

40/4®

HOWE

# PRODUCT DESCRIPTION



DESIGNED BY DAVID ROWLAND 1964

# 40/4®

David Rowland's 40/4 chair is arguably the most significant chair design of the past 50 years. Over 8 million chairs have been sold since its introduction in 1964. Honoured with numerous design awards, and exhibited in several museums all over the world, the 40/4 chair is widely appealing. Whether you go for its excellent ergonomic features, its graceful lines and durability or its unique space-saving attributes, there are at least 40 good reasons to choose this design icon. Renowned for its unsurpassed stacking and handling characteristics combined with its elegant and spare aesthetic, 40/4 is rightly a great favourite of specifying architects and designers. With seats and backs in polyamide, finely crafted wood veneer or as upholstered version, 40/4 does great service across the board in schools, universities, churches and cathedrals, as well as in corporate offices, conference centres and training establishments. 40/4 is also available in armchair, barstool, lounge chair, swivel chair, outdoor variations, and with wood frame.

## DESCRIPTION

Multi-purpose stacking chairs for conferencing, meeting, training, dining and visiting use. Stackable up to 40 chairs on dolly.

## PRODUCT DETAILS

### SEATS, BACKS AND ARMRESTS

The seats and backs are triple curved. The front of the seat is with "waterfall" curve.

### VENEER VERSION

The surface veneer is in matt lacquered 0.02" semi-quarter cut, bookmatch sanded veneer on both sides. The inner layers are in 0.05" rotary cut beech: 7 layers on seat, 9 layers on back, 7 layers on armrests. The thickness of the seat is 0.35"-0.39", back 0.39"-0.43" and armrest 0.35"-0.39".

### Standard finishes:

Maple, beech, oak, cherry, ash, birch, and walnut as well as black and white stained.

### POLYAMIDE VERSION

The polyamide is a PA. The surface is slightly textured. The thickness of the seat is 0.22"-0.39", back 0.26"-0.39" and armrest 0.39".





Standard colours:

Howe grey, Ayers Rock red, Black, Blue eyes, Coconut, Mandarin, Olive green, Marine blue, Aubergine and Mint Turquoise.

**METAL VERSION**

The metal is cold rolled steel. The surface is slightly textured and matt coated.

The seat and back are made from 0.04" coil. Blanks are formed and edge is curled in a die. Curl is to give strength. Seat has been reinforced with a stamped bottom plate. Seat/back are mounted with rivets to the frame. The thickness of the seat and back is 0.04".

Standard colours:

Black ME200 and White ME300.

**FRAMES**

The sled frame is in round, solid steel rod.

Side chair (linking and non-linking): Ø0.43" rod.  
 Armchair: Ø0.43" rod/Ø0.51" rod at rearlegs and arm support.

Frame finish comes in trivalent chrome3 (min. 20 µ) or black, satin black, white, alu grey or Howe grey powder coating (min. 50 µ) as standard.

The glides are in transparent polycarbonate (PC). Glides with integrated moulded felt are optional. On chairs with integrated linking (fin and hook/eye linking) one male and one female glide apply.

**VARIETIES**

The side chair is available with integrated linking systems, providing strong and efficient linking for mass seating. The linking systems are an integral part of the frame and are a solid three-point connection; 2 integral frame joints plus an inter-locking glide joining point.

Two types of integrated linking systems are available:

- Hook and eye linking
- Brace linking

**LOUNGE VERSION**

The side chair is available as lounge version with lower seating height, wider seat and a more leaned back seating position.

The solid steel rod is Ø0.43". The lounge version is available in veneer, and upholstery finish.



**XTRA VERSION**

The side chair is available in an enlarged version with higher back, and wider seat and back. The solid steel rod is Ø0.43". The xtra version is available in veneer and upholstery finish.

**BARSTOOL VERSION**

The side chair is available as barstool version with seating height of 30.5" as standard. Seating height 24.8" also available (counter height).

The seat and back is more narrow and seating position more leaned back for optimal comfort.

The solid steel rod is Ø0.55". The barstool version is available in veneer, polyamide and upholstery finish.

**OUTDOOR VERSION**

The side chair, armchair and barstool are available for outdoor use. The frame is treated with e-coat and powdercoated on top - standard colour is alu grey.

The seat and back are injection moulded PA6 - standard colour is black. The outdoor version is thoroughly tested to outdoor conditions.

**SWIVEL VERSION**

The 40/4 swivel chair is available in side chair and armchair versions. Choose between castors or glides. It is height adjustable providing a seating height span from 18.1"-23" on castors and a seating height span from 16.7"-21.5" on glides.

The seat, back and armrests are available in polyamide (PA6), veneer and upholstery finishes.

The solid steel frame is Ø0.51". The seat support is in steel, and the aluminium die cast spindle dimension is Ø1.10".

