

TON a.s. - more than a chair
(since 1861)

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Company Profile

More than a bentwood chair:
a leader in Europe in manufacturing not only bentwood chairs

The private Czech company TON - manufacturer of a wide assortment of **chairs, barstools, armchairs, tables, coat stands and outdoor furniture** - measured by bentwood production the **biggest in Europe**.

Presently TON proposes special collections suitable for both residential and contract premises with various **wood** finishes and upholstery materials: **fabrics, vinyls and leather**. The **infinite combination of various accessories** is the specialty of the company.

The production has been **exported to 53 countries of the world**: mainly to Europe, United States, Japan and Australia.

Leading an history about 150 years long
from the chair No. 14 to today

A cabinet maker, inventor and furniture designer **Michael Thonet** (1796 - 1871), originally from Boppard in the Rhine Region, settled in Moravia, where he **founded manufacturing facilities to produce bent wood furniture** in Koryčany (1856) and in Bystřice pod Hostýnem (**1861**).

The factory in Bystřice pod Hostýnem (where the **first units of the legendary chair No.14 was produced in 1862**) was the largest factory of its kind, Gebrüder Thonet, and became the centre for development and export of products all over the world. The original THONET company was succeeded by a joint-stock company THONET–MUNDUS after World War I and since **1946**, as the result of the **post-war nationalization** and thanks to the merger of several major furniture manufactures, by THONET national enterprise.

In **1953 it was renamed TON** (abbreviation of “**bentwood furniture factory**” in Czech and it carries on the tradition of bentwood manufacturing with the place of business in Bystřice pod Hostýnem.

At that time the historical production places were degraded to technical museum and supplier of cheap chairs for all over the world, especially for the Soviet Union and US. Even the famous No. 14 was sold for about 8\$, when the material and the production costing was already more than this!

Today, even thanks to an innovative marketing and sales strategy, the company appears with a different face and it could be said that it has been in **continuous operation over a century, without any break in production**. Today TON is one of the major **European manufacturing centers of quality bentwood furniture**.

Chair No. 14 (the icon chair of Thonet production’s design) has been produced in premises built by Michael Thonet’s company from 1862 to date.

The Mission

Always innovating

No. 14 is nowadays an inspiration, the first chair that has been design for mass production, within the furniture-making history, and a timeless design symbol.

In line with this, today TON is interesting in creation **industrial design products, simple and innovative, elegant and durable at the same time, with high level of comfort and safety, certified to international standards and sold at a reasonable price.**

The Philosophy

The Thonet-evolution:

looking for an equilibrium between tradition and cutting-edge design

Thanks to TON, the unique manufacture of Thonet chairs is nowadays like an excursion from the 19th century till today.

The world best selling chair produces the same way as 150 years ago. A hard job of workers in the bending shop results in the No. 14 Thonet chair, a timeless and elegant chair that ranks among the design icons.

In times of robots and computer-controlled machines, photographs and shots from the beech wood bending shop can remind you of a live museum. However, even the best machine cannot cope with the ingenious invention of Michael Thonet, who was born on July 2, 1796, more than 200 years ago.

Bending a piece of steamed solid wood at an angle of as many as 180°, which is attached to a mold by clamps and steel flanges prevent the wood from cracking (while bending pressure does not affect surface of the wood but a place under the steel flange) – **a job that human hands can only manage**. In addition, these **hands are strong and very skilled due to long-time experience**.

The experienced workers of the bending shop, who gain work experience for a number of months, then represent a guarantee that no mistake occurs. They do the physically demanding job in pairs, whereas 150 years ago even 3-worker groups did the same job.

Even today the products are created with the greatest attention to the details that make difference in terms of **comfort and usability**.

All the TON's seating collections are **functional, sturdy and features ergonomic details** and beautiful forms and lines, **blending manual craftsmanship and cutting-edge production processes**.

Material, Technology and Guarantee

The **availability of raw beech wood's** supplies was the main reason for initiation of the bentwood furniture production in Bystřice pod Hostýnem.

As the **technology of industrial wood bending** was already well-proven by Michael Thonet, it could have been used on a mass scale. Much like in the past air-dried cut lumber having its basic shape goes through the process of steaming in order to allow subsequent bending. After the final shape stabilization, which can take up to three weeks in case of complicated shapes, the product parts go through further machining, assembly, sanding and finishing with the required colors.

The preservation of the fundamental part of the technology and tradition enables TON to **warrant selected models to be free from construction defects for 5 years**, even if they are used in highly demanding public spaces. Although our seating furniture "history proven" is still undergoes special load and strength tests which simulate it is demanding daily operating loads.

TON's research and constant commitment to product development and to improving company processes has led to its acquiring **UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 certification**.

Ready-to ship policy

Due to the newly built central warehouse, TON offers **shorter lead-time for some 45,000 pieces**: these are **marked with "R" symbol**.

Models in specified wood finishes with veneer set are ready for immediate shipping, upholstered versions within 2 weeks.

The Designers

With the new products, in line with its tradition, TON places its bets on interior furnishing and does so thanks to **an international, innovative and qualified team of designers**.

The Products

A wide offer of TON chairs, barstools, armchairs, tables, coat stands and outdoor furniture is available for the main market, RESIDENTIAL and CONTRACT:

- furniture particularly created for houses, flats and gardens;
- models for professional use, which pass all doubt matches the most rigid requirements imposed on seating furniture for both indoor and outdoor use.

A **virtual catalogue** is available at www.ton.eu. It gives to the visitors and to the professionals (i.e. architects, resellers, etc.) the opportunity to experiment with different fabrics and wood finishes on-line. It's possible to create different combinations almost without end (over half a million variants), to compare various models with one another, to enlarge images and learn detailed information on products.

A dedicated chain of sales, the **TON STORES** (present in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia) complete the offer a wide variety of products of wood finishes as well as upholstery materials, with shortened delivery time for selected models.

The References

TON has many interesting references, in different countries. Some examples:

Cafè Imperial, Praga (CZ)
Sponge Restaurant, Seoul
Plus Praga Hotel, Praga (CZ)
Grand Prix Box, Brno (CZ)
Cafè Palladio, Munchen (D)
Art de la Cuina, Benidorm (ESP)
Hotel Crowne, Hamburg (D)

For an exhausting range of references, please connect to: www.ton.eu.