

The Chair of the century

Charles & Ray Eames

vitra.



With the 2019 update, colour now links two product lines that have long belonged together: the Eames Plastic Chairs and Eames Fiberglass Chairs. An extensive process of research and analysis led to the creation of a harmonious palette in which the two groups of chairs reaffirm their affinity with one another.

Vitra carefully researched archival holdings and the vintage market to determine the historical use of colours by Charles and Ray Eames, and merged this knowledge with a broad-based analysis of current needs and market offers. Based on these findings, the colours of the Plastic Chair and Fiberglass Chair seat shells and the Hopsak cover fabric were revised in close collaboration with the Eames Office.

The result is a richly interwoven collection of hues highlighting the special properties of the different materials. The interplay of vibrant and more subtle colours allows an easy combination of the Eames Plastic Chairs and Eames Fiberglass Chairs. And the chairs without a seat cushion or full upholstery in Hopsak can be embellished with Seat Dots, which are also part of the Vitra Colour & Material Library.



Charles & Ray Eames

Charles and Ray Eames are counted among the most important figures of twentieth-century design. Their work spans the fields of furniture design, filmmaking, photography and exhibition design. Vitra is the sole authorised manufacturer of Eames products for

Europe and the Middle East. When you own an Eames product made by Vitra, you know it is an original.

1 The Chair of a Century
9 Eames Plastic Chair

28 Eames Fiberglass Chair
31 Wire Chair



Neutral earth tones in mustard/ivory, nude/ivory, warm grey/ivory, as well as Eames Elephant Hide Grey and Checker



Finely graduated shades of blue, from mint/ivory to sea blue to Eames Navy Blue



White, pebble and Eames Parchment, with Hopsak in bright yellow and green tones



Beautiful darks with subtle accents in forest, sea blue and mustard/dark grey



Extensive palette of red tones, from rusty orange, dark red/moor brown, Eames Orange to light pink



Eames Raw Umber and Eames Elephant Hide Grey combined with forest and Eames Sea Foam Green

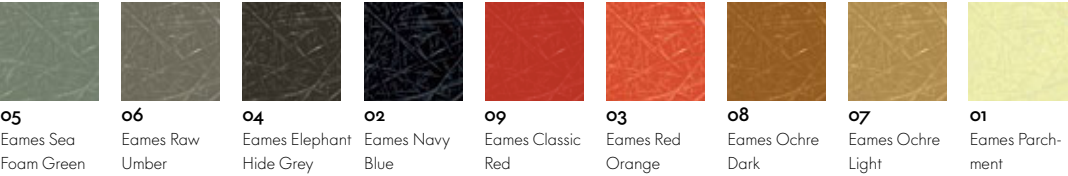


The new palette for the Plastic Chairs features neutral, mid-tone and bright colours that interact with one another while still maintaining their individual identity and impact. The overall spectrum for the Plastic Chairs has thus been expanded. At the same time, the Eames Fiberglass Chairs are being offered in intermediate tones with a more neutral character, which fits with their roots as the original colours of the chair group. Together the Plastic Chairs and the Fiberglass Chairs form a comprehensive range of colours, providing a suitable version for almost every taste and purpose.

The palette for the Eames Fiberglass Chairs was augmented with three additional shades, while ten of the colours for the Eames Plastic Chairs were exchanged for new hues.

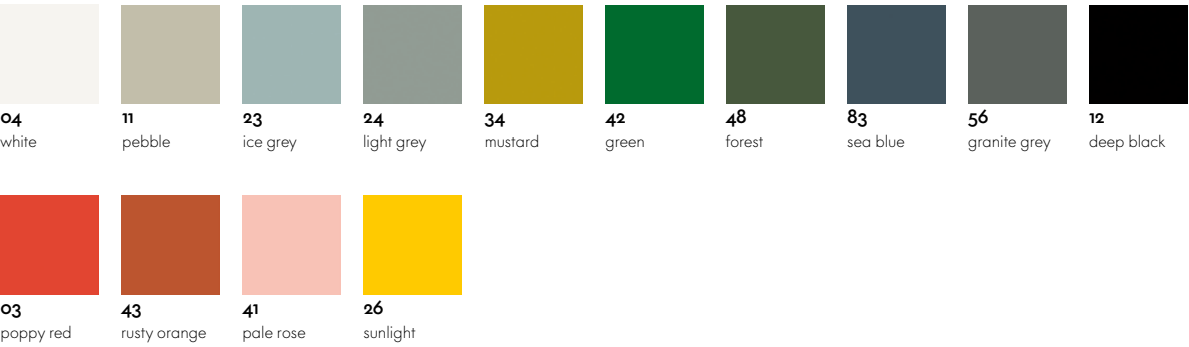
Palette for the Eames Fiberglass Chairs

The group of Fiberglass Chairs now comes in nine colours.



Palette for the Eames Plastic Chairs

Four existing shades are being retained and ten new ones are being added.



The hard-wearing classic duotone fabric welcomes even more colours.

