

Workplaces

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**Destination Unknown:
Where Business Travel
Might Land Now That
COVID-19 Has Arrived**

Workplaces

BoF Workplaces 

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will help you run a better, more informed company.
ROB KIRKBRIDE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



I'VE BEEN WORKING
AT HOME FOR SO LONG
THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW
TO DRESS FOR THE OFFICE!

PRIDE IN YOUR WORK

Werkpsy chair by OM

IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT MY FAMILY FIGHTS OVER A PIECE OF OFFICE FURNITURE WHEN IT ARRIVES FOR REVIEW. A chair that arrives in a large cardboard box on the stoop usually

garners a groan and a complaint about how our house is beginning to look like a used office furniture store. But when I unboxed the Werkpsy chair by California-based office furniture maker OM, I was greeted with a much different reaction.



Werkpsy chair by OM

From \$745

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"I want that for my room," said my 14-year-old daughter when she saw it. "It's going upstairs," she added after sitting in it for the first time.

That's probably because Werkpsy is different than any



other chair we've ever tested here at Workplaces.

It is part work chair, part casual side chair and part rocking chair. Yes, I said rocking chair. Werkpsy is the first ever office chair to include a rocking motion. Before you dismiss Werkpsy as a gimmicky abomination created in Fabrizio Frankenstein's Italian furniture design lab, the chair demands that you sit in it and try it for yourself.

As a reviewer, I usually have a baseline for describing chairs. I am able to objectively determine whether a chair is good or bad, comfortable or uncomfortable, ergonomic or painful to use because I've literally sat in and used thousands of chairs in my life. With Werkpsy, there is nothing to compare it to — no other office chair that does exactly what Werkpsy does. So I can confidently say, it is the most fun office chair I've ever used. And I can also tell you with experience that "fun" and "office chair" are words that are rarely strung together in a review.

At its core, Werkpsy is a smartly designed shell chair that comes as a stackable guest chair and simple action tilting seat. But the third model — the rocker, which is the one I am reviewing here — is creating an entirely different spin on active seating. I mean, really, how many



height-adjustable swivel rockers with auto return have you seen on the market?

The company never set about designing a rocker. Instead, OM wanted a collection to fill spaces that supplement the formal workspace. Your desk chair is one, a light scale tasker could be another. And the company found that a rocking chair sitting in a collaborative environment ends up being yet another.

We are told the Werkpsy rocker stemmed from the idea of creating freedom of motion in a chair. OM worked with designer Henner Jahns of Gecco Vision on Werkpsy, and as they began developing Werkpsy, the idea of a rocking chair seemed to lend itself toward the idea of active seating — a key component in all of OM's offerings.

Werkpsy isn't perfect, but it is pretty darn close. We love the chair shell and the way the arm rest is cut out and allows for side-saddle seating while still being comfortable. We also love the way the fabric is treated on the seat — quilted and shaped in a kind of hourglass design to make the shell feel smaller and visually lighter. Our test version came with a light gray shell and cerulean blue fabric. It is a beautiful combination.

If we have any issue with the chair, it is in the base. We like the chrome look, but the base is heavy and looks a bit out of place with the light scale shell that sits above it. We realize that might be the engineering price we have to pay for being able to rock when we work, but it would be fun to see if OM could find a lighter material to use for the base (though we are not seating engineers and understand that probably isn't possible). It is a small quibble though for an exceptionally fun chair.

Werkpsy is surprisingly comfortable. Working for an entire shift using the chair is not only possible, it is quite enjoyable. It is not designed for all-day use, but there are days we used it that way, and it performed admirably. Still, Werkpsy is at its best when it is used in a collaborative setting. It is a great chair when sitting in on a meeting since you can move around, which we find helps us keep our focus.

What we like best about Werkpsy is how it surprised us in every way — it is surprisingly fun, surprisingly comfortable, surprisingly solid and well built, and surprisingly functional. All this in a chair we never knew we needed. Werkpsy also proves that innovation isn't dead in the office furniture industry.

Werkpsy Rocker starts at \$745 and can be purchased by contacting your local representative, which you can find at <https://www.omseating.com/company/sales-rep-locator/>

