



BESPOKEPLUS



"If your work speaks for itself don't interrupt"

BenoitSystemes.com



Using the strength of manual wheelchairs, the Light Drive series of power add-ons give people the freedom to tackle rough terrains, remove the logistical problems, and turn the journey into more about the destination than the challenge of getting there.

Light weight and portable the Light Drive provides 15-18 kms of autonomy

out of the box, airplane friendly, and easily removed for car transport; it turns your manual chair into a lightweight power chair in seconds and in the case of the Light Assist it is same for an attendant taking the effort out of the trip.

With the new edition we will have a new anti-tip, more ergonomic clutch system, extended colour range, new joy stick extension, new storage for handles, ergonomic handle locking system, and we can now bring in units for folks over 120 KG or 265 LBS (technically, the Light Drive series is rated for 150 KG or 330 LBS for the end user and the chair, but if the body weight exceeds the 120 KG or 265 LBS the chair must be a heavy duty product able to accommodate the end user). The Light Drive Plus 2.1 has a weight capacity of 240 KG or 529 LBS with the same autonomy as noted above.

Power Add On Units

We have been in this space for a number of years now and are finally starting to see some significant growth in this part of the rehab market. Growth in the number and quality

of units available and the acceptance of the people using these products to get from A-B faster, safer, and with a whole lot less wear and tear on their body.

There is front, rear, push rim activated units and most importantly they all offer something to the end user to enhance their quality of life.



Often times in this industry the manufacturers will get involved in product development whenever there is a funding route in place and there are

prescribing authorities ready to prescribe the product. Ontario has been a leader in providing funding for some of these devices and in the case of front power add on's they have led the way with the Smart Drive by Max Mobility (Permobil) and now the introduction of the Companion by Cheelcare listing it with a reimbursement amount of \$4,831.00 and code WM0001927.

We trust this will be the start of a number of new options available to add onto manual wheelchairs, an overnight sensation a decade in the making!

Equipment Maintenance

The maintenance manuals in most of the equipment we market and promote do a very good job of outlining the information we all need to be aware of to have properly working pieces of equipment; and products that are going to have the longest life expectancy.

Power add on equipment is carefully designed for optimal performance and longevity. It is paramount that you carry out certain preventative maintenance tasks in line with the use you give your equipment.

In order to minimise the risk of accidents and/or damage to products like the Batec, it is very important to have all

repairs carried out by an authorised Batec Mobility distributor. Remember that your main source of information and help is the dealer that delivered your Batec; they provided you with your user manual and would be pleased to go over and respond to any questions regarding adjustments, maintenance, warranty, etc. The manufacturer considers you a member of the "Family" and encourages you to stay in touch with them as well.

In the case of Batec Products, they propose a preventative maintenance schedule on pages 111 / 119 that includes a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly task schedule. They suggest that you check the tire pressure regularly, clean the unit after every use, clean front, and rear wheels in particular, check and tighten screws/bolts M5 = 5 NM, N6=8NM, M8=18NM, check brakes, grease cables and chains if on your unit, grease any item that requires that, and see your authorized dealer regularly.

NB! Always do a safety check of your equipment before use as improper maintenance may void the warranty.

2022 OSOT Conference

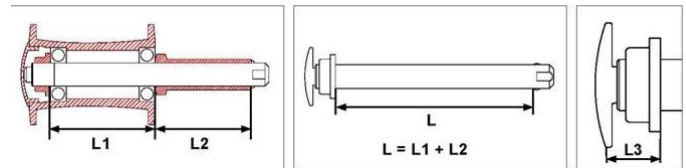
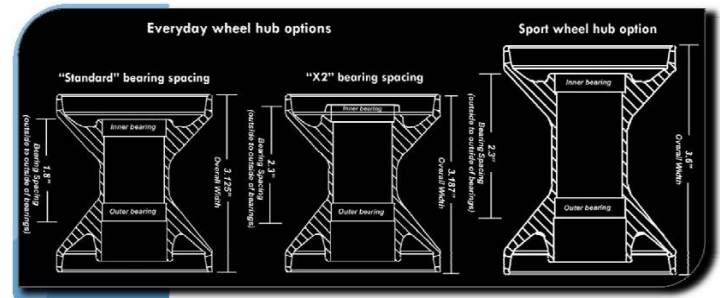
The Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists will be going ahead with their Conference 2022 at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre on November 4th and 5th! We will be exhibiting as usual and look forward to networking with folks over the two-day event. Although the OT's are not necessarily users of the equipment, the way funding works, they are paramount to the success of those manufacturing and selling the equipment as they have been tasked by your government to recommend products for funding and they are also the ones that sign for the dollars going out the door to support end users who need the equipment.

The health and wellbeing of the delegates and attendees are of the utmost importance to OSOT. They have committed to ensuring that they will follow all COVID-19 safety protocols and public health and safety guidelines in place at the time of conference.

Axles, & Length Needed

In another life, chairs were built with 7/16-inch axle, and it was usually a low-grade steel. Many users had problems with them experiencing breakage by simply jumping off a curb, something that the engineers of the time did not consider perhaps because of the perception they had of the end users' abilities and activities. Today, most wheelchair manufacturers use 12 mm, 1/2 inch, and even 5/8 and 1-inch axles. Those axles are often made of hardened stainless steel and are incredibly durable.

With end users getting more and more technologically savvy and seeking better wheels, the question always comes up as to the size and type of axle needed to go with the new wheels and their chair. We use the following information from MBL to determine the length of axle required.



We ask the end user to take the bearing spacing of the hub that they are going to be using and add the length of the camber bar insert or axle plate and spacer if any. Then, measure the axle from the thread to the ball bearing and we should be good to assist in coming up with the axle length as the tire discussion comes up and the wheel gap needed.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 Abilities August 05-07, 2022, Houston, TX;
- 49 Abilities September 09-11, 2022, Phoenix, AZ;
- 49 Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE September 14-17, 2022;
- 49 CSMC October 20-21, 2022, Toronto, ON;
- 49 OSOT 2022 November 4-5 Toronto, ON;
- 49 Abilities November 04-06, 2022, Miami, FL;
- 49 Abilities December 2-4, 2022, Dallas, TX;
- 49 Abilities March 10-12, 2023, Los Angeles, CA;
- 49 REE March 7, 2023 Richmond Olympic Oval, BC;
- 49 38th ISS Pittsburg, PA April 13-15, 2023.

BESPOKE PLUS is the newsletter of 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world designed to better meet the needs of people with a disability.

We have grown up in sport, have a social service background, and have adopted an advocacy role in our business practice.

Comments are welcome.