



## TREATMENT REPORT TWO BREUER WASSILY CHAIRS

*One of the pair of Wassily Chairs shown before treatment, below.*



### HISTORY

*The Wassily chair, designed by Marcel Breuer, was originally designed with canvas slings and bent tubular steel, which is rumored to have been inspired by bicycle handlebars. Breuer was a student of the Bauhaus, a school begun in postwar Germany, 1919, founded on the De Stijl movement, and going beyond it to incorporate the industrial movement, with items that could be mass produced. The Wassily Chair was originally known as "B3". Contrary to popular belief, the chair was not made for Wassily*

Kandinsky, a close friend and classmate of Breuer's, but named at a later date. However, Kandinsky admired the chair and was given the second set of prototypes made by his friend.

The chair was originally created with canvas slings instead of leather. Our clients purchased the chairs new, and though they are not of the first generation, they are true Breuer chairs made by Knoll, International.

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## ASSESSMENT

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Both chairs exhibited the same problems.

1. The leather strapping which creates the body of the seat, inside back, and armrests was splitting at the seams in all areas, an example of which is shown below, left.
2. The leather was cracked and splitting around the chrome on the arms and back, shown below, right.



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## TREATMENT

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### CRACKED LEATHER LOSS COMPENSATION

MPFC repaired the cracks to the leather strapping with aniline dye and a topcoat to protect it in future.

### SPLIT LEATHER STRAPPING

A new piece of strapping was skived down to a thin profile.

This was inserted in areas where the leather between the two pieces of strapping had deteriorated, as shown in the photo, right.

We did not use leather on the seat as it would have made that seat edge hard and eventually this would wear differently, not to mention be uncomfortable to sit in. Instead we used a piece of cotton scrim to preserve the leather from further deterioration.

All split areas except the seat were glued closed with hide glue, and clamped to dry.

While they were drying, stitches were resewn with awl twine which matched the existing twine, shown right.



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## AFTER TREATMENT

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