Castors with integrated wheel brakes are with Howe grey core and zinc corpus. Soft lane castors as an option. Glides in PP.

**WOOD FRAME VERSION**

The 40/4 wood frame is an alternative to the original chair with its iconic steel rod sled frame. The 40/4 wood frame is FSC® certified.



The goal was to retain the proportions, angles, and characteristic curves whilst giving the choice of a different material. The frame is pressed veneer with the dimensions of 1.06" x 0.91".

The connector is in zinc and is powder coated in Howe grey. The 40/4 wood frame is available as a side chair with and without an integrated seat pad.

The standard finishes are beech and oak as well as black stained and walnut stained. A floor linking system is available for the side chair. The linking brackets are retrofittable.

**UPHOLSTERY**

The upholstery is in fabric, trevira, microfibre, leather or PU. The back is fully upholstered. As standard the cushioning is fire retardant CMHR polyurethane foam. Thickness is 0.79" on the seat and 0.60" on the back. Foam density is 2.8 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> on the seat and 2.8 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> on the back. Arm rest: 0.79" thickness and density 2.8 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>. Thin foam option available for Trevira and wool fabrics upon request.

The 40/4 chair in veneer and polyamide is available as semi-upholstered (seat upholstered - back in veneer or polyamide). This means reduced stackability.

**STACKING CAPACITY**

The side chair in veneer and polyamide is stackable up to 40 chairs in height of 57.7" on dolly. Rows of 2, 3, or 4 side chairs in veneer or polyamide with fin or eye/hook linking can be lifted and stacked without separation on double, triple or quadruple dollies.

The side chair in metal is stackable up to 40 chairs in height of 57.7" on dolly.

The upholstered side chair is stackable up to 25 chairs in height of 62.4" on dolly.

The armchair is stackable up to 25 chairs in height of 69.5" (veneer and polyamide) and in height of 70.5" (upholstered) on dolly.

The lounge chair in veneer is stackable up to 20 chairs in height of 39.4" on floor.

The xtra chair is stackable up to 40 chairs in height of 57.9" (veneer) and up to 25 chairs in height of 62.4" (upholstered) on dolly.

The barstool in veneer and polyamide is stackable up to 10 chairs in height of 49.6" on floor.

The 40/4 wood frame is stackable up to 25 chairs in height of 67.7" on dolly and up to 12 chairs on floor in height of 42.9" ..

The 40/4 wood frame with seat pad is stackable up to 20 chairs in height of 61.6" on dolly and up to 10 chairs on floor in height of 41.1".

**REQUIRED FLOOR SPACE**

Single dolly = 40 chairs = 5.06 sq. ft floor space.

Double dolly = 80 chairs = 10.12 sq. ft floor space.

Triple dolly = 120 chairs = 15.07 sq. ft floor space.

Quadruple dolly = 160 chairs = 20.13 sq. ft floor space.



## DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT

### DIMENSIONS

- VENEER CHAIRS	Chair	Lounge	xtra	Barstool	Barstool counter height	Swivel	Wood frame
Depth of seat:	17.1"	17.1"	17.1"	15.9"	15.9"	17.1"	17.1"
Width of seat:	16.7"	18.3"	18.3"	15.9"	15.9"	16.7"	16.1"
Height of back:	9.8"	10"	10"	8.9"	8.9"	9.8"	9.6"
Width of back:	18.3"	19.9"	19.9"	17.5"	17.5"	18.3"	18.3"
Height of chair:	30.3"	28"	30.5"	42.3"	37"	30.5"-35.4"	30.5"
Depth of chair:	20.9"	23.4"	20.9"	21.3"	21.3"	26"	21.5"
Width of chair:	19.3"	20.9"	20.9"	18.7"	18.7"	26"	20.7"
Width of two chairs with brace linking:	40.4"	N/A	43.5"	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Width of chair with armrest:	23.8"	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26"	N/A
Seating height:	17.9"	15.7"	17.9"	30.5"	24.8"	18.1"-23"	18.1"
Armrest height:	26"	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.6"-31.5"	N/A

### WEIGHT

VERSION	Polyamide	Veneer	Upholstered
SIDE CHAIR - non linking	14.3 lb	13.4 lb	13.9 lb
SIDE CHAIR - linking	14.6 lb	13.9 lb	14.3 lb
ARMCHAIR - non linking	17 lb	15.7 lb	16.8 lb
ARMCHAIR - linking	17.2 lb	15.9 lb	16 lb
LOUNGE	N/A	13.2 lb	14.1 lb
XTRA - non linking	N/A	13.9 lb	14.3 lb
XTRA - linking	N/A	14.1 lb	14.6 lb
BARSTOOL	22.9 lb	20.1 lb	20.7 lb
SWIVEL SIDE CHAIR	25.6 lb	24.7 lb	25.1 lb
SWIVEL ARMCHAIR	27.3 lb	26.5 lb	26.9 lb
WOOD FRAME SIDE CHAIR	N/A	8.8 lb	11 lb (seat pad)



## ACCESSORIES

TRANSPORT DOLLIES with capacity of 40 chairs per unit. Single dolly (40.8 lb), double dolly (57.3 lb), triple dolly (75 lb), quadruple dolly (91.5 lb).

