

Goodbye manual adjustments.

The Freedom chair is designed to give the maximum ergonomic benefit to the sitter with a minimum number of manually-adjusted controls. Once the chair is fitted, no further adjustment is required. The idea is that movement, which is essential for a healthy body, shouldn't be constricted by locking mechanisms and manual controls. In other words, sitting comfortably isn't something you should have to think about.



Designed by Niels Diffrient

"When design springs from an understanding of the people who are going to use a product, you begin to see forms that you would never have imagined."

—Niels Diffrient

Niels Diffrient's designs are grounded in the philosophy of form flowing from function. His work has spanned generations, consistently looking past trends to reinvent the tools we use for daily living.

With an academic foundation in design and architecture and a degree from Cranbrook Academy, Diffrient channels his knowledge of engineering, architecture, and human factors into the creation of highly functional and aesthetically timeless designs.

In his early work with the studios of Eero Saarinen, Marco Zanuso, and Henry Dreyfuss, to his current work with Humanscale, Diffrient's visionary talent has been widely recognized. Included among his many honors are the 2002 National Design Award from the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and the 1999 Chrysler Design Award. In recent years, Diffrient has focused his energies on designs for the office environment, particularly seating, a category in which he has pioneered numerous breakthroughs, from pneumatic cylinders for seat height adjustment to weight-activated, automatic recline.

Changing the way people sit.

freedom



Freedom from locks, freedom to move.

The Freedom chair was designed specifically to encourage frequent, spontaneous changes of posture. There are no locks and no tension springs to negotiate. Instead, there are elegant mechanisms that automatically support your body in every position you'll assume throughout the day.

Ergonomic furniture has created back problems because it succeeds too well in supporting the body in one position. Galen Cranz, PhD
Author of "The Chair"

AUTOMATIC HEADREST



Headrests are added to chairs because your head needs support when you recline, which is why people without headrests put their hands behind their heads when they lean back. However, fixed or manually adjusted headrests are never in the right place when you need them. The dynamic, position-sensitive headrest on Freedom cradles your head and neck as you recline, and moves out of the way when you sit upright – automatically!

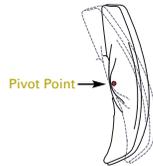


Headrest moves forward as back reclines.

PIVOTING BACKREST



When you recline, your spine needs more support in the lumbar area than it does when you sit upright. However, the fixed backrests on most chairs don't accommodate for this need. The pivoting backrest on Freedom adjusts automatically to the changing needs of your spine by providing up to 1" additional support in the lumbar area when you recline.



Pivot Point

INTELLIGENT MECHANISM



Freedom's revolutionary counter-balance mechanism works like a human-sized weighing scale. As you recline, your weight automatically balances the force required to recline the chair. So, whether you're big or small, short or tall, Freedom provides just the right amount of recline tension to keep you fully supported in all positions without the need for locks or other manual adjustments.



Recline is supported by lifting body weight.

SYNCHRONOUS ARMRESTS



Different tasks require different armrest heights, but if armrests are not adjusted as tasks change, then the user is not getting their full benefit. Freedom's revolutionary, synchronous armrests are so easy to use and adjust that you'll instinctively move them throughout the day. And because they move in tandem, you'll always be supported in balance – with your spine in a neutral posture.



Traditional armrests



Synchronous is healthier

HIGH-TECH CUSHIONS



The cushions on Freedom are as unique as the rest of the chair. Molded, not upholstered, they are sculpted to closely follow body contours, which increases contact area and decreases concentrated loads. Our optional gel seat cushion maximizes weight distribution and comfort. And the unprecedented modular design allows them to be removed and installed with four screws, making replacement a snap.



The red areas show uncomfortable pressure points on traditional foam seats.



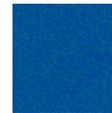
The reduced pressure on Freedom's sculpted gel cushions means more long-term comfort.

TEXTILES

The cushions on all Humanscale chairs utilize advanced technology developed primarily for the sportswear and sporting goods industries. In a single step, a high-tech molding process combines the textile, Technogel® (standard on armrests, optional on seat cushions), foam and plastic support shell into a single, modular unit, which can be attached to our seating with four screws. Because of this advanced process, the textiles used on the cushions are as unique as the rest of the chair, and satisfy requirements more demanding than typical upholstery textiles. Contact your representative for complete textile information.



Wave



Vellum



Spirit Millennium



Leather

Keep moving. Stay healthy.

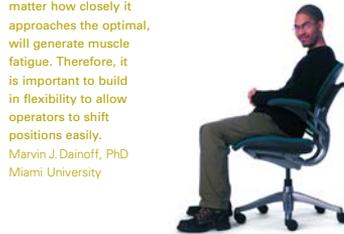


Movement is essential for a healthy back.

People are spending more time sitting than ever before. Not surprisingly, this increase in sitting has been accompanied by a proportional increase in back problems. Our bodies were designed to move. In fact, movement, more than anything else, provides nourishment for the spine, keeps the joints lubricated and flexible, improves circulation and therefore keeps us comfortable. Conversely, when we don't move, the elasticity of our spine and joints is reduced and our muscles become fatigued. The key to healthy and comfortable sitting is being able to move without restrictions.

The truth about locks.

Recline locks have been marketed as "features" on current-generation chairs. But the truth is, they are only there to compensate for the inadequacies of standard spring-tension mechanisms, which, by their very nature, are incapable of supporting the body in multiple positions. The problem is, a locked chair keeps you from moving, and that's not healthy.



Any fixed posture, no matter how closely it approaches the optimal, will generate muscle fatigue. Therefore, it is important to build in flexibility to allow operators to shift positions easily.
Marvin J. Dainoff, PhD
Miami University

freedom



Humanscale®

In the Press

"Chairs reflect the character of their designer. Niels Diffrient is clever, pragmatic, honest, personal and generous. I sit on his Freedom Chair everyday and it makes me optimistic about the value of design."

Rob Forbes, Founder of Design Within Reach, September 2004

"For the last few years, the gold standard in office seating has been set by the Freedom chair by Humanscale." New York Times, October 3, 2002

"Elegantly and effortlessly, the Freedom chair is changing the way people sit and the way people think about furniture." Buildings, December 2002

"This ergonomic office chair feels so good, the two of you will want to get a room." Popular Mechanics, January 2003

"Five stars! Worth every cent, the Freedom task chair removes at least the physical discomfort from your workday." Business 2.0, June 26, 2001

"The jurors were awed by the mechanics, wowed by the comfort and overcome with excitement about the possibility of changing the contract-seating market forever." ID Magazine, Design Review 2000



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Our Design Philosophy At Humanscale, we believe the best designs in the world are based on purpose and function. If a design solves a functional problem as simply and elegantly as possible, the resulting form will be honest and timeless.



HS-FRD-305

freedom™

