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Remap Newsletter No.99 – September 2023



Derby, Burton & District Panel
Serving Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

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The REMAP national AGM took place in September. At the AGM several awards are presented for the best solutions submitted by all the regional panels. The Derby & Burton panel is pleased to announce that we were commended for two solutions. The first was Mike Banks page turner and the second was Trevor Beeson's Thomas the Tank Engine. Both of these referrals have been published in previous newsletters.

In view of several recent retirements we would like to recruit new members. **We need volunteers** who want to help disabled people live better lives by making or adapting aids. The panel also need members to assist with talks, exhibitions and publicity. If you know anyone who would like to help, then please contact Peter Brien on 07921 827468 or send an email to derbyremap@gmail.com.

We are now receiving referrals using a website portal. Please select to submit a referral for yourself, or on behalf of someone else, and then fill in the form as best you can. Please pay particular attention to your contact details, specifically your email address and phone number and the client's postcode, which will be used to determine the Remap panel to which the referral will be sent. To send a referral, log on to the Remap website, <https://www.remap.org.uk/referral-form/>

DB-23-017 – Trevor Beeson



Client has limited movement of arms and when in bed has trouble with his bed controls falling off the bed in the night, which means he has to call his mother. To gain more independence he needs to have the bed controls anchored near him on the bed.

A wooden frame was made with a base that could be slipped under the mattress after he was in bed, with a hook over the centre of the bed for the control cable to be secured.

DB-23-035 – Vic Brown



A client has been using a comms board for some time. The board was showing signs of wear and was in need of some attention.

A new piece of foam was fitted and glued using a heavy-duty industrial spray adhesive. The problem arises from the fact that the wheelchair has a moulded seat insert, made to suit her posture, the insert has quite high sides which prevents the comms board from being lowered any further. As the client is due for an assessment relative to her posture it was decided to request lower side supports on the next seat insert (There doesn't appear to be any reason why not) because the client sits very low in the chair, this should then alleviate the problem.

DB-23-014 – Allan Sutton



The client, who has significant motor impairment, has an electrically operated office chair that that he uses to change his height according to the task he is doing. He needed a footrest fitting, so his feet were supported when the chair seat was raised. The restriction was that it needed to miss the chair feet and castors when the seat was in a low position.

Bolts and bracketry, which attached the seat to the frame provided a means of attaching the footrest. A suitable frame was made using aluminium angle to attach to the seat framework, 3/4" box section tube for the inclined support legs, and a footrest of 6 cm wide plastic board (from a kitchen cutting board) on which to rest the feet. Bracing struts were added at the top to give strength and stability to the support legs. The footrest was attached to the bottom of the support legs (using aluminium angle) by a single bolt at each end so it could be adjusted to a comfortable angle for the feet to sit on.

DB-23-029 – Nich Holberton



A gentleman was struggling to stand up straight while getting out of bed. He needed the bed raising by 15cm to be able to sit on the edge of the bed and stand straight up without having to resort to shuffling down to the bottom of the bed and using the door handle to pull himself forwards and up.

This was achieved with three pieces of 'scrap' oak wood (heavy) screwed and glued. A 2.5cm profile was chiselled into the top block to seat the angled bed legs and these were made secure by bolting steel straps over the top. The wide base added to the stability of the rather tall raise. The client was delighted with the result

DB-23-089 – Peter Brien

A client was seeking a bath board for a corner bath to sit on for washing, Standard boards only work on parallel sides baths and so a novel solution was needed.

Peter made a triangular bath-board from 12mm marine ply with strengthening spars. It was varnished with yacht varnish for protection

DB-23-024 Paul Gillians

Mrs Naqvi wanted a kitchen worktop space that her daughter Seleste could use while sitting. The OT suggested a pull-out worktop section but there was no spare space in the kitchen so a kitchen drawer had to be converted.

The house is rented so the existing drawer front had to be removed and carefully preserved. A piece of worktop was fixed on top of the existing drawer sliding mechanism and a new front piece with a pull knob was attached.

DB-22-011 Mike Banks / Bernard Killeen



The Swarkestone boat club caters for disabled sailors. Two of their boats have been modified with electric motor assistance for the rudder. The sailor controls the rudder

using a joystick. We were asked to look at the control system as it is quite crude and the sailors have difficulty using it.

Mike and Bernard viewed the system and could see that a solution could be implemented but it would be quite technical. Firstly, a means of electrically detecting the position of the rudder would be needed, and secondly a controller capable of computation was needed.

Mike designed a device that can be fitted to the drive system that operates a magnetic position sensor. Mike also redesigned the arm rest and joystick installation for one of the boats.

Bernard designed a microprocessor solution that can read a joystick and the position sensor and then operates the motor to position the rudder correctly.

The two boats are now in use by the disabled sailors and in their first time out together came in first and second in the afternoon race!

