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Derby, Burton & District Panel
Covering Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

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When one of our most respected members died, we decided to remember him with a trophy that would be held for one year by the panelist who had made the most innovative device that year.

The Mike Aston Trophy consists of a small working model of a hot air Stirling steam engine, mounted on a wooden base within a glass dome. It will be engraved with each winner's name.

Members and their partners get together for lunch after every January panel meeting. This year Anne Aston, Mike's widow was the guest of the panel and presented the trophy to the winner - Ralph Anderson.



DB-083-16, John Gellatly

A boy with autism needed the stair gate on his bedroom door raising so he would not be able to climb over it.

A simple wooden gate was made using dowel assembly construction and fitted within the door frame.

Loose hinge pins were included to ease any furniture movements through the opening.



A sliding bar with spring loaded plunger that secured it in position provided the locking mechanism. It was designed so that the boy was unable to see it and unlock it.



DB-141-16, Vic Brown

This was a request to further modify an earlier footrest adaptation made under DB-047-16 to reduce risk of wheelchair tipping.

A pair of stabilisers was made using the lower end adjustable feet from a reclaimed walking aid. The design ensured that when the stabilisers were in their lowest position they were still able to glide over uneven ground.



DB-142-16, Steve Pilkington

Remap had earlier provided a padded back to the chair frame around this lady's toilet (DB-012-15). The lady's control had diminished further, so the frame needed to be screwed to the floor to give firmer support. However the legs had rotted making it unsafe to do so.

The request was now to transfer the padded back on to a new frame that had been supplied by Mediquip. This was done and the system has worked satisfactorily.



DB-078-16, Vic Brown

A lady with severe arthritis needed a means of reaching down and operating the very low level control on her gas fire.

The control had to be pushed in to start the ignition and then turned to set the gas flow and heat output of the fire.

A 20mm square tube with a handle at the top end and a 40° bend at the bottom was made with a roller that enabled the assembly to be rolled up to the fire and automatically lined up to the fire control without effort.

A rod passed down the length of the tube through nylon bearings to a nylon adapter that fitted over the fire control.



This arrangement allowed the fire control to be pushed in and then turned.



DB-013-16, Vic Brown

This lady had a problem with her left hand. When she was at her desk and wrote or typed with her left hand, her right arm muscles involuntarily contracted lifting her arm and causing severe pain in her right shoulder. She needed a device to gently support but not clamp her right arm too tightly.

A steel screw clamp was made to fit to the desk edge. Bolted to this was an aluminium base with a vertical height adjusting screwed pillar.

A pivot joint mounted at the top facilitated adjustment of horizontal tilt whilst allowing lateral oscillation. This let her set it in a position that was comfortable for her.

A wooden block, shaped to conform to her forearm and wrist, lined with thin foam was made and fixed to the top aluminium plate. Finally her arm was held in position by a 2 inch wide Velcro band, secured with Velcro.



DB-086-16, Steve Pilkington

This 18 year old autistic young man liked to jump whenever he could. Unfortunately these activities caused structural damage to the house.

Although he did enjoy using a trampoline, it was thought using a dedicated device would be better than allowing him to jump all over the house.

A wooden timber tray, designed to fit into the family car, was made. It was 10cm high x 1m square. It contained 5cm thick foam covered by a square of carpet bound at the edges



DB-101-16, Robert Little

This client whilst still quite tall had lost height over the last few years. His four wheeled walker was now too high for him, resulting in his feet not touching the ground when on it.

The unit was lowered by cutting about 2 inches off each of the tubular legs. Inserts were fitted and riveted in position to hold the two ends of the frame together. Masking tape was used to cover the new joints.



DB-081-16, Stephen McCordick

This lady was unable to grip her iron because of a "Thumb and Fingers" cut in her palm.

A Dyson hand held vacuum cleaner was attached to the iron with the weight supported with an "I-stay" strap and elastic connector. The lady could put downward pressure on the vacuum and operate a switch to prevent the cleaner from falling away from her.



DB-143-16, Mike Banks

This man had shoulder problems and needed a device to lower his washing line so he could attach his laundry to it.

The washing line was connected between two leylandii trees and so there was no scope for fitting a vertical lifting mechanism at each end of the line.

The solution was to allow the height of the line to be altered by a two position pulley system attached to one end of the line giving the choice of a "low" and "high" position at its centre.

In the "low" position he was able to use both arms below shoulder height to place a sheet on the line and then use his right arm to pull the sheet towards one or other of the line ends.

He was able to use his right arm normally and reach above shoulder height to fix the clothes pegs in place. He would then raise the line and lock it in the "high" position.

As a further aid a commercial adjustable line prop was supplied..

