

28 Chairs: Monobloc

Friday, April 16, 2021 6:36 PM

Today

Monobloc
Contemporary designers

Modern Chairs

Side chair
Arm chair
Accent chair

Dining chair
Office chair
Executive
Task chair

Aeron mfg Herman Miller

What are your chairs?

Monobloc

Contrast the Eames Lounge chair to the Monobloc, or Resin chair: \$12.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Plastic_Tuinstoel.jpg



\$4,935.00USD



\$12

History of the Monobloc

Wikipedia:

The Monobloc chair is a lightweight stackable polypropylene chair, often described[by whom?] as the world's most common plastic chair.

Based on original designs by the Italian designer Vico Magistretti <https://www.pamono.com/designers/vico-magistretti> in 1967, variants of the one-piece plastic chair went into production with Allibert Group and Grosfillex Group in the 1970s. Since then, millions have been manufactured in countries including Russia, Taiwan, Australia, Mexico, the United States, Italy, France, Germany, Morocco, Turkey, Israel and China. Many design variants of the basic idea exist.[1] The Monobloc chair is named because it is injection molded from thermoplastic polypropylene, the granules being heated to about 220 degrees Celsius, and the melt injected into a mold. The gate of the mold is usually located in the seat, so ensuring smooth flow to all parts of the tool. The chairs cost approximately \$3 to produce, making them affordable across the world.

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

<https://www.pinterest.com/davidortegatorr/vico-magistretti/>



<https://www.pinterest.com/davidortegatorr/vico-magistretti/>



"Everybody Take A Seat." *Smithsonian*. Accessed March 2, 2016. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/everybody-take-a-seat-2386495/>. Short article describes the ubiquity of the chair, and its mysterious history. "Then, in 1968, came what Fiell calls "one of the most important events in the entire history of furniture design." Danish designer Verner Panton, after ten years of searching for the right plastic, produced the first single-form, single material, injection-molded chair. It achieved total design unity in combination with a high-volume industrial process. Still, Panton's chair was very high style, a single long S curve with a U-shaped base, and demand for it was limited.



<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces/detailsseiten/panton-chair-panton.html>

Vitra Museum

2017 exhibit on Monobloc: <http://www.design-museum.de/index.php?id=1821&L=1>

Shortly after 1970, the monobloc began appearing. Probably designed by a plastics manufacturer. Spread worldwide in 1980s. Injection molding machines and the molds are very expensive, but if you can make tens of thousands of something in two minutes each from cheap materials, the payback is pretty quick. A new mold ~ 300K. Used mold ~50K. Polypropylene.



http://www.kailinke.com/en/news/:mirror_chair Mirror Chair by Kai Linke, 2009.



Analyze this photo

- a) it's a real artifact
- b) it's done with a mirror and/or photoshop

Sidebar:

<https://www.chindogu.com/> Almost Un-Useless designs

Chindogu is in contrast to perfectly useless objects by artist Katerina Kamprani

<https://www.theuncomfortable.com/>



There is a collector for everything under the sun: Bryan Ropar. *Plastic Chair Collection Video From Tosh.O*, 2013.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL0gsOtujqLgT7k71oh5g44Gc29UyM_QZZ&time_continue=10&v=endP6hTviXE.

Impact of the Monobloc Chair

Social theorist Ethan Zuckerman describes them as having achieved a global ubiquity:

"The Monobloc is one of the few objects I can think of that is free of any specific context. Seeing a white plastic chair in a photograph offers you no clues about where or when you are."

John Dunnigan, head of furniture design at the Rhode Island School of Design called the monobloc chair the "emblematic chair of our time" *

* Rybczynski, Witold. *Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Natural History*. First Edition edition. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Pg 210.

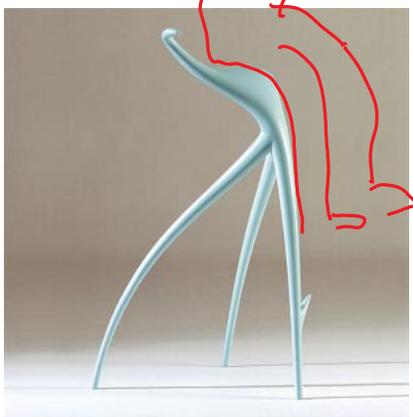
Since Then

Contemporary chairs



<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces/detailseiten/vodoel-coop-himmelblau.html>

Vodol, by Coop Himmelblau



<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces/detailseiten/ww-stool-starck.html>

W.W. Stool by Philippe Starck. Created for Wim Wenders, 1990. Elements of biomorphism; a germinating rhizome, with 3 roots and a shoot.

