

# The Chair of the century

Charles & Ray Eames

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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



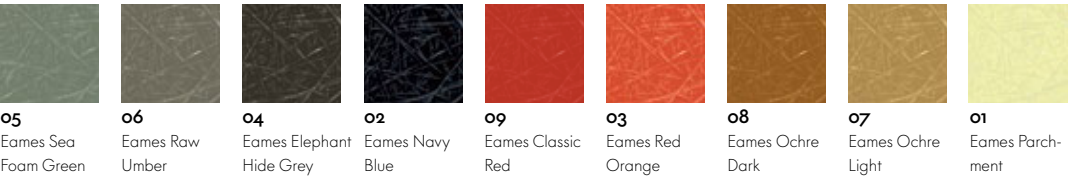


The new palette for the Plastic Chairs features neutral, mid-tone and bright colours that interact with one another while still maintaining their individual identity and impact. The overall spectrum for the Plastic Chairs has thus been expanded. At the same time, the Eames Fiberglass Chairs are being 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.

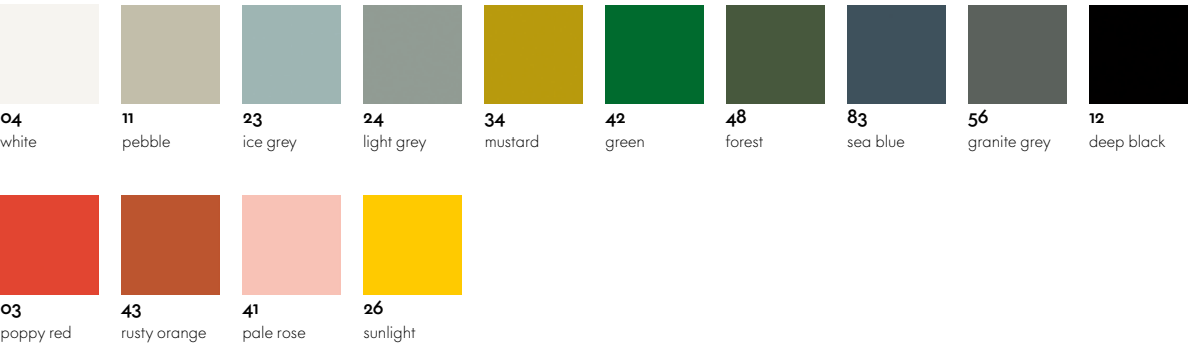
Palette for the Eames Fiberglass Chairs

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.

