

Press release
Frankenberg, March 2024

Fine Dining: Thonet presents the comfortable new 118 FV chair Design: Sebastian Herkner, 2018/2024

Always elegant, functional and versatile, and now even more comfortable with more generous proportions: the 118 Fine Dining (118 FV) is the newest member of the successful “Offenbach chair” family. The 118 FV was designed by Sebastian Herkner with elegance in mind and is equally at home in private dining rooms and fine dining locations. The new Thonet beech wood chair is available in diverse colours and versions, with seat options that include upholstery, classic canework or monochrome stained moulded plywood.



Sebastian Herkner designed the 118 chair, also known as the “Offenbach chair”, for Thonet and developed it into an entire chair range. His design pays homage to the German company’s heritage: using the principle Michael Thonet himself created in the 19th century, Herkner too reduced his beech wood chair to the fewest possible elements. At the same time, he also relied on clean lines and fine details. The chair legs – characterised by their rounded backs and gentle front edges – echo the trapezoidal seat typical of Thonet chairs, and the angle of the backrest is perfectly aligned with the chair’s seat.

The newest member of this chair range is the 118 FV, an inviting armchair that offers even more room and comfort. This design was created by Sebastian Herkner specifically for fine dining settings and features a larger seat and wider, slightly more reclined backrest. The new beech wood chair with bentwood armrests provides comfortable seating for private dining rooms and in particular in fine dining restaurants, even through many courses. As with the 119 lounge chair, the front legs of the 118 FV are attached to the outer edge of the seat frame. Compared with the 118 F, its armrests are longer and extend further forward, surrounding the user and making it easier to stand up. While the 118 F features a smaller, more compact shape, the wider, deeper seat of the new 118 Fine Dining provides a high level of comfort to people of all sizes. Combined with one another, the models from the 118 range create a harmonious seating arrangement around the table, inviting people to talk and linger.

The measurements for the 118 FV are W 57 cm x D 52 cm x H 80 cm. It is available in a variety of colours and in versions with a moulded plywood seat (118 MFV), a canework seat or an upholstered seat (118 SPFV).

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Thonet – future-oriented furniture design with a long tradition

The unique success story of Thonet began with the work of master carpenter Michael Thonet. Ever since he established his first workshop in Boppard on the River Rhine in 1819, the name Thonet has stood for high-quality, innovative and elegant furniture. The breakthrough came with the iconic chair No. 14, today known the world over as the Vienna Coffee House Chair: the pioneering technique of bending solid beechwood enabled the mass production of chairs for the first time. The second milestone in design history was the tubular steel furniture by the famous Bauhaus architects Mart Stam, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer in the 1930s. During those pioneering years, Thonet was the world's largest producer of these tubular steel furniture designs, which are today considered timeless.

For the company today, the continuous process of innovation is the top priority, together with a focus on tradition and fine craftsmanship. Thonet's furniture designs originate both from its collaborations with renowned national and international creatives and from the in-house Thonet Design Team. Chief Executive Officer Brian Boyd and Creative Director Norbert Ruf manage the company from the corporate head office and production site in Frankenberg/Eder (Germany). Michael Thonet's fifth- and sixth-generation descendants are actively involved with the company's business as partners and sales representatives.