



Rare armchair 'Small Paimio' model 42 designed by  
Alvar Aalto  
Finland, 1932

Stamped.  
Bowman Brothers,  
London  
Private collection,  
London  
Armchair 42 - or "Small Paimio" -  
was designed by Alvar Aalto for the Paimio Sanatorium  
in 1931. The frame is made from laminated birch shaped  
to produce a cantilevered chair; the seat and back are  
created from one piece of form-pressed plywood. The  
fluidity of the design creates a soft, comfortable place to  
sit. The result is an armchair without straight lines, an  
armchair of exceptional aesthetic appeal. Since wood  
changes over time, the armrests are formed from a single  
piece that is then split in half, ensuring that as the chair  
ages, it remains perfectly balanced. This is considered

one of Aalto's masterpieces.  
Alvar Aalto was a  
Finnish architect and designer. His work includes  
architecture, furniture, lighting, and glassware, as well  
as sculptures and paintings. He never regarded himself  
as an artist, seeing painting and sculpture as "branches  
of the tree whose trunk is architecture." The pure  
Functionalist phase in Aalto's work lasted for several  
years. It enabled him to make an international  
breakthrough, largely because of Paimio Sanatorium  
(1929-1933), an important Functionalist milestone.  
Aalto had adopted the principles of user-friendly,  
functional design in his architecture, and it was  
characteristic of Aalto to treat each building as a  
complete work of art - right down to the furniture and  
light fittings. The design of his furniture combined  
practicality and aesthetics with series production,  
encouraging a more beautiful everyday life in the  
home.  
H: 61.5 cm / 2' 1/4"

Modernity Stockholm AB  
Sibyllegatan 6, 114 42 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel: +46-8-20 80 25, [info@modernity.se](mailto:info@modernity.se)  
[www.modernity.se](http://www.modernity.se)