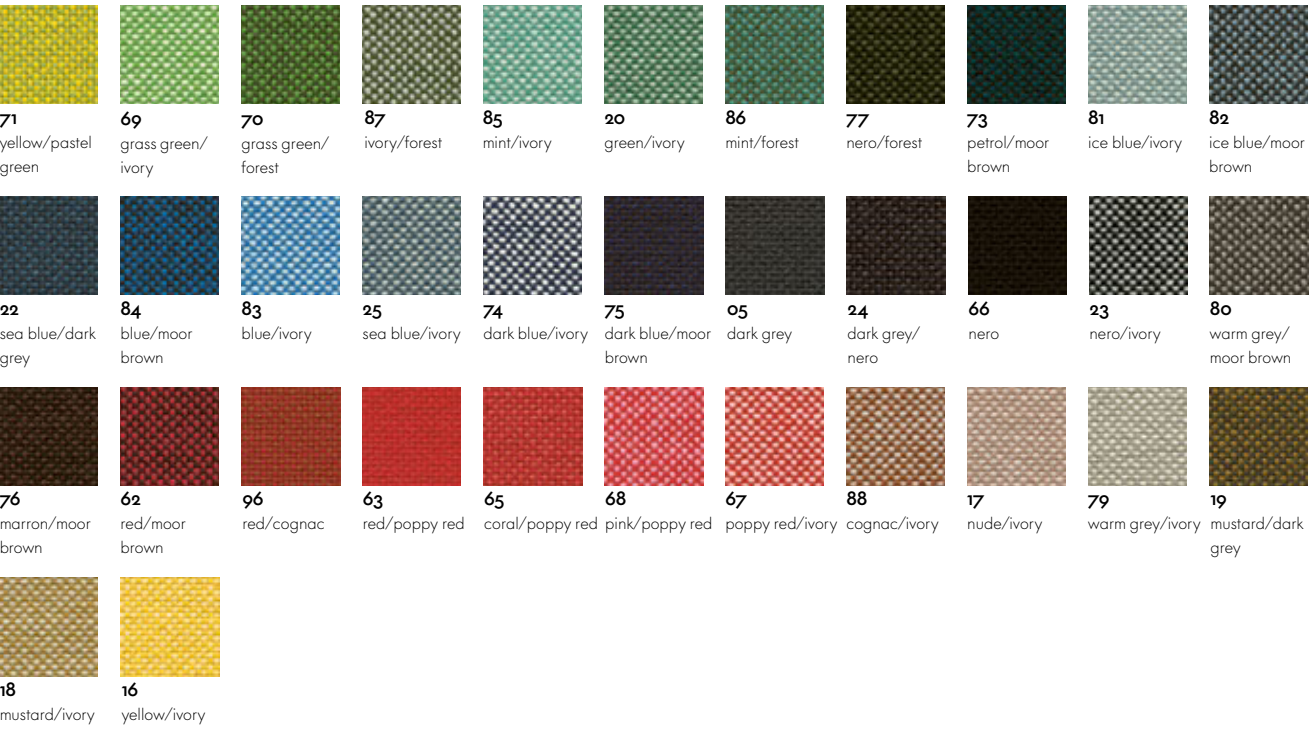
Hopsak fabric has been manufactured exclusively for Vitra since 1971 and was originally offered in a palette developed by Alexander Girard for the Eames and Nelson collections. Over the years, Hopsak has been regularly updated and refined to meet changing technical requirements and colour preferences, 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.



# Wire Chair

Charles & Ray Eames, 1951

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## Wire Chair

Designed by Charles and Ray Eames out of welded steel wire, the Wire Chair is a variation on the theme of the organically shaped one-piece seat shell, combining transparent lightness with technological sophistication. The seat shell can be combined with a choice of different bases. The Wire Chair is available without upholstery, with a seat cushion or with a two-piece seat and back cushion known as the 'Bikini' pad due to its shape.

The Wire Chairs have a powder-coated finish; some models are also available in a chrome-plated version. DKR and DKX models with a powder-coated finish are ideally suited for both indoor and outdoor use.

In 2016, Vitra added roughly 20 mm to the base height of the Wire Chairs while adapting the seat geometry accordingly. These revisions, which are aesthetically almost imperceptible, increase the comfort of this classic chair design, especially in combination with contemporary tables.

The Wire Chairs by Charles and Ray Eames owe their transparent look to the spot-welded steel wire shell, while the wooden base of the DKW (Dining Chair K-Wire Wood Base) lends a contrasting note of warmth to the essentially technical appearance of the design. The metal components of the DKW chair have a black powder-coated finish; the wooden legs of the base come in various shades of maple.

### Materials

- **Upholstery:** unupholstered, with seat cushion or with seat and back pad. Seat and back pads can be removed and reattached; available in Hopsak fabric or leather.

31	Wire Chair	34	Seat upholstery	38-42	Cover materials, surfaces and colours
32	Dining	35	Outdoor		
33	Public Space	36-37	Authenticity	42	Dimensions





- Dining

Thanks to their new seat height, adjusted to today’s needs, the Wire Chairs are ideal to be placed at contemporary dining tables. The various configurations in chrome, powder coating and wood, combined with the different covers in a range of colours, mean that the right Wire Chair can be found for every setting.
- Restaurants

Available in a number of different hard-wearing designs, the Wire Chair can be used in restaurants, canteens and cafeterias, not just at home.
- Materials

- **DKX:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell X-Base
  - **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated. The powder-coated version is suitable for outdoor use.
  - **Base:** four-legged tubular steel base, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.

