

69-20 SENSit Laboratory Chair (Project 02-09) (8/03)



The SENSit Chair is an ergonomically-designed chair that is marketed for both dental laboratory professionals and administrative support staff. The manufacturer states that the chair is designed to relieve strain associated with sustained, forward-bent work positions. The 37.5-pound laboratory chair is designed without arm support while the 42-pound office chair model includes height-adjustable armrests. The SENSit chair is advertised to adapt to individual anatomy with a specially-designed, synchronized backrest/seat mechanism that will make dynamic adjustments in relation to changes in the seat's backrest angle and incline. Accordingly, the SENSit's 15-inch wide backrest and 17.5-inch wide seat are connected by an articulated joint. As the



backrest-opening angle increases, the seat surface will accordingly move in a compensating backward inclination. This counterbalancing action is said to relieve spinal pressure while aligning the vertebral column in a more natural position. Five standard adjustment options (height, backrest, backrest resistance, one-inch horizontal seat movement, and seat/backrest incline) allow for seat adaptation to individual preference and body type. The backrest purportedly adjusts from 15.75 - 18.5 inches in length from the seat surface and the seat height is said to range from 18.5 - 24 inches from the floor. The chair is positioned on a five-star caster base that is advertised as providing stability and maneuverability. The upholstery, is purportedly made of an easy to clean, non-slip, moisture-permeable material, and is available in five color schemes. A laboratory hand-towel holder is located on the rear of the backrest for technician convenience. Optional features include a seat-cushion cover, leather upholstery, and footrest. The SENSit chair features a full one-year warranty.

Manufacturer:

KaVo America Corporation
340 East Main Street
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
(800) 323-8029
(847) 550-6800
(847) 550-6825 FAX
www.kavousa.com

Suggested Retail Price:

SENSit Laboratory Chair
\$869.00 (without armrests)
\$1099.00 (with armrests)

Optional Accessories:

\$329.00 Backrest cushion leather
\$313.00 Seat cushion leather
\$249.00 Footrest
\$103.00 Seat cushion cover

Government Price:

SENSit Laboratory Chair
\$556.16 (without armrests)
\$703.36 (with armrests)

Optional Accessories:

\$210.56 Backrest cushion leather

\$200.32 Seat cushion leather

\$159.36 Footrest

\$65.92 Seat cushion cover

ADVANTAGES:

- + Comfortably accommodates to various body dimensions
- + Evaluators reported perceived improved posture, comfort, and reduction in fatigue.
- + Synchronized backrest/seat tilt feature provided proper anatomical sitting alignment.
- + Easy and convenient to maneuver in dental laboratory and administrative support areas.
- + Five lockable-adjustment mechanisms are conveniently placed and easy to operate.
- + Seat height-adjustment lever allows for adaptation to body length.
- + Adjustable backrest provided superior lumbar support.
- + Adjustable backrest resistance allows user to control the synchronizing mechanism according to each individuals body weight.
- + Seat horizontal-adjustment mechanism ensures backrest is in optimal relationship to each user.
- + Seat and backrest incline mechanism angles user to desired position.
- + All mechanisms operated reliably during the course of this evaluation.
- + Ergonomic design features a classical look that was reported to be esthetically pleasing.
- + Appears to be of solid-construction with high-quality fit and finish.
- + Five-star caster base with double wheels provided excellent stability and maneuverability.
- + Hand-towel holder on rear of chair facilitates convenience.
- + Concise operating instructions complete with graphics for visual interpretation.
- + Includes a one year warranty.

DISADVANTAGES:

- More expensive than some other dental laboratory chairs on federal service contract.
- Standard upholstery available only in cloth fabric, which may represent laboratory-cleaning problems.
- Multi-language operating instruction format may be confusing to some users.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

The SENSit laboratory chair features an innovative design that is marketed to improve posture and ergonomics in the dental environment. The chair was found to be esthetically pleasing, of apparent solid construction, with a high-quality finished appearance. The double-wheeled, five-star caster base provided excellent stability and maneuverability. Features include five adjustment mechanisms that allow for individual adaptation that can be locked for individual preference. Available options include leather upholstery, seat cushion cover, and footrest. Clinical users reported perceived improved posture, work comfort, and reduction in overall fatigue. Some evaluators reported the armrest was not compatible with their working bench, however most users appreciated the armrest's ability to help reduce arm strain. Dental laboratory technicians may best be served using the armless version of the SENSit chair. The SENSit chairs standard upholstery is a cloth fabric, which may represent a cleaning problem in the laboratory environment. Leather is available as an option. While the chair is more expensive than those currently on the federal service contract, most evaluators lauded its comfort and features regardless of working environment and recommended its purchase for their clinic. The **SENSit chair** is rated **Acceptable** for use by the federal dental services.