

From the editor: In April I learnt that I had been made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours "For services to the Disabled in Derbyshire". On 9th October, in very pleasant weather, I went to Buckingham Palace with my wife and two of my three children for the investiture where I received the honour from the Queen. Her Majesty was very pleasant and asked several questions about my work. The whole experience was awesome but extremely enjoyable..



On coming home our family and friends welcomed us with a party to celebrate the occasion.

DB-080-15, Ralph Anderson

A lady with severe arthritis was unable to hold normal cutlery and needed some that she could hold and use.

A sharp, lightweight, general purpose knife was augmented with a custom moulded handle made from a low melting point thermoplastic. This provided her with a more positive hold without having to grip the handle tightly that had been painful.



DB-086-15, Steve Pilkington

The autistic child had been putting himself at risk by climbing over a stair gate that was positioned at his bedroom door. He needed something that he could not climb over or unlock.

A taller stair gate was made, shaped it in such a way that he was unable to see or access the lock. This successfully prevented him from opening it.



DB-108-15, Steve Pilkington

An elderly lady with MS who was cared for by her husband had very little controllable movement. She was showered semi-recumbent on a specialist shower chair but was unable to support the weight of her head in this position. She needed a head support on the shower chair.

A simple frame was made from copper pipe with a pad mounted so that she was comfortably supported.



DB-052-15, Brian Barry

This lady had limited movement in her upper limbs that prevented her from applying pressure when cutting vegetables.

Remap found a commercial device on the internet that would solve her problem but she did not want this machine as she considered that the 15mm max slice thickness that this would cut was insufficient.

A device was designed that allowed her to choose slice thickness.



DB-079-15, Malcolm Logan

The client was unable to pull his front door open after he had unlocked it using his key fob.

A rod with a hook at the end was made so that he could now move his wheel chair close to the door, hook one end of the rod on to the door handle and the other to his wheelchair. He could then pull the door open by reversing his wheelchair.

To open the door from the inside he had a rod with a hook at one end and a bungee cord at the other.



DB-098-15, Allan Sutton

This lady's over-bed table did not reach far enough across the bed for her to use effectively

The wooden table top was removed and replaced by a similar but longer one. A steel bar weight was added to the base, secured with cable ties, to ensure the stability of the table

If the table needs to be returned to its' original form the new top can be unscrewed and the original replaced.



DB-058-15, Allan Sutton

A man who was a keen painter and pianist suffered shoulder pain when he extended his right arm because of its weight.

He needed a means of reducing the weight of the arm whilst allowing him to either play the piano or paint.

A bracket was made that clamped to his piano stool that supported a hollow vertical column behind his shoulder. A rotatable horizontal radial arm that carried two small pulley wheels was fitted on top of the column.

A cord attached to a sling round his forearm passed over the outer pulley, along to the inner one and down the hollow column to adjustable cylindrical balancing weights at its other end.



These were adjusted to take most of the weight of the arm thus reducing a load on his shoulder. He was very pleased to find that could now both play the piano or paint without pain.



DB-100-15, Allan Sutton

A boy with cerebral palsy needed a supporting seat fitting to his powered wheelchair

The base from a redundant moulded buggy seat was used to give him this better support. The new seat was mounted as low as possible and tilted forward by bolting it to a small piece of 20mm plywood using existing fixing holes in the framework.

The new chair assembly was attached to the base unit using two existing M6 bolt fixings. To give added security and stability, an aluminium angle brace was bolted across the rear members of the seat frame.



DB-064-15, Allan Sutton

This man had a spinal injury that made it difficult for him to hold a pen and write.

It was noted that his thumb rested naturally against the base of his index finger so two plastic blocks were shaped to fit round the index finger and thumb with adjacent flat faces.

A short steel cylinder, with a clamping bolt, was soldered to the edge of a shaped plate sandwiched between these blocks and held by a bolt. A pen fitted in the cylinder so positioned by the blocks by straps velcroed in place on the finger and thumb.



DB-060-15, James Unwin

A brace on this lady's leg prevented her from bending it at the knee. This resulted in her leg slipping off the platform of her scooter. She needed some form of restraint to stop it.

A foam lined semi cylindrical rest was mounted on a pivoting base so it could be adjusted both horizontally and vertically to suit her leg position.

A hole was cut through the scooter wheel arch to allow solid fixing of the mount to the wheel kingpin. This hole was cut beneath a plastic trim, so, at a later date, the mount could be removed, and trim replaced with no adverse effects on appearance.



DB-056-15, Vic Brown

A ramp was required to enable these twins to access their father's new house.

It was made up of two sections, a horizontal platform which was sited just outside the kitchen door and a ramp at right angles that was clamped to it. The frames were fabricated from steel angle and the platforms were redwood plywood.

The 7 foot long by 3 feet wide ramp had a lift of 14 inches. It was connected to the platform in two places. A 2.75 inch high safety barrier was fitted along the outer edge, away from the wall, although steep, the ramp gradient was within the guidelines for powered wheelchairs.

