



You may notice that the newsletter has a different look now. I hope that the increased use of pictures will help make the devices in it more understandable. When Mike Banks took over organising the events we attended, he also set about modernising the presentation - and incidentally made setting it up a lot easier.

He changed the background displays - incorporating a revised powerpoint presentation using a laptop and monitor both attached to the central display board. He also dispensed with the two outer display stands and fixed their boards directly to the centre one.

He retained most of the small low cost items on display but added the more complicated and working Pill Dispenser, Child's Page Turner and Feeding Machine, all of which had been made earlier. The picture shows the setup at a recent event.



DB-019-17, Mike Banks

A lady with back problems asked if something could be made to reduce the amount of bending she had to do over the sink. Any device obviously had to be waterproof and be heavy enough to not float in water.

A 3mm thick aluminium platform about 125mm high was made with four plastic adjustable legs fixed by stainless steel M10 set screws. The fourth leg was offset to avoid the sink plug hole.



The platform

DB-016-17, Mike Banks

Very small 39 inch tall lady had a trilateral that she found hard to use because the handlebars were too high for her.

Two aluminium clamps were made and attached to the outside of each vertical frame member to hold the handle bar stems. A clamping screw (tightened by the existing plastic handles) held everything in place and allowed the handle bars to be height adjustable.



DB-015-17, Allan Sutton

An elderly lady who couldn't fully bend at the hip had trouble when using her toilet because of her back problems. Urine kept coming over the top of the seat (whether using the normal seat or the supplied Mowbray frame) and she banged her back on the up-turned normal seat and toilet cistern. She needed the toilet seat and frame to be modified to enable her to use them properly.

A new wooden seat for the Mowbray frame with a raised profile at the front between the legs was made. The seat was sloped slightly down towards the front to lessen the hip angle and accommodate two locating brackets that fitted over the cross tube of the frame.

It was fitted with a plastic skirt, originally part of a plastic bucket and sealed all round.



The normal toilet seat was removed from the pan and a resilient pad, of foam with a waterproof covering on a wood base, was bonded to the top centre of the cistern using double sided adhesive tape.

DB-009-17, Brian Barry

This client had early Parkinson's disease. His bed needed to be raised by exactly 10cm.

Six wooden blocks were made and fitted to the bed to satisfy the request.



DB-027-17, Mike Banks

This lady with MND needed a chair with braked castors that was small and manoeuvrable enough to negotiate the very tight passageway dimensions of her narrow boat. An additional requirement was to make the chair act as a lifting device to aid transfers between the bed and chair. As the required lift height was over 300mm, it was decided that this would make the chair unacceptably unstable due to its small wheelbase. The lady had a small wooden chair that was suitable for modification.

The chair was installed with a 15mm clearance under each leg. This enabled free movement on its wheels but acted as a check on its' stability. If the boat was not correctly ballasted and tilted the passageway to one side

A steel frame was made that attached to the chair legs via four U bolts. Two 150mm wheels were installed, one either side of the frame and two castor wheels were fixed on the centre line, one in front and one behind.



All four wheels on the chair were fitted with locking brakes. The wheel arrangement allowed the chair to be rotated around its vertical axis thus permitting its use in the very confined space available on board

DB-043-17, Malcolm Logan

This young girl had Apert Syndrome and wanted to ride her bike but as she had no usable fingers and toes she was unable to operate the brakes.

The solution was to replace the rear wheel with a wheel fitted with a coaster brake that was sourced from Germany. This wheel was modified to allow the brake to be applied by back pedalling. It was then fitted on place of the original wheel.



DB-020-17, Malcolm Logan

An elderly man with osteoarthritis, who lived in a nursing home, had very long legs and was unable to keep his feet on his wheelchair footrests. He needed a foot rest that spanned the full width of the chair and extended forwards.

A single footrest with a non-slip surface was made that spanned the full width of the chair and also extended forwards.



It was hinged on the right hand side to allow him normal access to the wheelchair.

The nursing home changed his wheelchair for one with different dimensions, so a second foot rest had to be made.

DB-024-17, Mike Banks

The client had a collapsible wheelchair that had a clip-on booster drive. This consisted of an easily-removable electric motor and battery, driving a wheel in contact with the ground. He wanted to carry his four legged walking stick on the back of the wheelchair whether or not his booster drive was in place.

A telescopic bridge, high enough to clear the motor and battery, was made which clamped on to each of the rear tubular extensions. It carried a vertical rod at its centre which fitted inside the base of the walking stick providing a secure location while allowing for its easy removal.



The bridge



With the rod removed, the bridge to be telescopically reduced in size and the rod could then be refitted under the bridge to lock the assembly efficiently

DB-038-17, Vic Brown

An elderly lady had an arm with only a 45° turning capability. The shower control had a raised centre bar with a circular knob. She was unable to operate it control because of her problem.

A mould was taken of the bar using children's "playdoh". A plaster cast was then made from the mould which was used as a template to internally machine the head of a new assembly made from 50mm diameter nylon bar. The reverse side of the nylon bar was milled out with a slot 20mm wide to locate the nylon handle.



The modifications

