

Loopwheels™ for Wheelchairs

User Manual
EN

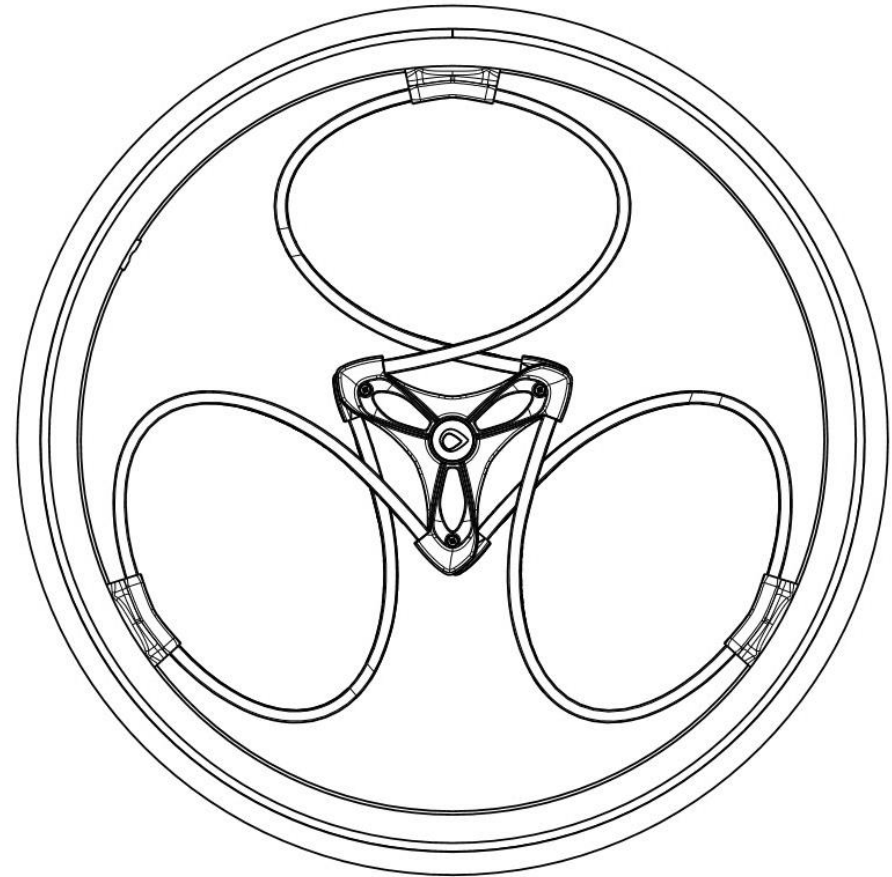
Thank you for choosing Loopwheels™ We wish you much enjoyment on your wheels.

BEFORE using this product, read this manual and save for future reference.

Dealers:

This manual MUST be given to the user of the product.

Dealers should NOT attempt to change bearings without specific advice from info@loopwheels.com, as our bearings are fixed into the wheels.



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The information in this manual may be subject to change without notice.



This product complies with Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices. The launch date of this product is stated in the CE declaration of conformity.

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1 GENERAL

1.1 Information about the User Manual






Thank you for choosing Loopwheels™. This User Manual contains important information about your new wheels.

We recognise that people develop ways of using their wheelchairs and wheels that suit them as individuals, and we wish to encourage this. Nevertheless, to ensure your safety and prevent damage when fitting your wheels to your chair, read the User Manual carefully and follow the safety information. It will also help avoid invalidating your product warranty.

For the latest product information, please refer to our website at www.loopwheels.com, your local loopwheels™ dealer, or contact the Loopwheels™ distributor in your country (see www.loopwheels.com/stockists for a list of our distributors).

1.2 Symbols in this manual

In this User Manual warnings are indicated by symbols.
The warning symbols are accompanied by a heading that indicates the severity of the danger.

 WARNING	Indicates a hazardous situation that could result in serious injury or death if it is not avoided.
 CAUTION	Indicates a hazardous situation that could result in minor or slight injury if it is not avoided.
 IMPORTANT!	Indicates a hazardous situation that could result in damage to property if it is not avoided.
	Gives useful tips, recommendations or information for trouble-free use
	This product complies with Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices. The launch date of this product is stated in the CE declaration of conformity.