- **DKR:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell R-Wire Base
  - **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated. The powder-coated version is suitable for outdoor use.
  - **Base:** four-legged base with cross struts, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.

- **DKW:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell Wood-Base
  - **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, powder-coated in basic dark.
  - **Base:** solid maple with stained finish, steel rod cross struts. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.
  - **Origin of wood:** maple (Acer platanoides) from Western Europe and/or Poland.
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www.vitra.com/wirechair
- Public Space, Conference and Meeting Rooms

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- 
- Public Space

The construction, from refined steel wire with spot welding, ensures that the Wire Chair is robust and stable and can be used in a variety of ways in public spaces. A number of completed projects bear witness to this, such as the installation of Wire Chairs in open areas at the bus station on the Vitra Campus, in the German town of Weil am Rhein.

Conference and Meeting Rooms

For conference, meeting, media and other such rooms, where it is important to emphasise distinctive aesthetics, the iconic Wire Chairs are a great solution.

Materials

- **DKX:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell X-Base
  - **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated. The powder-coated version is suitable for outdoor use.
  - **Base:** four-legged tubular steel base, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.

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# Seat upholstery

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## Cushions

The Wire Chairs can be equipped with a seat cushion or with a combination of a seat and back cushion. The latter is nicknamed the “Bikini” due to its shape. The cushioned Bikini is available in fabric or leather. An elasticated band is used to stretch it over the chair, it is simply secured with small hooks and closed elegantly at the back with a button. The seat cushion is adapted to the chair’s geometry. The base consists of a contoured seat mount made of wood, that is cushioned and covered with material or leather. The covers are available in Hopsak material or leather. Hopsak is available in 28 colours and leather in 30. The back of the leather cushion is covered with Plano fabric.

## A World of Colours

In collaboration with Dutch designer Hella Jongerius, Vitra has developed a wide range of cushion shades that permit endless options when it comes to colour combinations.

## Materials

- **Upholstery:** unupholstered, with seat cushion or with seat and back pad. Seat and back pads can be removed and reattached; available in Hopsak fabric or leather.

# Outdoor

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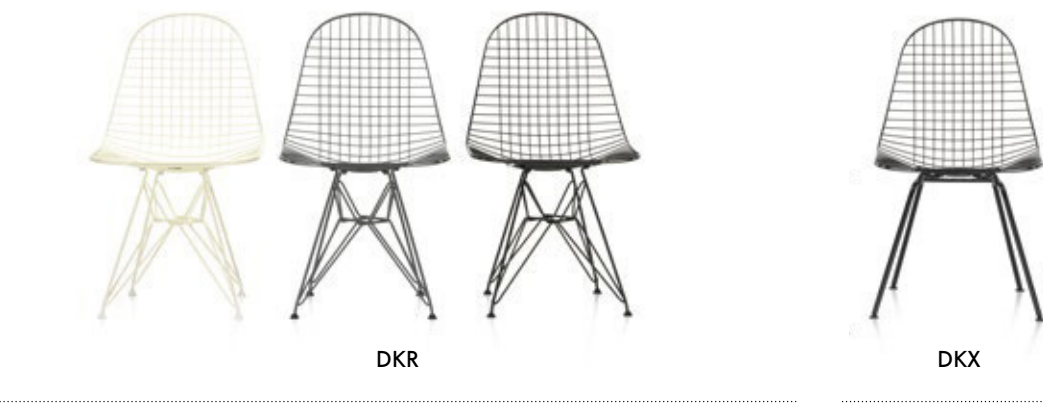


## Outdoor

The Wire Chair model versions DKR and DKX, featuring designs with a powder-coated finish and no seat cushion, are suitable for outdoor areas and wet areas. The powder coating is available in the colours black, cream and dark grey. The Wire Chair can be used in natural garden settings as well as on modern terraces due to its light aesthetics and it functions as a modest, yet distinctive accent.

## Materials

- **DKR:** Dining Height K-Wire Shell R-Wire Base
- **Seat shell:** bent and welded steel wire, chrome-plated or powder-coated. The powder-coated version is suitable for outdoor use.
- **Base:** four-legged base with cross struts, surface finish matched to seat shell. Fitted with plastic glides for carpet; felt glides for hard floors optionally available.





