

SIDE GALLERY

KATSUO MATSUMURA



Set of Easy Chairs model "T-5110"

Manufactured by Tendo Mokko
Japan, 1970s
Oak, Bentwood, Molded Plywood

Measurements (each chair)

53 × 70 × 64h cm (Seat 32h cm)
20,9 × 27,6 × 25,2h in (Seat 12,6h in)

Provenance

Private collection, Japan

Literature

Japanese Chairs. The chair and Designers of the
Modern Classic by Shimazaki Makoto. Japan 2005.

Page 95, 102, 103

Eight decades of masterful designs from leading
Japanese furniture maker Tendo Mokko. Published by
Tendo Mokko. Japan, 2020. Pages 244

Details

Each T-5110 easy chair features a gently reclined
frame with six elegantly curved bentwood back slats
and a molded plywood seat. The clear or natural lac-
quer finish enhances the oak's natural warmth, while
the proportions balance comfort, visual lightness,
and traditional Japanese seating considerations.

About

Designed by Katsuo Matsumura and produced by Tendo Mokko in the 1970s, the T-5110 chair exemplifies postwar Japanese modernism. It fuses minimalist functionalism with Japanese sensibilities, emphasizing human scale, craftsmanship, and material integrity. With its bentwood back and molded plywood seat, the design negotiates tradition and modernity, accommodating both tatami-based living and contemporary interiors. This set of four, now discontinued, remains a rare and highly collectible example of Japan's modernist design legacy.

Biography

Katsuo Matsumura (1914–2005) was a Japanese furniture designer known for his dedication to practical, affordable design. Trained in woodcraft at the Tokyo Prefectural Craftwork School and later at the Industrial Art Training School, he gained early experience working with architect Junzo Yoshimura. After serving in the war, he joined Yoshimura's newly founded architecture office, where his talent quickly stood out among leading designers of his generation.

Matsumura became recognized for pieces such as the Gama (Sedge) Chair and the dining chair T-0635B, which reflected his belief that Japanese furniture should be compact, lightweight, and accessible. Although briefly involved in the design collective Q-Designers, he soon chose to work independently, focusing on low-cost furniture that could be mass-produced without sacrificing quality.

Throughout his career, he collaborated with prominent architects and designers—including Jun Masuzawa—and contributed to influential interior projects such as Shinjuku Fugetsudo. Inspired early on by Charlotte Perriand's visit to Japan, Matsumura embraced a design ethos rooted in simplicity, functionality, and everyday usability. His work remains appreciated for its modest elegance and practicality.