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Life @ Work

That 'Owner's pride thingy'! Part - II

In [Part I](#) of this article, we featured *Contour Designs 'Shuttle Pro'*, *Wacom 'Graphire'* and *Apple 'HD Cinema Display'*. And you thought they were just far too many eye candies to handle on a single day! Check out the rest of the 'thingies' we couldn't include in part - II! If the last week's picks could floor you with just the way they look, there's much more than that meets the eye about this week's selections - they may not catch your eye at the first glance. But take them for a swing just once and see if you could live without one, ever after!

Aeron Chair from Herman Miller



For those of us, who have been shuttling in and out of editing studios long enough, would readily agree that the one thing most of them need very badly is a comfortable chair - at least for the editor to sit on! I have at least couple of editor friends who have severe cases of slip disk and most of it goes back to bad postures and deplorable seating conditions available in most of our editing studios.

Now, **Aeron Chair** from *Herman Miller* looks like the most wholesome answer to this issue - and it does look unlike any other I've seen so far, at least as far as chairs go! To begin with, this one would set you back by about US\$ 600 [about INR 30K with no taxes added] a piece! And that is the starting price. Before talking a bit more about what it could do for your spinal cord and general comfort level, check out their website - this is one helluva site. I have never seen so much of info and resources available for a simple, stupid chair! But this ain't any simple, stupid chair - this is **Aeron** from *Herman Miller* :) But seriously guys, you should check out its web page - in a nutshell, the page has about 9 different pictures of the chair with various levels of details, it has the complete account on its ergonomics, tilt, suspension, aesthetics, designers and the story behind this design - both in html and PDF formats. That's not all - it has a downloadable PDF product brochure, a separate brochure for the available colour choices, a groovy flash presentation that tells you how **Aeron** could lift you from the gutter and place you up there amongst the clouds and, now hold your breath - the page has about 8 QuickTime video presentations on various adjustment options, available with the chair besides a promo video that is just that! Whew! I'm mighty impressed with the site it self and now I know the first thing I would do, if I could really spare that much of money! Well, did I also talk of the truck loads of essays and research papers on various seating or sitting issues that can be downloaded from here? Anyways, click here to go to **Aeron** web page.

Now, what's so special about this chair? I'm no expert on this kind of stuff, but I will tell you what I read and that does make a lot of sense.

According to its award winning designers, Don Chadwick and Bill Stumpf, **Aeron** Chair's design was based on one basic premise [besides a whole lot of other concepts about resource friendliness,

durability and blah blah], that human form has no straight lines! And the chair is designed to be 'biomorphic' and has no straight lines in its form either! One more surprise - it has no upholstery nor is it padded! It even has some *pellicle* versions which simply mean that these chairs will have a translucent look about them, which in turn will definitely go with your netted T-shirts or black leather trousers! And for the environmentally oriented, take heart - this one is largely made of recycled material. To sum it up - Aeron has got everything right - the style, the comfort, the science and the works. If you ain't bothered about the price, they probably got that one right too. And if you are bothered, then probably it's you who probably got it all wrong!

Perflex Charm from Contour Designs



For those, who don't know what '**Perflex Charm**' means - its an arm rest that you can attach to your existing chair. Why write about a stupid 'arm rest', right after one has waxed eloquently about the king of all chairs? Very simple, stupid - this one costs just US\$ 45! If you got the earlier one wrong, this could be the right one for you [*I know this is the one for me*]. At least, let your arms rest in peace!

Like all other Contour products, this one is also pretty uncomplicated and doesn't even have a brochure. But Contour guarantees 100% comfort and this pair of arm rests will fit on all adjustable chairs from 7" to 11" - this is the only complex data I could find on this product. Apparently, it fits on your existing chair and maximizes your comfort and productivity! Good buy for the money charged. Charge it to the company! If they say Aeron is a luxury, they better treat this one as your constitutional right!

Mackie - HR824



I often find my self drooling at some of those amazing speaker sets that you get to see in studios like *Gallactica*. Now, I don't know what these speakers do - but they sound just amazing!

Well, they are really great for a recording studio. But any video editor would know that they are not the right choices for an editing studio. There, we still like to listen to our audio in little boxy speakers like *Roland* or whatever. No, not even those *Creative 5.1* speakers or *Bose* speakers are for us! They all sound just fantastic, if you are just lounging around, listening your favourite no. But not if you are trying to cut audio on to the video or trying to cut an interview or just trying to mix your final audio tracks and adjust levels - most of the video editors double up as audio engineers at the end of the day, correct me if I'm wrong! So we need a pair of speakers that are engineered well, reproduce high fidelity sound faith fully, are compact and don't generally create resonance. And above all, they need to be **WYHIWYG** compliant - *what you hear is what you get!*

Here comes, **Mackie - HR824**, *sabse uttam taknik ke saath!* I've heard them couple of times - and frankly I couldn't make out the difference at that time, since I hadn't noticed they were *Mackies* till the time I was almost getting out - but then, I wasn't working on any audio when I heard them. Anyways, these things take a bit of time to grow on you - you keep working with them and you grow to

appreciate their finer qualities.

But **Mackie-HR824** has a real fan following internationally and it claims to reproduce the sound as you have recorded it - not a *paisa* more, not a *paisa* less! That's the way it should be. This pair may not add to the new upholstery on your chair or the fresh lining on the studio walls - these speakers are essentially no-nonsense, boringly grey boxes. But they perform like champs. And, no, they don't come cheap either - they cost about US\$ 1200 a pair.

Well, the part - II ends here. We will be coming back with more of these, in the coming weeks in our **Life@Work** segment. Do let us know what you think of this segment and please please do write to us, if you are aware of any such products that could be featured here.

- **Bimal Unnikrishnan**

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