



EASE AND
GOOD
LOOKS SIT
SIDE BY SIDE
IN TODAY'S
LOUNGE
CHAIRS
FOR MEN

BY DEBI BRYANT

Sit down, lean back, sink in — and let your troubles melt away. This feeling is what many men seek in their favorite chair.

COMFORT FIRST

The list of preferred features for a man's chair begins and ends with comfort. Marie Dang, president of Maximum Furniture, says the preferred "Dad" chair includes thickly padded upholstery, rolled arms and nailheads.

"Men like the aesthetics of wood, but when it comes to their favorite chairs, they want something padded," she says. "They also like stationary chairs, not



THE DAD CHAIR



ABOVE: A recliner adjuster knob lets you lock your seat in any position for a precise ergonomic fit with the Intuition Chair by Palliser. These chairs also have an adjustable articulating headrest. The Intuition retails for about \$650. Leather Furniture Shoppe is an authorized Palliser dealer.

LEFT: The Vari-Lounger by Bradington-Young belies its lounging function with its sophisticated lines and tasteful nail application. The chair is shown in "Constitution" leather, which has a hand-rubbed finish to highlight the leather's natural markings. Find the Vari-Lounger at Leather Furniture Shoppe. About \$2,200

THE DAD CHAIR



Go first class with the Flight Recliner from Design Within Reach, the result of a design challenge to create a recliner that looks like a chair. Upright, the Flight Recliner functions as a comfortable, streamlined club chair. Opened, it unfolds to hold the body aloft, with support from head to toe. A stainless steel sleigh base provides stable footing. About \$2,000-\$2,700 in three fabric options (wool shown); in leather, about \$2,700



The Neo's simple, geometric design blends in both contemporary and transitional environments — and makes a great chair for Dad. The Neo is available with or without arms and as a rocking or fixed armchair with footstool included for about \$1,200. Designed by Alban-Sébastien Gilles for Ligne Roset

rockers. And if it's not a recliner, an ottoman is usually a must."

She is an advocate of getting the size right. "You want to make sure the chair is fitted for your height and your size," she advises. Dang says good quality chairs are available in a range from \$500 to \$1,000.

POPULAR CHOICES

Jim Winkler, owner of the Leather Furniture Shoppe, carries a wide variety of chairs, including Bradington-Young, Flexsteel, Berkline and La-Z-Boy. "For the last six months or so, the Bradington-Young recliner called the Vari-Lounger has been very popular," he says. "It has a two-part reclining mechanism that gives the user a full range of motion, but without doing it all in one movement."

Another popular model is the Vari-Tilt, a lounge that comes with a stand-alone ottoman. In upholstery, he finds that men like leather for its comfort and serviceability. "Microfiber is also a good choice," he adds. "It feels like suede and wears extremely well."

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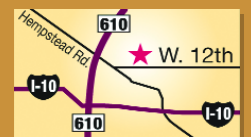
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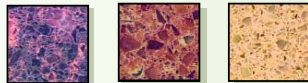


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THE DAD CHAIR



ABOVE: The Evans chair by Flexsteel is a special mixture of elements, including a front T-cushion, a slightly scaled English arm and a loose back pillow. Note the welt detail and tapered block legs. Suggested retail value with ottoman, about \$1,000. Leather Furniture Shoppe is a Flexsteel dealer.

RIGHT: Classic boundstooth check upholstery is perfect for Dad, especially when covering the handsome Cadalin chair by Best Chairs Inc., a custom upholstery vendor. The backs and tops of the arms are accented with French seaming, and the tall, arched arms roll out over the top of the reversible T-cushion. Visit Maximum Furniture for your custom piece.



OTTOMANS NOT OPTIONAL

A local furniture manufacturer, Largo International, makes lounge chairs with separate ottomans as one of its primary offerings (available at Maximum Furniture and Star Furniture stores; Largo recliners will be available in the fall). Ray Reese, vice president of sales, says, "Men like comfort in their choice of chairs. Most of ours have eight-way, hand-tied seating construction, which gives them a very luxurious feel. They give lots of support, a good sign of quality in any chair." Retail prices range from \$999 to \$1,499.

If you come away empty-handed from shopping for a replacement for a favorite chair, Dang suggests one last option: reupholster. "Some people get really attached to a chair and nothing else will do," she says. "When that happens, just reupholster."

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