

LIFTKAR STAIR CLIMBER

The Liftkar PT Uni, made by Austrian company Sano, is a rechargeable batterypowered device that allows anyone in a wheelchair to ascend or descend stairs. The user simply wheels into place on the Liftkar's platform, activates the lock, and applies the wheelchair brakes. The Liftkar requires an assistant to guide and control the device, but all of the heavy lifting is done by the motorized stair-climbing mechanism. It folds compactly for quick and easy storage or transport. Other Liftkar models have integrated seating. Visit www.sano-stairclimbers.com or search for demo videos in Youtube.



gear & gadgets

HOUND-A-BOUT DOG WALKER

Hound-a-bout is a hands-free dog walking system for wheelchair users. Simply remove one of your wheelchair's swing-away, tubular arm rests, drop the Hound-a-bout mast into the empty receiver, hook your dog up, and go. The company will also work on a custom solution if your chair doesn't have tubular, swing-away arm rests. Because the Hound-a-bout dog walker is designed to work hands-free, you have both hands available at all times for the safe operation of your wheelchair. As for your dog, the system provides 360 degrees of roaming flexibility. The leash portion also has a quick release, allowing a walking partner to take control. Visit www.bluezoneenterprises.com for more information.

LP PAD Xbox 360 CONTROLLER

The LP Pad is a wireless controller that allows people with quadriplegia or anyone else with little or no fine finger control to keep up with the latest XBOX games—particularly the latest shooter games. The LP Pad and its buttons are large, so that they can be easily controlled by a palm, knuckle or edge of hand. Along with the laptop controller, there is a standalone chin stick which the gamer can use to direct the action. For more information or to see a video of the LP Pad in use, visit www.lpaccessibletechnologies.com.



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WHEEL BLADES CASTER-MOUNTED SKIS

Wheel Blades are lightweight mini-ski attachments that clip onto your wheelchair's front wheels or casters to provide better movement over snow, ice and frozen ground. They mount easily with an adjustable clamp that fits wheel widths from one to six centimetres. The wide base of the blades evenly distributes the weight of the wheelchair and its user to prevent sinking in snow. Like a castor, the skis always face in the desired direction since the mounts are located in the front portions of the skis. Two tracking channels on the underside ensure you stay on course. Visit www.wheelblades.ch for more information.