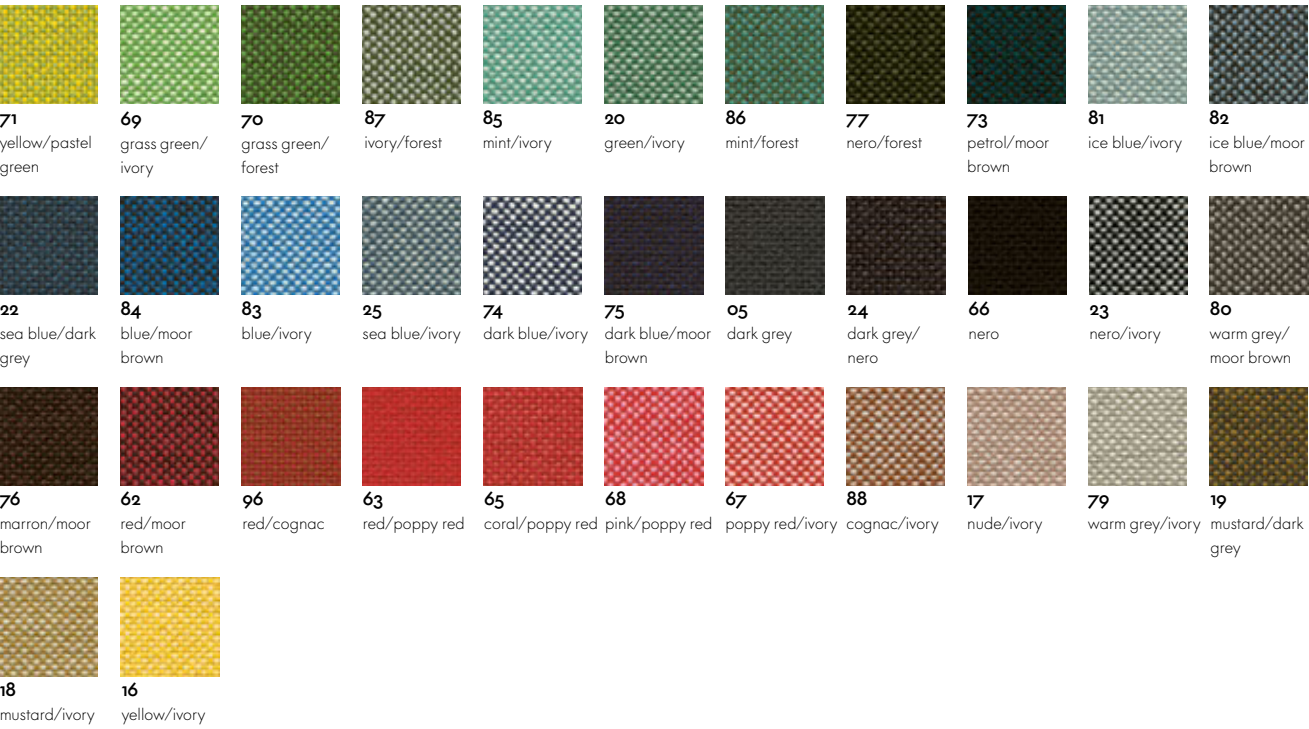
Hopsak fabric has been manufactured exclusively for Vitra since 1971 and was originally offered in a palette developed by Alexander Girard for the Eames and Nelson collections. Over the years, Hopsak has been regularly updated and refined to meet changing technical requirements and colour preferences, and is the reigning classic in the current portfolio of Vitra fabrics. 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 in public areas. The extended Hopsak colour palette includes natural muted tones, which serve as calming bridge colours and can be perfectly combined with the new hues for the shells of the Eames Plastic Chairs. Hopsak is now available in 35 colours.

Hopsak fabric colour palette

Hopsak is now available in 35 colours: nine new shades have been added and two colours (78 nero/moor brown; 72 yellow/poppy red) have been removed from the range.

Hopsak





Neutral tones

Colours like white and a variety of grey tones perfectly complement one another and can be harmoniously paired with subtle shades. They exude an image of calmness and elegance.



Mid tones

The mid tones constitute the heart of the colour palette. They unify the influences of the neutral and bright tones, appearing calm and restrained despite their noticeable colour.



Bright tones

The group of bright tones is made up of pure colours. Their vibrant clarity immediately catches the eye.



Eames Fiberglass Side Chairs

Charles & Ray Eames, 1950

vitra.



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 seat 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

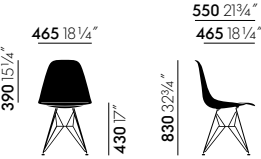
bases and colours was subsequently expanded. Over the course of the following decade, the Fiberglass Chairs became one of the best known furniture designs of the twentieth century.

Vitra manufactures the Fiberglass Side Chairs and Fiberglass Armchairs by Charles and Ray Eames in nine 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.

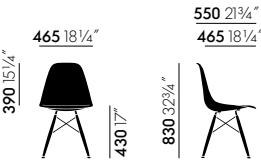
Materials

- **Seat shell:** dyed-through, glass-fibre reinforced polyester (fibreglass).

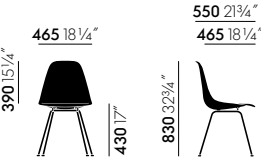
DIMENSIONS



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSR



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSW



Eames Fiberglass Side Chair DSX

COLOURS AND MATERIALS

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 04 Eames Elephant Hide Grey | | 03 Eames Red Orange | | 65 ash honey tone |
| | 02 Eames Navy Blue | | 05 Eames Sea Foam Green | | 02 golden maple |
| | 01 Eames Parch- ment | | 07 Eames Ochre Light | | 95 dark maple |
| | 06 Eames Raw Umber | | 08 Eames Ochre Dark | | 09 Eames Classic Red |
| | | | | 01 chrome | |
| | | | | 30 basic dark powder-coated (smooth) | |
| | | | | | 30 black maple |

Seat shell

Base DSR, DSX

Base DSW