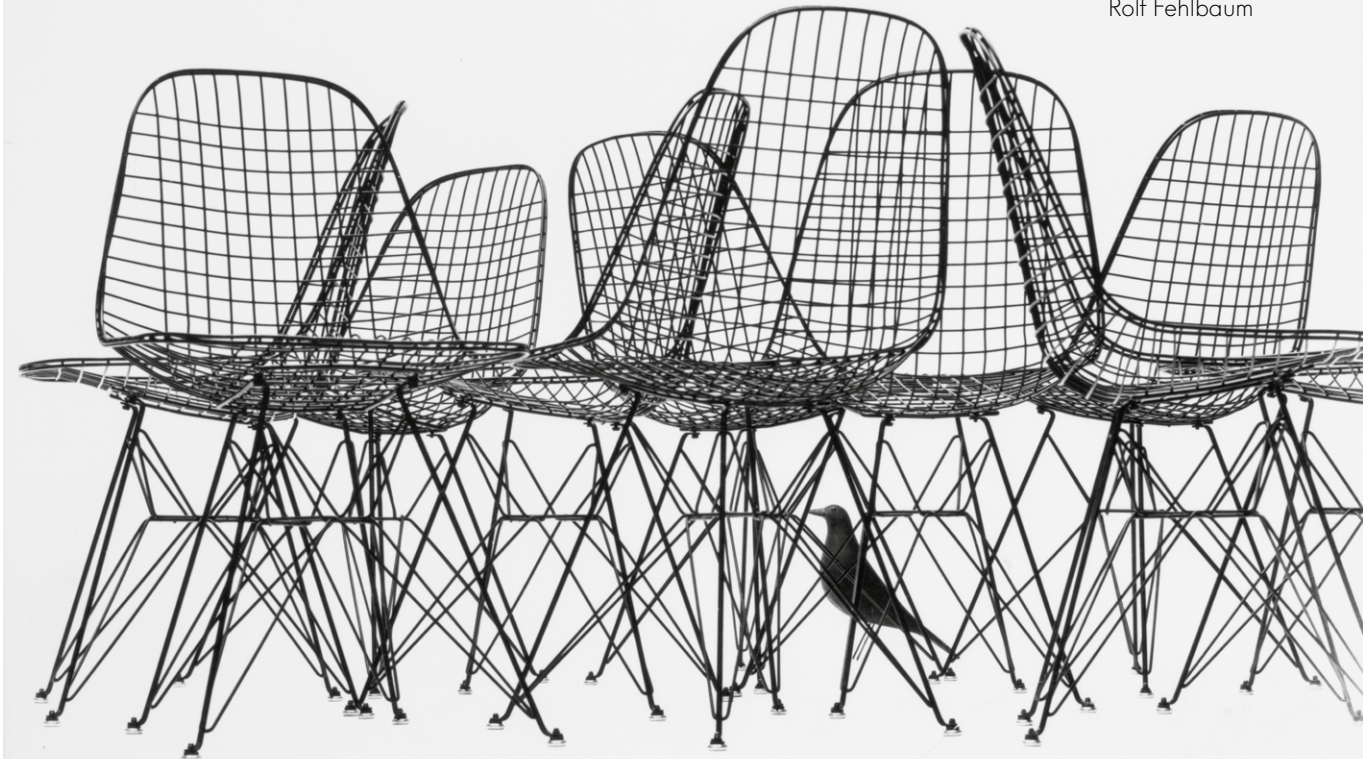
In design, the word “original” can be used if the legal and ideational requirements are fulfilled.

The term means that a design has been manufactured by the legitimate producers, regardless of the time of its creation, in the spirit of the designer and that it is therefore authentic.