More on him on later.

Pinterest actually has broad collection

Metro naps

Modern/Current Designers of Note

Dyson

— Apple: Steve Jobs, Jonny Ive

— Elon Musk

David Kelly IDEO/Stanford D-school

Tommy Bahama: clothing

— Zaha Hadid: Curved architectures and shoes

Buckminster Fuller

Rick Owens: Fashion

Alexander McQueen: Strange fashion

Walt Disney

John Fluevog: Shoes (From Prof. Miller)

Temple Grandin: animal handling systems

— Philippe Starck

Karim Rashid

Ross Lovegrove

Yves Béhar

— Horacio Pagani

Dieter Rams (Braun)

Chris Precht architect

Ben Burt audio design for film

Virgil Abloh shoes and men's design (Vitton)

Renzo Piano architect

David Kelly IDEO/Stanford D-school

Don Norman; ideas on design. Everyday things

Netflix: Abstract (binge worthy) episode season 1 Bjarke Ingels

— Paula Scher

When you think of design exemplars, if you don't think of chairs immediately, you think of Apple products:

Steve Jobs Jonny Ives

Steven Paul "Steve" Jobs ([/ˈdʒɒbz/](#); February 24, 1955 – October 5, 2011) was an American entrepreneur, businessman, inventor, and industrial designer. He was the co-founder, chairman, and [chief executive officer](#) (CEO) of [Apple Inc.](#); CEO and majority shareholder of [Pixar](#); ^[2] a member of [The Walt Disney Company](#)'s board of directors following its acquisition of Pixar; and founder, chairman, and CEO of [NeXT](#). Jobs and Apple co-founder [Steve Wozniak](#) are widely recognized as pioneers of the [microcomputer revolution](#) of the 1970s and 1980s.

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Jobs

Content from

Isaacson, Walter. *Steve Jobs*. 1 edition. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011.

Background shockingly like mine, up to a point.

Adoptive dad liked to fix up cars. Strong craftsmanship ethic; even the backs of cabinets had to be nice. This showed up in Jobs' aesthetic much later; inside the Macintosh.

'... he scrutinized the printed circuit board that would hold the chips and other components deep inside the Macintosh. No consumer would ever see it, but Jobs began critiquing it on aesthetic grounds. "That part's really pretty, but look at the memory chips. That's ugly. The lines are too close together."

One of the new engineers interrupted and asked why it mattered...Jobs reacted typically. "I want it to be as beautiful as possible..." ' pg 133





<https://www.thinkclassic.org/viewtopic.php?id=89>

Circuit board was made visible in iMac 1998

The most dramatically new Macintosh since the original.

note reflection quality

and translucent quality

contour bias - curves!

Crystal-clear screen
The 15-inch shallow mask monitor delivers edge-to-edge sharpness, focus, and clarity. Which makes iMac wonderful to look at in more ways than one.

Stereo speakers
SPB surround sound speakers are built in—as well as a microphone, two headphone jacks, and 10-bit stereo input and output jacks.

24x CD-ROM drive
Put state-of-the-art multimedia files with no frustrating delays.

Infrared port
Download images and data from compatible IR-enabled digital cameras and computers—without attaching cables.

Mouse and keyboard
The full-size keyboard also serves as a USB hub. The translucent mouse and other USB devices such as printers, scanners, and joysticks can be plugged in on either side.

No more beige box
iMac looks great from every angle. And with its small footprint, it fits beautifully in any room.

56K modem
A high-speed modem for connecting to the Internet is built in. Cable and DSL modems can also be used with iMac.

Cable door
Cable plug into ports behind the door. So they're neatly organized and out of sight.

As a kid, Jobs hung out with his dad in the garage, but didn't get dirty much. Did get exposed to electronics; liked junkyard shopping, including negotiations.