ROW SPACER BAR holding linked rows of chairs secure in the case of an emergency - often a local authority requirement. The steel bar is 0.12" in thickness and aisle created is 13.8" from seat front to chair back. Fixed with rubber lock.

ROW NUMBERING TAG in black POM. 1-2 numbers/letters inclusive.

SEAT NUMBERING TAG in black POM. 1-2 numbers/letters inclusive.

WRITING TABLET, right or left handed version. Attachable/detachable. Black or white compact laminate version in 0.39" thickness. With or without cup holder.

**TRANSPORTER FOR WRITING TABLETS**

Dolly with three boxes, capacity 18 pcs.  
Dolly dimensions: L 23.6" x D 15.7" x H 5.5".

Double dolly with six boxes, capacity 36 pcs.  
Dolly dimensions: L 36" x D 22.2" x H 5.5".

BOOK RACK in solid steel rod. Retrofitable mounting on frame underneath the seat.

HYMN BOOK HOLDER in chrome, 4.7" high, 6.9" long, 6.1 wide (distance between front legs of chairs).  
With integrated linking.

TABLE SURFACE PROTECTOR for armchairs - Soft poplyamide device mounted on steel rod below the armrest. Armchair can be hung on the table without scratching the table surface. Cannot be installed subsequently.

LINKING TOOL aiding the linking/unlinking operation of chairs with integrated frame linking.

LOOSE LINKING SYSTEMS available for a variety of situations:

- Armchair-to-armchair:  
Linking device mounted on armrests.
- Armchair-to-side chair:  
Attachable/detachable linking devices mounted on the frame.
- Side chair-to-side chair:  
Attachable/detachable linking devices mounted on the frame. Radius linking device available - provides a radiused arc up to 12 degrees.

**ERGONOMICS & ENVIRONMENT**

The chairs triple curved form moulds to body's natural contours. The waterfall seat design does not restrict blood circulation and so prevents undue pressure under the thighs.

The stacking of the chairs is ergonomically correct - the chairs only have to be lifted low to slide from front. All parts of the chair can be dismantled and recycled.

**TESTS**

The chair is designed for severe contract use and has been subject to a variety of tests to ensure its highest quality and durability.

The furniture is tested by third-party organizations and passed testing according to the required EN and BIFMA standards, staying also in line with strict emission regulations.

All the certificates are available for access and download [here](#).

**WARRANTIES**

HOWE a/s gives a 10 years guarantee on all 40/4 chairs against weld breakages, defective material, workmanship and performance under normal use.

For full information please see the warranty provision on [howe.com](http://howe.com)



## PACKAGING

Side chairs = 10 per carton/11.65 cu ft.

Armchairs = 5 per carton/13.06 cu ft.

Upholstered side chairs = 5 per carton.

Upholstered side chairs with extra thickness cushioning = 5 per carton.

Upholstered armchairs = 5 per carton.

Upholstered armchairs with extra thickness cushioning = 5 per carton.

## AWARDS

1964: Grand Prix, Milan Triennale for '40/4' Chair (one of only two Americans to receive this award, the other one being Buckminster Fuller for his Geodesic Domes).

1965: American Institute of Designers (AID) award for best piece of business furniture.

1965: Product Engineering Magazine Award, '40/4' Chair (one of 12 best products introduced in the United States in 1965).

1969: Austrian Gold Medal Award for furniture.

1979: Institute of Business Designers (IBD) Gold Medal for best product in Special Seating Category.

1979: Institute of Business Designers (IBD) Gold Medal for best product of entire awards competition.

1980: International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) Exhibition, Milan, Italy.

1984: 'Design in America: The Cranbrook Vision 1925-1950'.

1992: Metropolis Magazine recognized '40/4' as one of the Classic Designs from around the World - of the Past 50 Years.

## PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

The chair is in the permanent collections of the following museums:

NEW YORK / Museum of Modern Art, Cooper-Hewitt, Museum of Design, Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Brooklyn Museum

LONDON / The Design Museum

PARIS / Musée des Arts Décoratifs

CHICAGO / Art Institute of Chicago

MONTREAL / Musée des Arts Décoratifs

WEIL AM RHEIN / The Vitra Museum

MUNICH / Die Neue Sammlung

RIO DE JANEIRO / Museu de Arte Moderna

FLINT / Institute of Fine Arts

PHILADELPHIA / Philadelphia Museum of Art

CRANBROOK / Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum