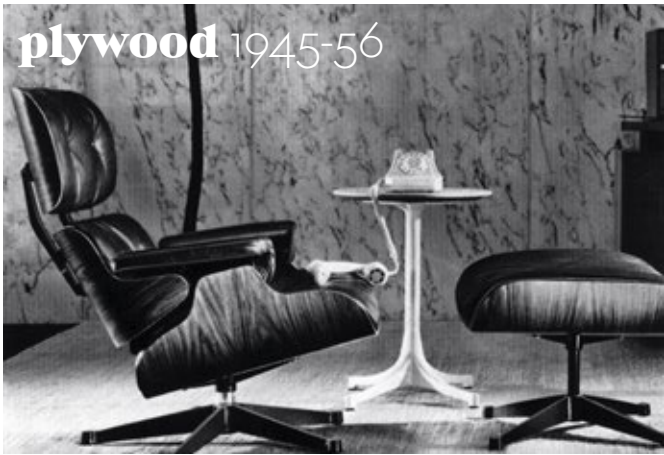
A prerequisite for having the status of an original is, in fact, the relationship between the designer (or their descendants) and the manufacturer of the products. It has a legal and an ideational component. In order to be able to speak of an original, the designer must transfer the right to produce to the manufacturer. Anyone who manufactures a design without this legal basis is making use of a third party’s property. That applies not only to the manufacturer but also to the consumer who purchases this product.

Just as important is the ideational relationship between designer and manufacturer. It expresses itself within the close collaboration on all production issues. The copyist does not have this relationship: the extent to which the copy deviates from the original idea, whether that is from lack of knowledge, sloppiness or cost-saving, remains unknown.

Rolf Fehlbaum



wire 1951



vitra.



### Authenticity

In close cooperation with the Eames Office, which represents Charles & Ray Eames’ family, Vitra guarantees that each Wire 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



aluminium 1958-69

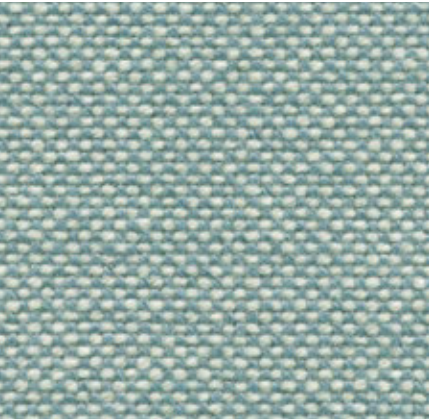
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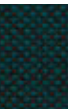



























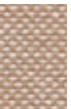




COVER MATERIALS

Hopsak Home/Office, F6o



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.

 <b>71</b> yellow/pastel green	 <b>85</b> mint/ivory	 <b>73</b> petrol/moor brown	 <b>84</b> blue/moor brown	 <b>75</b> dark blue/moor brown	 <b>23</b> nero/ivory
 <b>69</b> grass green/ivory	 <b>20</b> green/ivory	 <b>81</b> ice blue/ivory	 <b>83</b> blue/ivory	 <b>05</b> dark grey	 <b>80</b> warm grey/moor brown
 <b>70</b> grass green/forest	 <b>86</b> mint/forest	 <b>82</b> ice blue/moor brown	 <b>25</b> sea blue/ivory	 <b>24</b> dark grey/nero	 <b>76</b> marron/moor brown
 <b>87</b> ivory/forest	 <b>77</b> nero/forest	 <b>22</b> sea blue/dark grey	 <b>74</b> dark blue/ivory	 <b>66</b> nero	 <b>62</b> red/moor brown
 <b>96</b> red/cognac	 <b>67</b> poppy red/ivory				
 <b>63</b> red/poppy red	 <b>88</b> cognac/ivory	 <b>16</b> yellow/ivory			
 <b>65</b> coral/poppy red	 <b>17</b> nude/ivory	 <b>18</b> mustard/ivory			
 <b>68</b> pink/poppy red	 <b>79</b> warm grey/ivory	 <b>19</b> mustard/dark grey			



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 Home, F20o



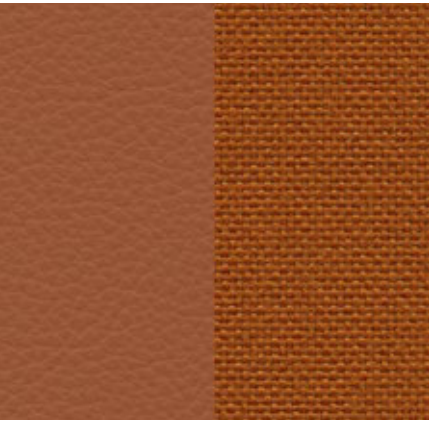
The soft double weave fabric, with a high percentage of cotton, demonstrates exceptional purity of colour and its geometric pattern lends a striking note to any environment.

Material	77% cotton, 23% polyester
Weight	467 g/m <sup>2</sup> (13.8 oz/y <sup>2</sup> )
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





Leather Home/Office, L20



The standard grade leather used by Vitra is a robust cowhide leather, dyed-through, pigmented and embossed with an even grain pattern. Since it is hard-wearing and easy to maintain, it can also be used in office environments.


Leather is available in 16 colours.

Material	Robust cowhide with a distinctive, even grain
Fastness to light	Type 6
Thickness	1.1–1.3 mm
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4 dry and wet

Leather/back panel Plano

 <b>73/03</b> clay/ parch- ment/cream white	 <b>59/40</b> jade/ coconut/ forest	 <b>69/54</b> marron/brown	
 <b>64/82</b> cement/ grey/ stone	 <b>61/69</b> umbra grey/ dark grey	 <b>87/54</b> plum/brown	 <b>70/72</b> red/poppy red
 <b>21/19</b> dim grey/sierra grey	 <b>66/66</b> nero/nero	 <b>75/80</b> camel/coffee	 <b>22/96</b> red stone/ red/ cognac
 <b>67/69</b> asphalt/dark grey	 <b>68/54</b> chocolate/ brown	 <b>71/80</b> sand/coffee	 <b>97/67</b> cognac/cognac

Leather/back panel Leather

 <b>72</b> snow
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Leather Premium Home/Office, L40



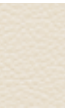
Leather Premium is a relatively smooth cowhide leather with a flat grain and fine top sheen. It is dyed-through and lightly pigmented. The semi-aniline leather is soft to the touch, like a leather glove. Leather Premium is available in 22 colours.

Material	Semi-aniline nappa leather with a very soft and supple feel
Fastness to light	Type 5
Thickness	1.1–1.3 mm
Fastness to rubbing	Grade 4 dry and wet

Leather Premium/back panel Plano

 <b>64/05</b> cement/ cream white/sierra grey	 <b>58/40</b> khaki/ coconut/ forest	 <b>77/54</b> brown/brown	 <b>93/11</b> brandy/ mar- ron/cognac	 <b>75/80</b> camel/coffee
 <b>65/19</b> granite/sierra grey	 <b>61/69</b> umbra grey/ dark grey	 <b>68/54</b> chocolate/ brown	 <b>22/96</b> red stone/ red/ cognac	 <b>62/80</b> ochre/coffee
 <b>60/69</b> smoke blue/dark grey	 <b>67/69</b> asphalt/dark grey	 <b>87/54</b> plum/brown	 <b>97/67</b> cognac/cognac	 <b>63/80</b> cashew/coffee
 <b>59/40</b> jade/ coconut/ forest	 <b>66/66</b> nero/nero	 <b>69/54</b> marron/brown	 <b>74/80</b> olive/coffee	 <b>71/80</b> sand/coffee
				 <b>73/03</b> clay/ parch- ment/cream white

Leather Premium/back panel Leather Premium

 <b>72</b> snow
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01

chrome

Seat and base  
(Wire Chair DKR)

17

cream matte  
powder-coated  
(smooth)

32

dark grey  
powder-coated  
(smooth)

Seat and base (Wire  
Chair DKR Outdoor)

01

chrome

Seat and base (Wire  
Chair DKX)

30

basic dark  
powder-coated  
(smooth)

Seat and base (Wire  
Chair DKX Outdoor)

30

basic dark  
powder-coated  
(smooth)

Seat and base (Wire  
Chair DKW)

02

golden maple

95

dark maple

30

black maple

Base (DKW)

DIMENSIONS

