Folding stool　　　　　　Jakob Müller
Plio　　　　　　　　　　1948

The *Plio* furniture program was a response to postwar needs. The innovative designer Jacob Müller (1905–1998) utilized airplane plywood for the folding mechanism, resulting in lightweight furniture with a modern look and feel.

Just after the end of World War II, a number of self-employed master cabinetmakers from German-speaking Switzerland joined forces to establish the Werkgenossenschaft Wohnhilfe. Although the orders from the refugee assistance authorities they had initially hoped for did not materialize, this work cooperative was hired to furnish all the bedrooms, common rooms, and classrooms of the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Trogen. The initiative for the project came from the well-traveled cabinetmaker and craft teacher Jacob Müller (1905–1998), who also supplied all the designs for the solid natural wood furniture. Around 1947, Müller devoted himself to analyzing the "altered domestic needs of modern man" and began propagating ultra-lightweight furniture "that is truly mobile"—robust and lightweight enough for outdoor use and yet still sufficiently aesthetic "so as not to appear as an alien body, provisional and primitive, within the home." In an effort to use materials as economically as possible while ensuring the utmost ease of production, he arrived at his iconic *Plio* program. The basic set, weighing in at just 7.8 kilograms, consists of a folding table and two chairs that can be folded up and inserted underneath the table so the whole can be taken along "to the beach, camping, or to a vacation cottage." The small *Plio* folding stool even fits into a briefcase. In all models—including the chair and bench—the pairs of legs form two arm levers whose ends latch into holes in the thin airplane plywood tops, forming a stable triangular connection. (Arthur Rüegg)

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