1.3 Warranty

Jelly Products Ltd guarantees that our products are free from defects and are fully functional. The warranty covers all faults and defects that are verifiably attributable to faulty construction, substandard materials or poor workmanship. Warranty claims should be made through the dealer or distributor from whom the product was bought. Claims should only be made to the manufacturer if the product was purchased directly from us. The warranty does not cover normal wear and tear, the consequences of improper handling or damage, poor maintenance and incorrect assembly or commissioning by the purchaser or a third person, or faults which are attributable to circumstances beyond our control. Wearing parts (i.e. tyres and tubes) are not covered by the guarantee. The warranty is voided if modifications are made to the product or if inappropriate accessories or spare parts are used. The warranty does not cover consequential costs arising from the rectification of defects such as freight and travel expenses, labour costs, fees etc. The term of the manufacturer's warranty is 12 months from the date of purchase. Your statutory rights are not affected.

1.4 Intended use

Loopwheels™ are intended to improve comfort and mobility for people who use a manual wheelchair. Loopwheels™ are wheels with integral suspension designed for use as an accessory to a manual wheelchair with the purposes of

- (a) making it easier for a person in a manual wheelchair to pass over uneven surfaces and
- (b) reducing the jolting and vibration felt by the person using a manual wheelchair.

Loopwheels™ must be attached to the wheelchair using a removable axle. See section 5 in this Manual for information on axles, and see section 6 in this Manual for instructions on fitting loopwheels™ to your wheelchair.

Loopwheels™ are designed for use with a pneumatic tyre. See section 5 in this Manual for information about recommended tyres.

Suitable manual wheelchairs include those designed for active and semi-active use, and chairs designed to be pushed by an assistant.

Indications : Disabled adolescents and adults who weigh between 50 kg and 120 kg¹ and use a manual wheelchair.

Contra-indications : There are no contra-indications associated with proper use.

¹ In stones and pounds, this is equivalent approximately to between 8 and 19 stone, or 110 and 265 lb.

1.5 Limitation of liability

Jelly Products Ltd accepts no liability for damage arising from:

- Non-compliance with the User Manual
- Incorrect use
- Natural wear and tear
- Incorrect assembly or set-up by the purchaser or a third party
- Technical modifications
- The usage of unapproved 3rd party accessories.
- Unauthorised modifications and/or use of unsuitable spare parts
- Removal of bearings.

2 PRODUCT REGISTRATION

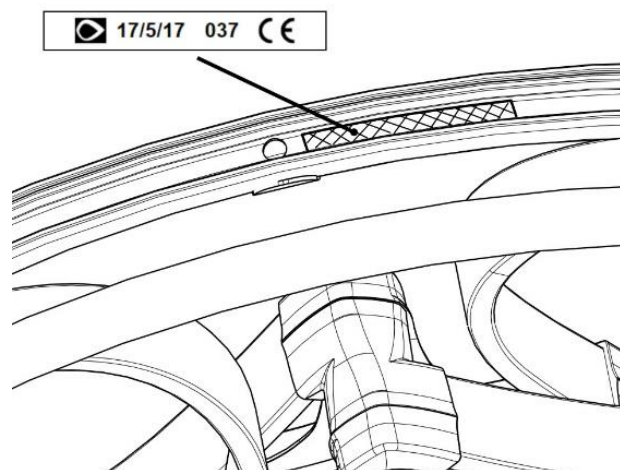
2.1 Unique Product Identification label

Each wheel comes with two identification labels

1. A removable identification label is attached to each wheel when you first purchase them. It identifies the size, axle diameter and colour of the wheel, and (if applicable) the type of push rim and tyres that were supplied with the wheels. Remove this label before you use the wheels, but keep it for future reference. On this tag there is a unique wheel identification code for every wheel we manufacture.

2. Inside the wheel rim (underneath the tyre) there is a further identification label showing just the manufacturer's unique wheel identification code. **In no circumstances should this**

unique identifier label be removed from the wheel rim.



2.2 Register your loopwheels™ online at www.loopwheels.com/product-registration

Registering your wheels means we can more readily provide the help you need when you contact us, and helps validate your product warranty.

Go to www.loopwheels.com/product-registration

3 SAFETY

3.1 General Safety information

General safety advice for using a wheelchair applies. We recognise that people use their chairs in their own ways and we believe people should always do what they have found to work best for them as individuals.

Nevertheless, this manual contains important safety information for the protection of the wheelchair user and assistant, and for safe, trouble-free use of loopwheels™.

⚠ WARNING

At high speed you could lose control of your wheelchair and overturn.

- Don't exceed a speed of 7 km/h.
- Avoid collisions in general.

⚠ WARNING

Risk due to driving style being unsuitable for the conditions

There is a risk of skidding on wet ground, gravel or uneven terrain.

- Always adjust your speed and driving style to the conditions (weather, surface, individual ability and experience).

⚠ WARNING

Loopwheels™ are not intended for use for passenger transport in a motor vehicle.

