



Image of A2 courtesy of Grythyttan.

WHAT MAKES A CLASSIC

With the aim to transform a common Gardena Plastic Chair using traits from a modern classic, our eyes fell upon the Grythyttan A2.

Three characteristics stand out:

1. Honest use of material and their inherent qualities.
2. Functionality. A chair that can be sat in comfortably for long due to its springy nature.
3. Minimalism. Few materials, rational choices, nothing unnecessary.

Redesigning the Altea Garden Chair to fit these characteristics, we initially focused strongly on achieving a rocking motion or similar comfort as in the A2.

To accomplish this, we investigated use of rubber, memory foam and other similar materials and rocking principles. These options however proved to lack enough flexing. Instead, we choose to use steel springs recessed in the arm rest. This solution, combined with exchanging the decorative back rest of the Gardena for

sheet metal profiles, the back allows for repeated bending without breaking, as the ABS eventually would have.

To further ensure minimalism and honest use of materials, we restricted ourselves to use only steel and white ABS in the final design. In addition to springs and sheet metal, steel rivets were used for fastening. As a final touch up, we reduced radii and bends to achieve a straighter, simpler look.

The result is a simple yet comfortable chair, durable for Swedish outdoor climate while cheekily flirting with its inspiration, the A2.

The campaign for this project, “What makes a classic”, is essentially an invitation to critical reflection on the concept of “Classic”. By contrasting our man-made classic with flowers, nature’s own perfected classics, how does this describe the human race and our way of life? So obviously part of nature, so clearly different. When we show what makes a classic, what classic are we referring to?

For all we say, the whole campaign could just as well be about the flowers.

Alexander Ekholm & David Wenner



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WHAT MAKES A CLASSIC

What is more beautiful than a flower?
What will last longer than steel?

Sit down and debate.
Sit down and contemplate.
Softly swaying back and forth,
like a flower in the wind.

What makes a classic? You decide.

