

Accessible Furniture

From Showroom visit 2010_01_19 arranged by consultant Inge Martin, Avta.ca

By: Burl Crone, classroom standards advisor for OSM
For: OSM, Accessibility Services

Mandate: Select height adjustable table and height adjustable upholstered seat for spot placement in OSM classrooms to accommodate students for whom standard furniture is inadequate



Think



Leap



Tritech



Obus Ultra Forme



Series 3



Series 5



Series 7



Airtouch



Crank

Seat

Steelcase Think

- Pros
 - 10 yr warranty
 - Simple controls incl. self-adjusting back
 - Sturdy construction
 - Strong Design
 - Vendor support
- Cons
 - mesh back

Steelcase Leap

- Pros
 - 10 yr warranty
 - Sturdy construction
 - Strong Design
 - Vendor support
- Cons
 - complex controls

Global Tritech

- Pros
 - Consultant recommendation
- Cons
 - 5 year warranty
 - Vendor support questions
 - Complex controls incl. tension knob
 - Back height re-sets to bottom when moved
 - One-point back connection

Global Obus Ultra Forme

- Pros
 - Consultant recommendation
 - Relatively simple controls
- Cons
 - 5 year warranty
 - Vendor support questions
 - Tension knob required for proper adjustment
 - Back height re-sets to bottom when moved
 - One-point back connection

Burl's recommendation:

- Steelcase Leap
 - excellent vendor / warranty / construction
 - controls are complex but well laid out and diagrammed (under armrests)
 - strong design will promote good long-term care of seat by users

Table

All Steelcase; well built, excellent warranty, vendor

Steelcase Series 3

Manual mechanism exposed
Manual mechanism somewhat difficult

Steelcase Series 5

Motor exposed
Pop-out controls could be damaged

Steelcase Series 7

Motor in leg - hidden - good
Button does not protrude and has 5 pre-set levels - good for quick setting

Steelcase Airtouch (priced around series 5 level)

Manual lift does not require gas cylinder or pressure to lower - very clever!
No power required
One-post support leaves generous leg/etc clearance
Cleanest design
Will the single post-support stand up to our abuse?

Steelcase Crank

Did not see in show room but on website
Manual crank handle removable so height cannot be adjusted by regular student body - may be useful for some future application

Burl's recommendation:

Steelcase Airtouch

Only question is if the one-post design is strong enough for students sitting on a corner. A test-unit can be inspected. Otherwise, a brilliant design that does not require a power-point to meet our functional requirements. Height varies 25"-45"

Steelcase series 7

Second choice. Series 3 is awkward and series 5 has an exposed motor not suitable for our changing environment. Series 7 control excellent for our purposes