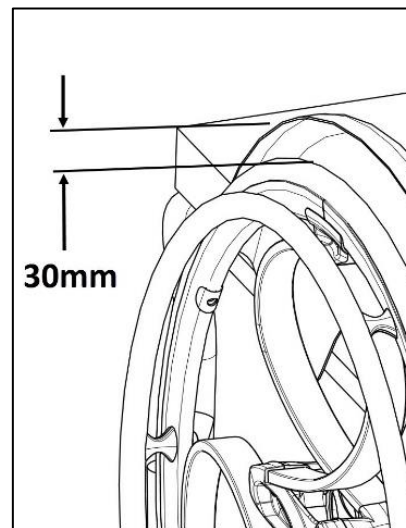
- Transfer into a fitted vehicle seat.

⚠ WARNING

Risk of serious injury from unexpected wheel braking

– Loopwheels™ must not be used with a rigid guard over the top of the tyres unless there is a gap of at least 30mm between the guard and the tyre. There is a risk that whilst moving the wheels could touch the guard and cause sudden braking.

- Check there is a space of at least 30mm above the tyre at all times.



⚠ CAUTION

Risk of getting fingers caught

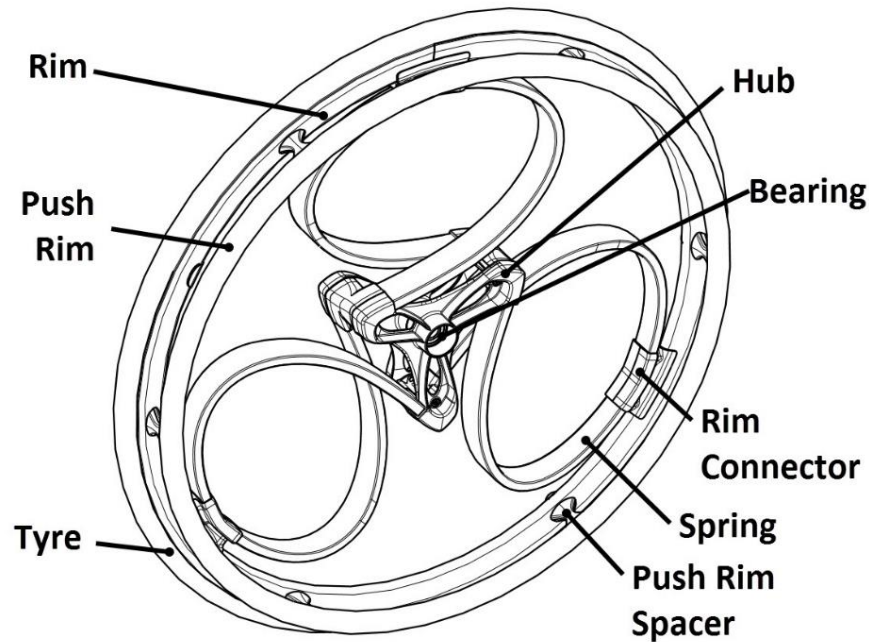
There is a risk of getting fingers, arms or items of clothing caught in the moving wheel, between the wheel and the chair, or in removable parts such as the axle.

- Make sure when fitting and using loopwheels™ that nothing becomes caught.

4 COMPONENTS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

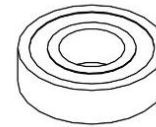
4.1 Overview of components

Loopwheels™ are wheels with integral suspension for use with manual wheelchairs.



Your wheel may differ slightly from the diagram as each loopwheel is manufactured individually to the specifications in the order.

4.2 Bearings



The bearings are fixed into the wheel hub.

! IMPORTANT!

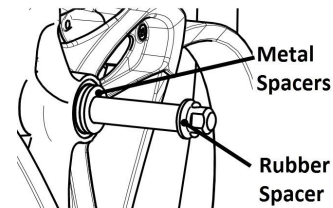
You may seriously damage your wheel if you remove the bearings by force.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE OR CHANGE THE BEARINGS YOURSELF! Seek advice from us about the correct procedure for removing bearings from Loopwheels™.

If you wish to be able to change your bearings yourself, please specify when you order loopwheels™ that you wish them to be supplied with unfixed bearings.

4.3 Spacers

We provide 2 stainless steel and 1 rubber spacer with each Loopwheel. These help ensure a snug fit of the wheels on your wheelchair and help prevent the wheels touching the chair. Depending on the model and specification of your chair, you may or may not need to use these.



Please refer to section 6 on how to fit loopwheels™ to your chair for instructions on how to use the spacers.

5 ACCESSORIES

5.1 Tyres

We recommend Schwalbe® Marathon Plus tyres for use with loopwheels™.

