

Home Zone: Double Lounger leaves customers hanging - comfortably

by Linda Pescatore

Rocking on a porch swing may sound old-fashioned, but the Double Lounger from Outback Chair Co. is new-fashioned.

With distinctive curved hardwood armrests, 600 denier UV-protected fabric and two handy cup-holders, the Outback Double Lounger is an updated version of the traditional, rigid porch swing. Set at a restful incline and cushioned with 1 1/2-inch-thick closed-cell foam, the chair feels like a cross between a lounge chair and a hammock.

PORCH SWINGERS - The Outback Double Lounger is a modern version of the old-fashioned porch swing - and it even features two cup-holders. CNS Photo courtesy of Outback Chair Co. **HOUND HIDEAWAY** - Save space by letting Fluffy or Fido recline on this fold-down Pet Murphy Bed in your home or RV. CNS Photo courtesy of Midnight Pass. **ORDER YOUR HOUSE** - 'The Personal Organizing Workbook' by Meryl Starr (Chronicle Books; \$24.95) offers tips for managing your stuff, your time and your relationships. CNS Photo. The Double Lounger comfortably seats two; it is 45 inches wide and supports as much as 500 pounds. The chair comes with mounting hardware and a 10-year warranty.

The durable, easy-to-clean polyester fabric comes in a smooth and a basket-weave pattern in your choice of navy, green, Burgundy, sand or camouflage. The Double Lounger retails for \$400 for smooth fabric and \$429 for basket-weave fabric.

The Double Lounger is the latest addition to Outback Chair Co.'s lineup of more than more than a dozen hanging chairs and hammocks. The company's products are available at hardware stores, lawn and garden centers, pool and spa dealers, gift boutiques, casual furniture specialists, as well as through the company's Web site, www.outbackchair.com.

- Linda Pescatore

SLEEP FOR THE PET SET

Is your pet crowding you off your bed or snoring so loudly that you can't sleep?

The Pet Murphy Bed is just the thing for a dog or cat that may not be a welcome visitor to a regular bed, but insists on the comfort of a mattress.

The space-saving wooden bed folds down from its cabinet and can be mounted directly to a wall or used as a free-standing piece. It weighs 55 pounds and measures just over 3 feet high, 24 inches wide and 10 inches deep. The maker, Midnight Pass, says it's a good choice for RV owners, too.

You may appreciate the raised panel front and the color choices - black, mahogany and natural - that can blend into many decors. But purrs or wagging tails from Mugsy or Topper will be directed at the 4-inch-thick foam mattress with a "nesting" backrest and a fitted, removable washable cover.

This isn't a bed just for miniature poodles or pint-sized felines. It'll even hold a mastiff, since the bed is rated for animals up to 200 pounds. Handcrafted in Thailand, it's just the thing for your Siamese.

Although it's not an option, a smart homeowner may want to install a do-it-yourself push button to open the bed at the press of a paw.

Now, if they only could change the litter.

Retailing at \$250, the Pet Murphy Bed is available at 800-Mattress showrooms and from the company Web site, www.mattress.com, or at www.midnightpass.com.

- Carl Larsen

CUT THE CLUTTER

It's not enough to have a goal; to fulfill that resolution to get and stay organized, you've also got to have a strategy.

Two recently published books aim to help us get out from under the jumble of papers, clothes and other items that seemingly multiply overnight and keep us organized.

"Help, I'm Knee-Deep in Clutter!" by professional declutterer Joyce I. Anderson (AMACOM; \$15) offers tips for clearing not only the knee-deep but also the hip-deep clutter lurking in spaces from the attic to the cellar. She covers the problems particular to each area of the home as well as events, like throwing a party or planning a trip, that can spin our well-organized plans out of control. Follow her daily, weekly and yearly routines and you're sure to cut the chaos once and for all.

"The Personal Organizing Workbook" by professional organizer Meryl Starr (Chronicle Books; \$25) tackles more than just physical clutter. After the first section, "Stuff," tackles how to keep possessions in order, subsequent sections take on to-do lists and relationships. After all, if we're not managing our things too well, we're probably not managing our time and our friendships, either. Her final chapter deals with staying organized even when you can't seem to shake old habits.

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