

Chaise Tout Bois

Jean Prouvé, 1941

vitra.



Chaise Tout Bois is the only chair by the French 'constructeur' and designer Jean Prouvé that is made entirely out of wood. The design is very similar to Prouvé's famous Standard chair, but wood was substituted for the metal base due to the scarcity of metal during the Second World War. The form of the Chaise Tout Bois articulates Prouvé's intention to provide added strength at the transition point between the seat and backrest, where the load weight of the human anatomy is greatest. The profile of the rear frame section – back legs and backrest support – makes reference to this load transfer and is a typical characteristic of Prouvé's designs for both furniture and architecture.

Prouvé created several prototypes of this chair during the war for the purpose of testing its structural strength as well as the joints, leg position and connection between the seat and back. The chosen type of wood depended on what was available at the time. After the war, there was once again a sufficient supply of oak, which due to its hardness and strength was commonly used in France to construct ships and cathedral roofs. As these properties are also ideal for an all-wood chair, the Chaise Tout Bois was ultimately made out of oak and plywood – also offered in dark-stained versions when requested by Jean Prouvé's customers.

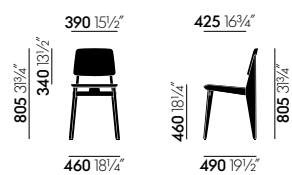
In 1947, Prouvé won an award for the Chaise Tout Bois in the 'Meubles de France' competition. The concept of the competition was to find attractive, high-quality, mass-produced furnishings to meet the post-war needs of society – particularly refugees and young married couples. Later the Chaise Tout Bois was replaced by a knock-down version in metal and wood, which was then supplanted by Model No. 305, likewise combining a metal base with a wooden seat and backrest – known today as the Standard chair.

Chaise Tout Bois by Vitra corresponds to one of Jean Prouvé's design variants from 1941, whose construction does not require a single screw. The height and seat geometry are the same as those of the Standard chair and thus meet current norms and requirements. The warm look and feel of wood contrasts appealingly with the practical structural design, which is typical of Prouvé's functional approach. Chaise Tout Bois is available in light oak or dark-stained oak.

Materials

- **Seat and backrest:** moulded plywood veneer in natural or dark-stained oak, protective natural lacquer finish.
- **Base:** non-stackable solid wood base; same type of wood as backrest and seat in natural or dark-stained oak, protective natural lacquer finish.
- **Origin of wood:** solid oak (*Quercus robur*) from Croatia, veneer wood from Germany and the USA.

DIMENSIONS (in accordance with EN 1335-1)



Chaise Tout Bois

SURFACES AND COLOURS



10
natural oak,
with protective
varnish



10
natural oak,
with protective
varnish



04
dark oak, with
protective varnish



04
dark oak, protec-
tive varnish

Wooden base

Seat and back

