



Website: www.derbyremap.info

Remap Newsletter No.104 – March 2025

Derby, Burton & District Panel
Serving Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

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The tragic news to start 2025 is that our chairman, Peter Brien, has died following an accident in the Lake District. Peter is a keen and very experienced hill walker and joined the Derby, Burton & District panel in December 2019. He became our Chairman in September 2021. He was particularly good at selling the virtues of REMAP to the passing public at outside events. During his time with REMAP, he took on and completed 39 jobs. I'm sure you will join us in sending our deepest condolences to all of Peter's friends, colleagues and family.

*In view of several recent retirements, we would like to recruit more 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 01773 821768 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-23-088 – Peter Brien



A client with MS uses a 6 wheel electric wheelchair and needs a ramp to access the back garden from the kitchen. Two ramps were made, one for indoor side of the threshold, one for the outdoor. The indoor ramp can stay in place permanently: the rise is only about 40mm and it doesn't obstruct any opening doors. Outdoor ramp is bigger (about 100mm rise) and has to be removable, since it does

obstruct the back door when in place. Outdoor ramp was given several coats of Sadolin for protection from the weather.

DB-23-067 – Brian Hermiston



The client has severe mobility issues and finds driving and parking much more problematic than cycling. She made a fixture to enable her to transport her wheelchair on the back of her e-tandem. The fixture required improvements to make it fit for purpose.

The solution is a wheelchair fixture system, attached to the pannier carrier. This is more than capable of locating the wheelchair. A prototype was produced and tested successfully, for 6 months, prior to production of the final fixture. Modifications to permit a wider range of pannier carrier location points, than originally defined, were requested and accommodated in the final design.

DB-24-036 – Steve McCordick

A client was using open cuff crutches that were too long. Steve recommended purchasing some flexicuff neoprene crutch cuffs from Essential Aids.

The crutches were also reduced in length using a plumbing pipe cutter. The client was pleased with the result.



DB-24-026 – Allan Sutton

The young boy, about 3 years old, had no fingers on his left hand so required a right-hand brake lever that would operate both front and back brakes. Fig 1 shows the existing right brake lever and hand grip assembly.



An internet search found a suitable brake lever produced by Promax. The existing brake lever was removed and replaced with the Promax dual lever. The left cable easily transferred to the same lever. The new lever had a slightly longer handle that still fitted within the hand grip length so gave a bit more leverage when operating both brakes.

DB-24-041 – Mike Banks



The client spends much of her day sitting in a settee and leaning forwards due to problems with her spine. She finds it difficult to get out of the settee as it is too low and also tends to slide forwards on the cushion over time, often slipping on to the floor. The settee has "L" shaped front feet for which there are no commercial raisers available.

Four wooden blocks were made to raise the settee by 75 mm (see photo).

A special foam cushion, which is soft at the rear and stiff at the front, was made to reduce the chances of the client slipping forwards (see photo with cushion moved forward). It was made stiffer at the front by embedding two strips of plastic square-section downpipe with reduced thickness foam above. The cushion was mounted on an 8mm plywood base. The cushion was wrapped in a black cloth (not shown) which had already been in use over the original cushion.

DB-24-040 – Peter Brien

Client has MS and uses a wheelchair. He is a computer games enthusiast and has a computer table which his wheelchair fits under. Remap made this table for him about 2 years ago. A new wheelchair means the table needs raising slightly to prevent his knees catching.

The table legs had adjustable screw-in feet, but the amount of play was not enough. I replaced the screw-in feet with standard 8mm x 40mm bolts, and made small wooden floor protectors from slices of 40mm square hardwood.

Client was very happy, and gave a £10 donation.

DB-24-046 – Don Walton

Jordan was involved in a very serious motorcycle crash which has left him without the use of his left arm. He uses a shopping bag for personal belongings but a visit revealed that he had difficulty using the bag because it collapses when placed on a flat surface.

The solution was to extend the "flap", which is present in the bottom of many shopping bags up each end of the bag to give rigidity to these parts. Thin strips were also added in the seam on the top of the sides of bag. The "flap" feature means that the bag can be stored flat when not in use,

Polypropylene was used as the stiffening material, conveniently available from IKEA as PLOJA. The sheets are 65cm x 45cm x 1.5mm, easily cuttable with a Stanley knife