For a 24" Loopwheel, you need a tyre size ETRTO 25-540 or 24 x 1.00 inch

For a 25" Loopwheel, you need a tyre size ETRTO 25-559 or 26 x 1.00 inch

The ideal pressure depends on the tyre type. The maximum pressure is often listed on the side of the tyre. For Schwalbe® Marathon Plus, the maximum pressure is 10 bar / 1000 kPa or 145 psi.



In case of a tyre puncture consult a suitable workshop (e.g. bike repair shop, bicycle or mobility equipment dealer) to have the tube replaced by a skilled person.



The size of the tyre is marked on the sidewall of the tyre.

⚠ CAUTION

– The tyre pressure needs to be maintained at the recommended level in both wheels to avoid decreased driving comfort, to keep the parking brakes on your chair working properly, and to ease propelling of the wheels and your wheelchair. See 9.2 for our recommended maintenance schedule.

5.2 Removable Axles

Loopwheels™ must be fitted to a wheelchair using a removable axle designed for use with a manual wheelchair.

⚠ WARNING

RISK OF OVERTURNING!

There is a risk of overturning your wheelchair due to using an incorrect size axle being used to fit loopwheels™ to your wheelchair. The axle must be the correct length and diameter so that the loopwheel is firmly attached to your wheelchair for safe use.

– Choose a loopwheel with the same axle diameter as your wheelchair's axle housing.

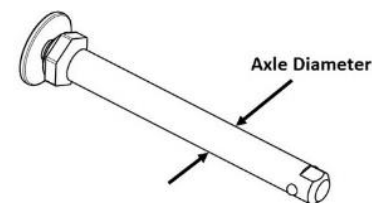
– Choose the length of axle that attaches the loopwheel to your chair firmly, so that the axle engages correctly in the axle housing of the wheelchair.

Axle diameter

Wheelchair axles are available in two diameters: ½ inch (12.7mm) or 12mm.

You must choose the diameter of axle that matches the specification of your wheelchair:

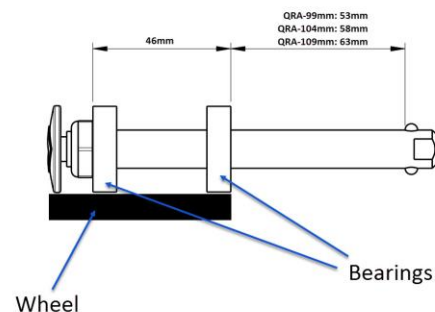
- It is not possible to fit a ½ inch or 12.7mm removable axle shaft into a 12mm axle housing.
- A 12mm axle shaft can be easily inserted into a 12.7mm axle housing but the 0.7mm difference in size will cause your wheels to wobble.



Axle length

Wheelchair axles are available in several lengths. You must choose the correct length of axle that will pass right through the loopwheel into the wheelchair's axle housing, and engage so it holds the wheel firmly in place (see section 6).

Bearing Position in a Loopwheel



Loopwheels™ quick-release axles

Our axles are “quick-release”: by pressing the button with the loopwheels™ logo, the axle disengages.

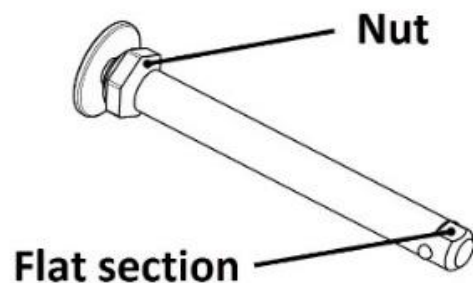
You can make a minor adjustment to the length of our axles by rotating the nut, like this:

Step 1: Remove the axle from the wheel.

Step 2: Clamp the flat section to hold it still.

Step 3: Turn the nut using a spanner / wrench. Rotate clockwise to shorten the length of the axle or rotate counter-clockwise to lengthen the axle.

The maximum total adjustment is 8mm.



6 FITTING LOOPWHEELS™ TO YOUR WHEELCHAIR

6.1 Safety information

⚠ WARNING

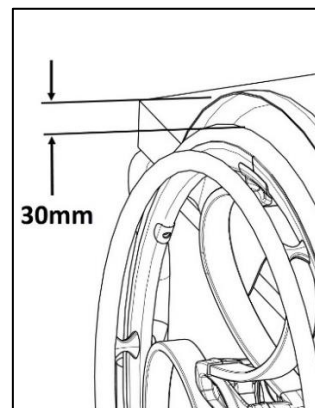
Risk of serious injury from overturning the wheelchair

– Always ensure that the removable axles are fully engaged whenever you fit a wheel.

