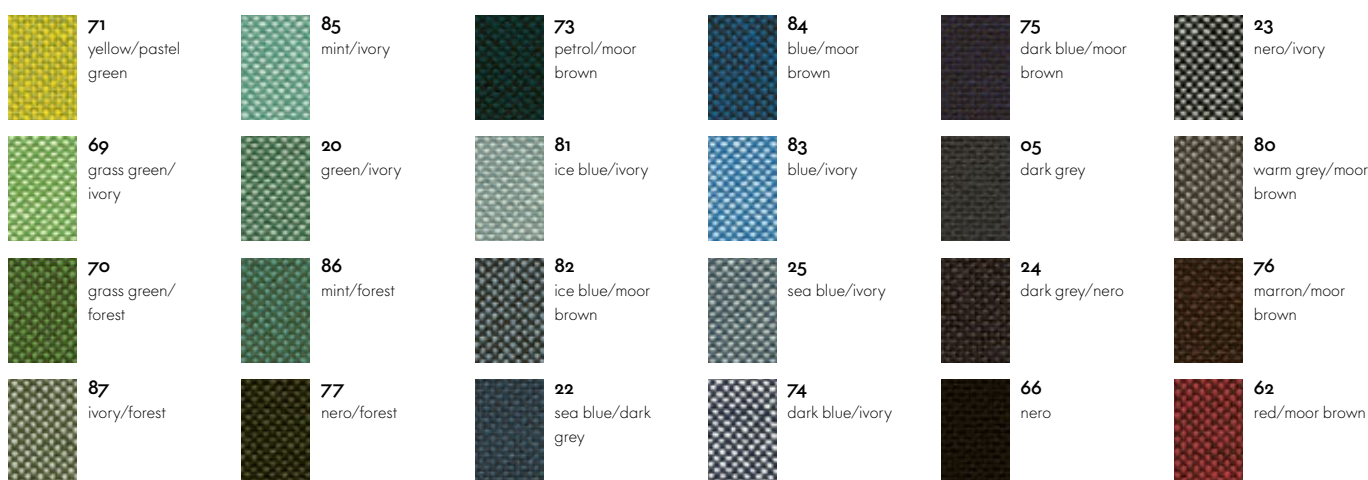
# Hopsak Home/Office, F60



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 <sup>2</sup> (16.2 oz/y <sup>2</sup> ) |
| 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                          |



**Checker**

# Eames Fiberglass Armchair

Charles & Ray Eames, 1950



## Materials

### Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAR

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

### Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAW

- **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 shades of maple or honey-toned ash, stained and lacquered finish. Steel rod cross struts in basic dark. (DAW = Dining Height Armchair Wood Base)
- **Origin of wood:** ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and maple (*Acer platanoides*) from Western Europe and/or Poland.

### Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAX

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

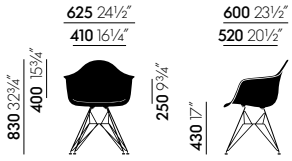
### Eames Fiberglass Armchair LAR

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

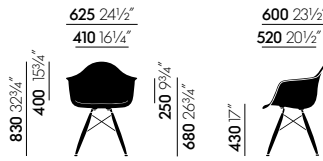
### Eames Fiberglass Armchair RAR

- **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.

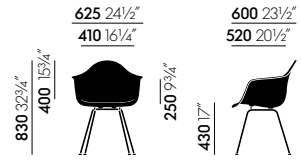
**DIMENSIONS**



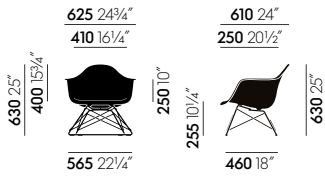
**Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAR**



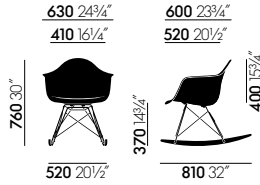
**Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAW**



**Eames Fiberglass Armchair DAX**





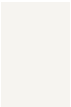
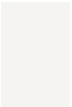

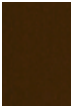










**Eames Plastic Armchair LAR**



**Eames Plastic Armchair RAR**

**COLOURS AND MATERIALS**

|  |                                       |   |                             |   |  |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
|   | <b>01</b><br>Eames Parchment          |   | <b>65</b><br>ash honey tone |   |  |   |  |
|  | <b>05</b><br>Eames Sea Foam Green     |  | <b>02</b><br>golden maple   |  | <b>04</b><br>white powder-coated (smooth)      |    | <b>04</b><br>white powder-coated (smooth)      |
|  | <b>06</b><br>Eames Raw Umber          |  | <b>95</b><br>dark maple     |  | <b>01</b><br>chrome                            |    | <b>01</b><br>chrome                            |
|  | <b>04</b><br>Eames Elephant Hide Grey |  | <b>30</b><br>black maple    |  | <b>30</b><br>basic dark powder-coated (smooth) |    | <b>30</b><br>basic dark powder-coated (smooth) |
| <b>Seat shell</b>  |                                       | <b>Base DAW</b>   |                             | <b>Base DAR, DAX, LAR</b>   |  | <b>Wire base RAR</b>  |  |
|  |                                       |   |                             |   |  |  | <b>02</b><br>golden maple                      |
|  |                                       |   |                             |   |  |  | <b>95</b><br>dark maple                        |
|  |                                       |   |                             |   |  |   | <b>Rocking skids RAR</b>                       |

