

Swivel Chair

Design: Hans J. Wegner, 1955

pp502



A chair for the boss

The **Swivel Chair** is an uncompromising tool with comfort and ergonomics as overriding considerations. In actual fact, it is a continuation of the **pp501 | pp503 Round Chair**, which marked a turning point, not just for Wegner but also for Danish Design in general. The top bar, made of solid wood and twisted like a propeller, is separated from the remaining frame and completed at the very limit of what is possible for full ergonomic advantage.

Wegner was inspired by the critique of Consultant, Professor and Doctor of Medicine Egill Snorrason PhD, which was aimed at the entire Danish design and furniture trade for not paying attention to ergonomics. In his critique, however, Snorrason had pointed out that Wegner's **Cow Horn Chair** was in fact an ergonomically correct exception to the rule. The two passionate professionals engaged in a dialogue, which resulted in the **Swivel Chair** with a large piece of solid wood to support the lower back.

Eventually Dr Snorrason became the house doctor of the Wegner family advising in particular on back related issues.

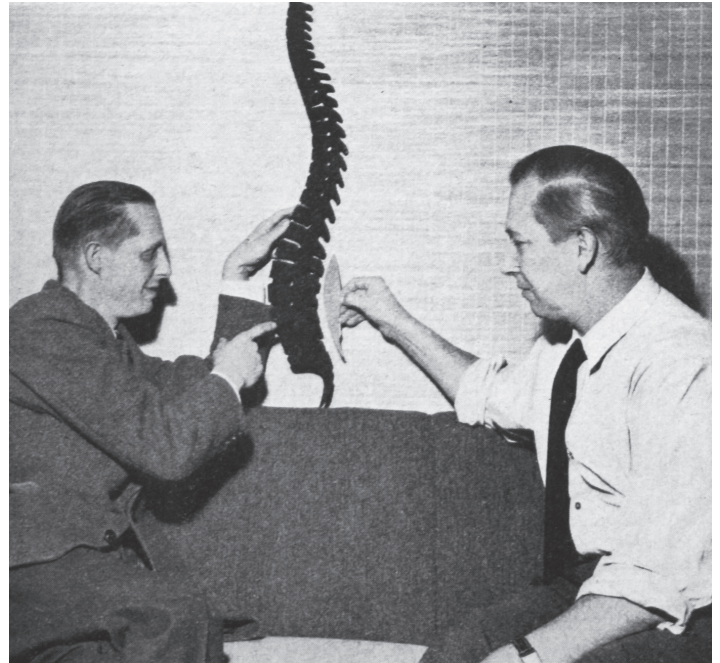
Like numerous other Wegner designs, the **Swivel Chair** was to be produced by Danish craftsmen with not a second thought for cost-minimising industrial production. It presents huge challenges for the joiner, the upholsterer and the blacksmith, as it demands time-consuming work that must not be compromised in any way. Wegner himself expressed it thus, 'It's for the boss ... or the secretary. No, it's too expensive for the secretary. It's for the boss who will appreciate being able to sit correctly in a chair'.



Ergonomics

Following the debut of the **Round Chair**, Wegner went through several distinct phases in seeking an adequate and healthy support for the back.

In the 1950's Wegner conducted pioneering multi disciplined studies on ergonomics with Consultant, Professor and Doctor of Medicine Egill Snorrason PhD. The studies were based on X-ray images of the human spine and revealed new insight into the laws of ergonomics. As a statement on the results of the studies Wegner created the **Swivel Chair**.



Stainless steel

The making of our metal parts present as many challenges as the other crafts involved in making Wegner's finest masterpieces, it is equally challenging and requires a true artisan to execute.

In fabricating the base for the **Swivel Chair** it is necessary to solder the joints with silver. This is a delicate chemical process that requires constant attention to the balancing of several contradicting factors. Silver soldering is extremely strong and accurate but it is only successful at very high temperatures, however, should the temperature become too high the entire work will be lost.

PP Møbler primarily works with stainless steel sourced from the best European mills. We never use metal coatings like chrome or nickel but polish the surface. This is a much more time consuming process than coating and rules out the possibility of hiding any flaws. It is a manual process where every movement will influence the quality of the final result.



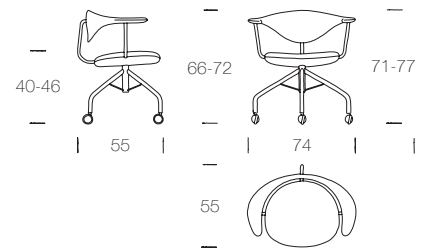




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The combined arm- and backrest, also called a top rail, is made from solid wood. The different pieces have been cut from newly felled shelter trees that are about 200 years old. The cut pieces are left to dry for up to 2 years.

The frame is made from silver soldered stainless steel and includes an adjustment mechanism enabling the user to adjust the height of the chair. Only the finest leather is used for upholstering the seat.



pp møbler

Vestvej 45
3450 Allerød
Denmark

info@pp.dk
www.pp.dk

An illustration dated 1953 showing
the basic conclusions of Wegner's
pioneering studies on ergonomics:

1. Standing position.
2. Wrong sitting position.
3. Right sitting position.



RØNTGENBILLEDER VISENDE RYGSØJ- LENS STILLING VED:

1. STÅENDE STILLING.

RYGSØJLEN ER I BALANCE.



2. FORKERT SIDDESTILLING.

RYGSØJLEN ER IKKE I BALANCE.

STOLENS RYGLÆN STØTTER FOR HØJT OPPE OG ER FOR
BREDT, DET ER IKKE MULIGT AT SKYDE SÆDET LANGT
NOK TILBAGE



3. RIGTIG SIDDESTILLING.

RYGSØJLEN ER I BALANCE.

STOLENS RYGLÆN STØTTER UD FOR DE NEDERSTE
LÆNDEVIRVLER, CA' 18 CM OVER STOLESÆDET, OG
DET ER MULIGT GRUNDET PÅ RYGLÆNET FORM
AT SKYDE SÆDET TILBAGE UNDER BETTE.



UNDERSØGELSERNE ER FØRET AF DR. MED. E. SNORRASON.

OPTAGELSERNE ER FREMSTILLET PÅ KOMMUNEHOSPITALET'S RØNTGENAFDELING MED
VENLIG HJÆLP FRA PROF. DR. MED. ET. ØBONT, FLEMMING NØRGAARD.

10-9-1953

Hans J. Wegner.