⚠ WARNING

Risk of serious injury from overturning the wheelchair

– Loopwheels™ must NOT be used with a rigid guard over the top of the tyres unless there is a gap of at least 30mm between the guard and the tyre. There is a risk that whilst moving the wheels could touch the guard and cause sudden braking.
- Check there is a space of at least 30mm above the tyre at all times.



⚠ WARNING

Risk due to using an incorrect size of Loopwheels™ being fitted to your wheelchair. The size of loopwheel must match the specification of your wheelchair for safe performance.

– Choose a wheel of the correct diameter for your wheelchair
– Choose a loopwheel with the same axle diameter as your wheelchair axle housing.

CAUTION

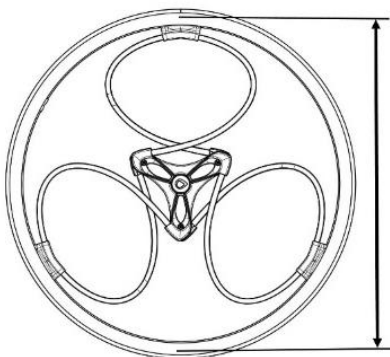
Risk of injury

– Before using the wheels, check their general condition, refer to 9.2 Maintenance Schedule.

6.2 Check you have the correct size Loopwheels™ for your wheelchair

Loopwheels™ are available in two wheel diameters:

- 24" or 540mm;
- 25" or 559mm.

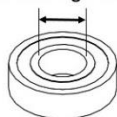


If you don't know the size of wheel that is suitable for you and for your wheelchair, seek advice from your dealer, health care provider or therapist.

Loopwheels™ are available with two sizes of axle bearing. We offer an internal diameter of

- ½ inch (or 12.7mm) - the most common size; or
- 12mm

Internal Bearing Diameter



See section 5.2 for advice on axle diameters and lengths. If you don't know the diameter of the axle housing of your wheelchair, seek advice from the dealer from whom you purchased your chair or your loopwheels™, or with your health care provider or therapist.

6.3 Camber angle

Loopwheels must not be mounted at a camber angle that exceeds 12 degrees.

6.4 Fitting loopwheels™ to your wheelchair for the first time

IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED LOOPWHEELS™ FROM A SPECIALIST DEALER

Your dealer will supply your loopwheels™ ready for use. Your dealer will explain the main functions and ensure that the wheels meet your needs and requirements. Your dealer will fit the wheels to your wheelchair.

IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED LOOPWHEELS™ WITHOUT HELP FROM A DEALER

If you fit loopwheels™ to your wheelchair yourself, you must follow these instructions:

Note: you must sit somewhere other than your wheelchair to remove your old wheels and to fit loopwheels™!

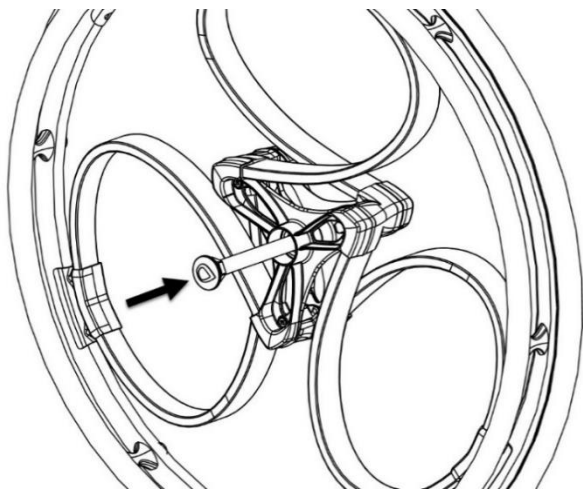
STEP 1. Release the brakes.

STEP 2. With one hand, hold the wheelchair upright.

STEP 3. With the other, remove your old wheels from the wheelchair by pressing the centre of the axle.

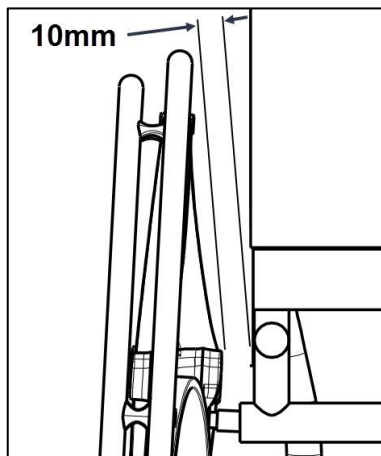
STEP 4. Remove the existing axles from your old wheels. You can choose to re-use these or use new axles with your loopwheels™.

STEP 5. Push one axle into each Loopwheel from the outward facing side of the wheel.

