



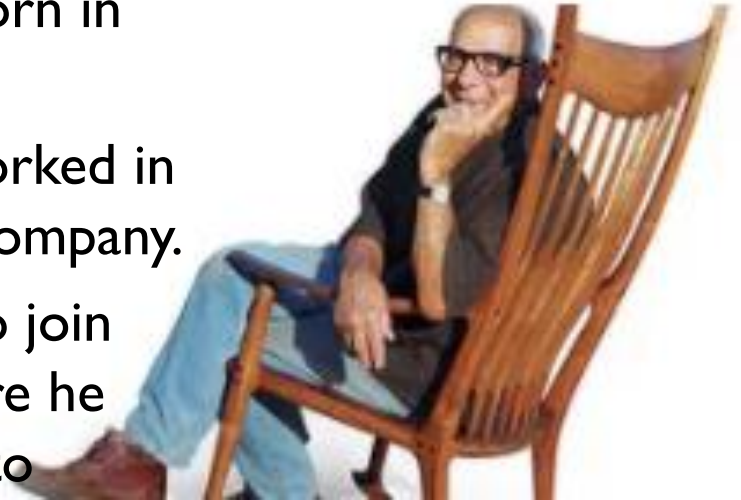
**20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Furniture Designers  
and Architects**

**Sam Maloof  
(1916 - 2009)**

# Sam Maloof American (1916 - 2009)

- Sam Maloof was born in 1916 in California.
- After school he worked in art at the Vortox company.
- Sam was drafted to join the U.S Army where he rose from private to master sergeant in his four years of service.
- He married in 1948 and took up his career as a professional woodworker.
- A famous industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss hired Sam to design and manufacture all the furniture for his home.
- In 1970's Sam employed 3 woodworkers to help him keep up the demand for his furniture which could be up to 300 pieces annually.
- This was reduce as Sam worked on special commission pieces in the following decade.



# Sam Maloof American (1916 - 2009)

- In 1985, Sam received a prestigious Mac Arthur Foundation “Genius” Fellowship.
- Sam was the founder of the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, a non-profit organization encouraging artists and craftspeople from all walks of life.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2009, Sam Maloof passed away leaving his business to the three woodworkers that he had hired in the 70’s.
- <https://www.finewoodworking.com/author/sam-maloof>



- Sam Maloof in his workshop
- His home in Alta Loma California is now a museum.

# Sam Maloof Rocking Chair

- Sam Maloof is best known for his famous rocking chairs.
- Despite the Maloof rocking chair being mass produced each one was unique as each chair was individually shaped to suit the client.
- Sam had a massive stock of timber including some rare specimens of timbers Zircote, Fiddleback Maple, Ebony, Rosewood, Oak, Cherry and Walnut.
- He preferred to use Cherry or Walnut timber for his rocking chairs because of how the grain appeared after the finish was applied.
- Sam designed a beautiful joint from the leg to the seat which became known as the Maloof joint.
- [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#)

# Sam Maloof Rocking chair

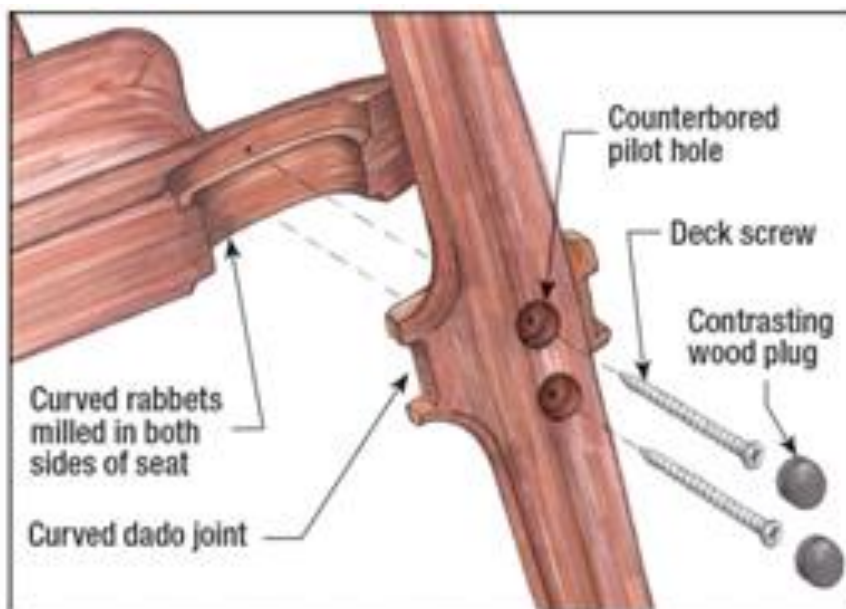


Walnut Rocking chair 1980



Image obtained from [Sam Maloof Woodworker.com](http://SamMaloofWoodworker.com)

# Maloof Joint



Strength without bulk. Maloof designed a special dado and rabbit joint to anchor the rocker's leg to the seat.

Image obtained from [Woodcraft.com](http://Woodcraft.com)



Maloof Joint

Jennifer Byrne 2021

# Sam Maloof Furniture



Maple Pedestal Table 1992



Ziricote and Ebony Side Chair 1995

Jennifer Byrne 2021

# Scot Morrison



Cradle Rocker



Chair 11 [Scott Morrison Website](#)