

Papa Bear Chair

Design: Hans J. Wegner, 1951

pp19

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Investment for generations

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Be embraced by the great bear paws of this all time comfortable easy chair. Consider it an investment for life as gifted Danish craftsmen spend at least two weeks hand crafting each chair to the highest standards. The solid wooden frame is strongly jointed and shaped to form a solid base for the comprehensive traditional upholstery work.

Four natural materials constitute the comfortable upholstery, cotton, palm leaves, flax fibre, horsehair, and of course metal springs providing sensitive support for the back.

With this kind of genuine upholstery you will have a chair that will wear in rather than wear out. This chair will be softer and even more

comfortable with use.

Initiating production of the frames in 1953, the **Papa Bear Chair** was the first Hans J. Wegner design to be produced at PP Møbler and marks the beginning of a life long passionate collaboration involving generations of craftsmen and countless hours of work in the workshop developing prototypes and production techniques for numerous Wegner models, yet the **Papa Bear Chair** remains the most exclusive piece of them all.

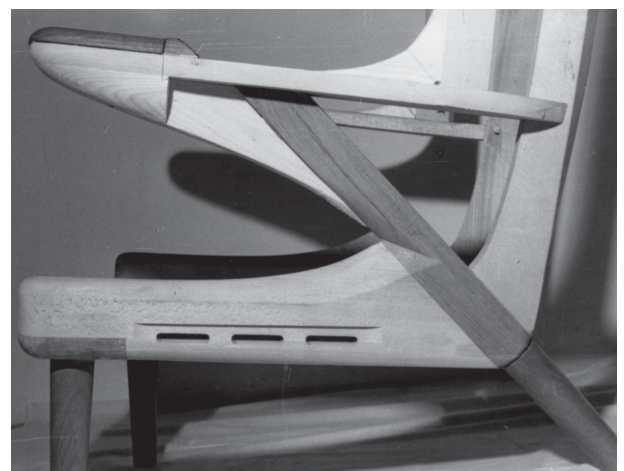




The **Papa Bear Chair** was our first introduction to Wegner. We produced the frame in the 1950's and 60's as a sub-supplier to its manufacturer AP Stolen. On his initial visit to our workshop to inspect the work in progress, Wegner questioned the need for such high quality on a part that would be hidden by upholstery.

Ejnar Pedersen responded by stating that the craftsmen needed to have pride in their work. Besides, PP Møbler only produces first class quality.

This statement came as a surprise to Wegner. Usually he would be the first to speak up for the quality of the work but in this instance his demands for excellence were matched.



A frame for the **Papa Bear Chair** made by PP Møbler. Its quality finish was noted by Wegner on his first visit to the workshop.

Inside the Papa Bear

At PP Møbler upholstery is much more than just covering a structure with foam and fabric. We often build up the shapes gradually with traditional and natural upholstery materials. This process requires a lot of experience and days of manual work required for each chair prior to covering it with fabric or leather. The result is extremely comfortable and the comfort will improve with use as traditional upholstery materials soften with wear over time.

The **Papa Bear Chair** stands as the archetype for a comfortable easy chair. The strong solid wooden frame constitutes the foundation on which the comprehensive and detailed upholstery work is built.

A number of different materials with unique properties are used to build up the shape. Plant fibres constitute the basic profile of the sides of the chair where sturdiness is crucial while coil springs are sewn onto jute straps in the back to provide flexible support. The inside of the frame is covered with horsehair and cotton. Finally, the ergonomic shape of the back is carefully adjusted by tightening the buttons.

The upholstery work on a **Papa Bear Chair** takes at least a week and each craftsman executes all processes from beginning to end.



Tow
plant fibre material used to make basic shapes. This material makes a dense compound as a foundation for softer materials.



Horse hair
has a springy effect and can be shaped.



Cotton
is used as the final layer before the fabric. The cotton softens the touch of the upholstery and evens out the surface.



Dried palm leaves
are used as filler because it can be shaped but remains quite stiff. The palm leaves are only used on the outside of the chair where there is a minimum of wear from daily use.



Coil springs
are fundamental to the comfortable support for the back in the **Papa Bear Chair**. The coil springs are sewn into bags of linen fabric and then attached to jute straps that are stretched down the length of the back.



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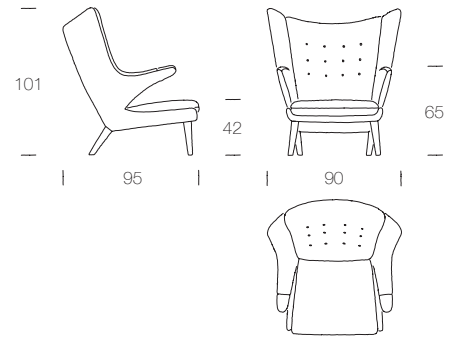
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pp19 comes in fabric or leather. Seat cushion, piping and buttons can be customized with leathers and fabrics different from the main upholstery.



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