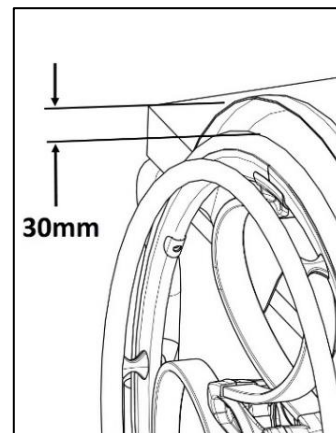


STEP 6: Insert the axle (with the wheel on it) into the axle housing on your wheelchair, one side at a time.

STEP 7: Rotate the wheel slowly to check that no part of the Loopwheel touches or rubs the frame of the chair. We recommend a minimum clearance of 10mm at all points.



In addition, there must be a space of at least 30mm above the wheel.

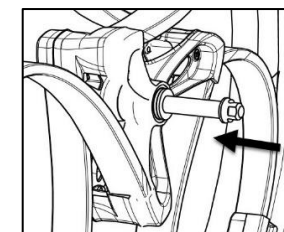
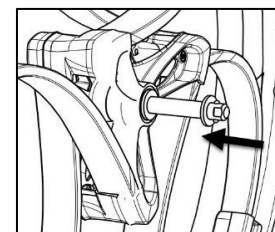
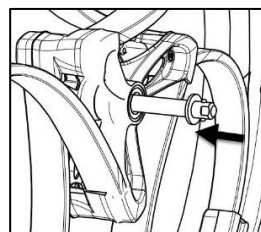


If the clearance is good, move to STEP 11.

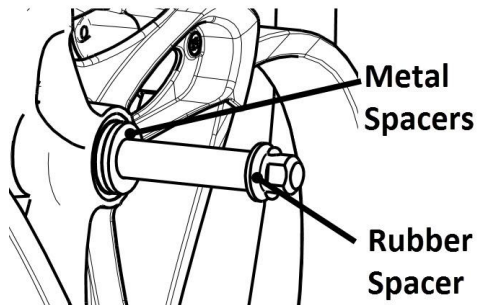
If there is a clash or not enough clearance, move to STEP 8.

STEP 8: Remove the Loopwheel from the chair, place one of the steel spacers onto the axle from the INNER side of the wheel. This will move the Loopwheel further away from the wheelchair frame.

Repeat Steps 7 and 8 up to a maximum of 3 times until there is the correct amount of clearance between the wheel and the frame of the chair.



STEP 9: Secure the steel washers in place by sliding the rubber washer onto the Loopwheel axle.



STEP 10: Replace the wheels onto the chair.

STEP 11: Check that the removable axles are fully engaged in the axle housing of the wheelchair.

STEP 12: Check that the brakes still engage properly with the tyre. If they do not, seek advice from your wheelchair supplier or therapist on re-positioning the brakes.

6.5 Fitting and removing loopwheels™ in every day use

⚠ WARNING

– Always ensure that the removable axles are fully engaged whenever you fit a wheel.

Fitting Loopwheels™

STEP 1. Release the brakes.

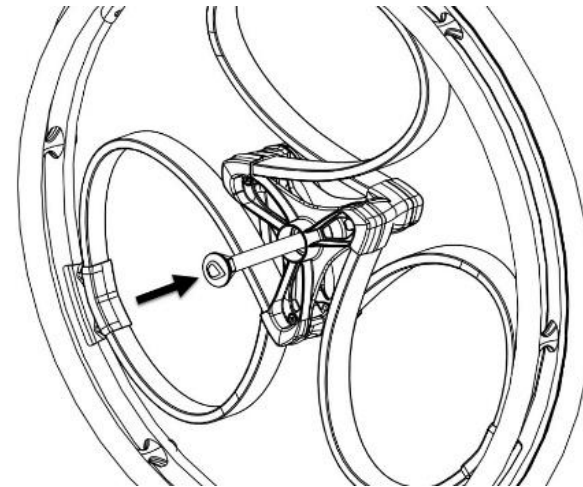
STEP 2. With one hand, hold the wheelchair upright.

STEP 3. With the other, hold the wheel around the wheel hub.

STEP 4. Using your thumb, press the removable axle button and hold it down.

STEP 5. Push the axle into the wheelchair axle housing up to the stop.

STEP 6. Release the removable axle button and make sure that the wheel is secure.



Removing Loopwheels™

STEP 1. Release the brakes.

STEP 2. With one hand, hold the wheelchair upright.

STEP 3. With the other, hold the wheel around the wheel hub.

STEP 4. Using your thumb, press the removable axle button and hold it down.

STEP 5. Pull the axle out of the wheelchair axle housing.

