

67-09 Salli Saddle Chair (Project 01-52) (11/02)



The Salli Saddle Chair is an ergonomically-designed chair marketed for dental professionals. The chair's name is derived from its shape, which is similar to that of a horse saddle. The chair's main advertised objective is to place the user into a more natural position to relieve back, shoulder, and neck musculoskeletal strain. The Sallie Saddle Chair does not have traditional back or arm support familiar to most dental chairs. The seat places the thighs downward at a 45-degree angle that is designed to align the user into a more ergonomic position. The chair is available in two configurations, a single seat (Model 7) or a split seat (Model 4).



Both seats can be used by either gender, but the split seat is advertised as being more adaptive for male users. The chair weighs 20 pounds with a frame constructed from 3-mm, cold-rolled steel. The standard leather seat

is over high-memory foam padding and is available in five colors. However, ten additional color schemes are optional. Depending on user height, three piston-gas spring configurations (short, medium or long) are available which allows for chair height adjustment from 18-35 inches from the floor. The five-caster base is designed to add stability to the chair and is available in either black or chrome colors. Caster wheels are available to accommodate either hard or carpeted floor surfaces and a foot pedal ring is an available option for dental assistant chairs. Purchasers of the chair must specify the desired color, piston gas spring height, base color, and wheels.

Manufacturer:

Hager Worldwide, Inc.
13322 Byrd Drive
Odessa, FL 33556
(800) 328-2335
(813) 926-7474
(800) 573-9392 FAX
www.hagerworldwide.com

Suggested Retail Price:

Model 4 & 7: \$699.95
With Optional Foot Ring: \$825.90

Government Price:

Model 4 & 7: \$384.97
With Optional Foot Ring: \$460.54

ADVANTAGES:

- + Operating manual is well written, easy to read, and complete with graphics for easy assembly, disassembly and operator use.
- + Unique design aligns user into a more natural sitting position.
- + Available in both single- and split-seat configurations.
- + Available in three different height configurations to adapt chair to provider height.
- + Assembly and disassembly is easily accomplished in less than 5 minutes.
- + Solidly constructed of high-quality materials, with contoured, smooth, rounded edges.
- + Five-caster base provides excellent stability and ease of movement.
- + Optional foot pedal ring is available that configures chair for dental assistant use.

- + Equipped with height-adjusting lever.
- + Easy and convenient to maneuver in dental operatory.
- + Operated reliably during the course of this evaluation.
- + Allows for close provider/patient proximity.
- + Single-Seat cushioning provided adequate comfort to dental providers.
- + Lack of back support was not a hindrance to dental providers.
- + Seating does not stain with the use of approved disinfectants.
- + Three-year limited warranty.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Unique design may not be adaptable to a wide range of individuals.
- Special tools required for disassembly are not provided with chair purchase.
- Required side access to chair is awkward and cumbersome.
- Lack of front armrest results in increased dental assistant fatigue and impedes the ability to assist the dentist.
- Split-seat configuration lacks adequate cushioning for inner thigh region.
- Chair working position is 10-16 inches higher than a traditional chair.
- Potential for initial muscle adjustment soreness that may last for up to two weeks.
- Manufacturer recommends that wheel casters be changed every two to four years.
- Height-specific chair is impractical for clinics with high provider turnover.
- Requires disassembly when adding or removing foot pedal ring.
- More expensive than other dental chairs in federal service inventory.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Salli Saddle Chair features an innovative design that is marketed to improve posture and ergonomics in the dental environment. The chair was found to be constructed of high-quality materials and was easily assembled with no special tools required. The chair's acceptance was found to be dependent upon the user's job description. Dentists, for the most part, were ambivalent toward it. The dental assistants found the chair less than satisfactory, reporting that it increased fatigue due to the lack of a wrap-around arm support, which is commonly found on assistant's chairs. Hygienists appreciated the Salli Saddle Chair the most, citing its ease of operation and maneuverability. Due to its higher cost and limited applicability for general federal service use, the **Salli Saddle Chair** is rated **Marginal** for use by the federal dental services.