7 USING LOOPWHEELS

7.1 Safety information

WARNING

Risk of accidents

Uneven tyre pressure can have a huge effect on handling. The pressure should be the same in both tyres.

- Check the tyre pressure before each journey.

WARNING

Risk of falling out of the wheelchair

When using loopwheels™ with small front castor wheels the wheelchair could get stuck at kerbs or in floor grooves.

- Make sure that the front wheels are suitable for the surface you are driving on.

CAUTION

Risk of crushing

There may be a very small gap between the loopwheel and the mudguard with the risk that you could trap your fingers.

- Ensure that you always propel your wheelchair using the handrims only.

CAUTION

Risk of crushing

There may be a very small gap between the loopwheel and the parking brake with the risk that you could trap your fingers.

- Ensure that you always propel your wheelchair using the handrims only.

7.2 Braking during use

Whilst you are moving, you brake by transferring force to the push rim with your hands.

CAUTION

Risk of burning your hands

If you brake for a long time, a lot of frictional heat is produced at the push rims

- Wear suitable gloves.

1. Hold the handrims and press evenly with both hands until the wheelchair stops.

7.3 Driving and steering a wheelchair fitted with loopwheels

You drive and steer a wheelchair using the push rims. Fitting loopwheels to your chair changes the feel of the wheelchair compared with spoked wheels. Before driving without an assistant you must accustom yourself to how the chair feels and behaves.

WARNING

Risk of falling out of the wheelchair!

When using loopwheels™ on a wheelchair that you are used to using with rigid spoked wheels, the centre of gravity may change.

- Find your wheelchair's tipping point and use loopwheels™ initially with an assistant

- Adjust your driving style accordingly.

8 TRANSPORT

8.1 Safety Information

WARNING

NEVER transport an occupied wheelchair fitted with loopwheels™ in a vehicle. It has not been designed for this purpose. ALWAYS transfer the wheelchair user to the vehicle seat with the seatbelt on.

WARNING

Injury or damage may occur from loopwheels™ or other wheelchair components or accessories loosened during a collision or sudden stop.

– Ensure your wheelchair, loopwheels™ and accessories are securely stored in the vehicle.

8.2 Transporting a wheelchair fitted with loopwheels™ in a vehicle

Remove loopwheels™ from your wheelchair to transport it more easily in a vehicle, by following the instructions in section 5 for removing and fitting loopwheels™.

9 MAINTENANCE

9.1 Safety information

WARNING

Some materials deteriorate naturally over time. Wheelchair manufacturers recommend that your wheelchair should be checked by a specialist dealer at least once a year or if it has not been used for a long period. We recommend that your loopwheels™ are included in this annual check.

9.2 Maintenance Schedule

To ensure safe and reliable operation, carry out the following checks and maintenance regularly, or have the checks carried out by another person.

	weekly	monthly	annually
Visual check	x		
Check loopwheel springs		x	
Have your wheelchair and wheels checked by a specialist dealer			x
Check the tyre pressure	x		
Check that loopwheels™ are seated correctly and axles secure	x		
Check the parking brakes		x	

Visual check

1. Examine your wheels for loose parts, cracks or other defects.
2. If you find anything, have your wheels checked immediately by your loopwheels™ dealer or contact info@loopwheels.com.

Check the springs of your loopwheels™

1. Examine the springs for any signs of wear, cracks, looseness or other defects.
2. Listen for any clicking sound from the wheels as they turn.
3. If you find anything, have your wheelchair checked immediately by your loopwheels™ dealer or contact info@loopwheels.com.

Check the tyre pressure

1. Check the tyre pressure – see 5.1
2. Inflate the tyres to the required pressure.
3. Check the tyre tread at the same time.
4. If necessary, change the tyres.

Check that loopwheels™ are seated correctly

1. Pull on the loopwheel to check that the removable axle is seated correctly. The wheel should not come off.
2. If the loopwheels™ are not engaged properly, remove any dirt or deposits. If the problem persists, have the removable axles re-fitted by a specialist dealer.

Check the parking brakes



IMPORTANT!

The parking brakes may need to be repositioned after replacing your rear wheels with loopwheels™.

1. Check that the parking brakes are positioned correctly. The brake is set correctly if the brake shoe depresses the tyre by a few millimeters when the brake is applied.
2. If you find that the setting is not correct, have the brakes correctly set by a specialist dealer.

Checking after a heavy collision or blow



IMPORTANT!

Loopwheels™ may sustain visibly undetectable damage as a result of a heavy collision or hard blow.

– It is essential to have your wheelchair and loopwheels™ checked by a specialist dealer after a heavy collision or hard blow.

Repairing or changing an inner tube

1. Remove the loopwheel and release any air from the inner tube.
2. Lift one tyre wall away from the rim using a bicycle tyre lever. Do not use sharp objects such as a screwdriver which could damage the inner tube.
3. Pull the inner tube out of the tyre.
4. Repair the inner tube using a bicycle repair kit or, if necessary, replace the tube.
5. Inflate the tube slightly until it becomes round.
6. Insert the valve into the valve hole on the rim and place the tube inside the tyre (the tube should lie right round the tyre with no creases).
7. Lift the tyre wall over the edge of the rim. Start close to the valve and use a bicycle tyre lever. When doing this, check all the way round to ensure that the inner tube is not trapped between the tyre and the rim.
8. Inflate the tyre to the maximum operating pressure. Check that no air is escaping from the tyre.

9.3 Cleaning

Regular cleaning of your loopwheels™ will help them last well. Regular cleaning will reveal loose or worn parts and enhance the smooth operation of your wheels. To operate properly and safely, your wheels must be cared for just like any other vehicle wheels.



IMPORTANT!

Sand and seawater can damage the bearings, and steel parts can rust if the surface is damaged.

– Only expose your loopwheels™ to sand and seawater for short periods, and clean the hub after every trip to the beach.



IMPORTANT!

– Do not use coarse abrasives, aggressive cleaning products or high-pressure cleaners. Never use acids, alkalines or solvents such as acetone or cellulose thinner.

– Always use ordinary household cleaning agents.



IMPORTANT!

– Do not use solvents or kitchen cleaners to clean plastic surfaces.

1. Clean the metal parts with a soft, damp cloth.
2. Dry the hub carefully with a cloth after using it in the rain.
3. If the wheels are dirty, wipe off the dirt as soon as possible with a damp cloth and dry them carefully.
4. Plastic surfaces on the springs may be cleaned with soft cloth, mild detergent and hot water.

10 TROUBLESHOOTING

10.1 Safety information

Faults may arise as a result of daily use, adjustments or changing demands on the wheels. The table below shows how to identify and repair faults.



CAUTION!

- Contact your loopwheels™ dealer immediately if you notice a fault with your wheels, e.g. a significant change in handling.



IMPORTANT!

- Some of the actions listed must be carried out by a specialist dealer or by the manufacturer. These are indicated.

10.2 Identifying and repairing faults

Fault	Possible cause	Action
The wheelchair does not travel in a straight line	Incorrect tyre pressure on one loopwheel	Correct tyre pressure, see 5.1
	One or more spring is broken	Return wheel for repair or replacement via your specialist dealer
	Wheel bearings are dirty or damaged	Clean or replace the bearings via your specialist dealer
The brakes are gripping poorly or asymmetrically	Incorrect tyre pressure in one or both tyres	Correct tyre pressure, see 5.1
	Brake setting incorrect	Correct the brake setting, by seeking advice from your specialist dealer
Rolling resistance is very high	Tyre pressure is too low	Correct tyre pressure, see 5.1
	Loopwheels™ not parallel	Ensure the wheels are parallel, by seeking advice from your specialist dealer
The loopwheel makes a clicking noise	One or more spring is loose or broken	Return wheel for repair or replacement, via your specialist dealer

11.1 Storage



IMPORTANT!

Risk of damage to the product

- Do not store the wheels near heat sources.
- Never store other items on top of the wheels.
- Store the wheels indoors in a dry environment.

After long-term storage (more than three months) we recommend the wheels be inspected in accordance to chapter 9 Maintenance.

11.2 Disposal

For correct disposal, contact your specialist dealer or ask your town or district council about local waste management companies. Be environmentally aware and dispose of your loopwheels™ properly. Disposal is subject to national and local regulations.

11 AFTER USE

12 TECHNICAL DATA

12.1 Dimensions and weight

Dimension and weight may alter according to different configurations of push rims and tyres.

A	Wheel diameter	24" / 540mm (ETRT0 25-540mm) 25" / 559mm (ETRT0 25-559mm)
B	Wheel width at widest point (without push rim)	72mm
C	Wheel width at hub	65mm
D	Bearing width at faces	1.87" (46mm)
E	Weight (without push rim or tyre)	1.8 kg (24" diameter wheel) 1.85 kg (25" diameter wheel)
F	Push rim offset (distance between rim and push rim)	11mm (narrow) or 19mm (wide)
G	Maximum load	120 kg

12.2 Environmental conditions

Do not expose the wheels to temperatures below -20 °C or above 40 °C.

12.3 Materials

The components used to manufacture loopwheels™ consist of following materials:

Springs ("loops")	Composite of Glass Fibre, Carbon Fibre and cured Epoxy resins
Spring coating	Polyolefin
Rim, hub and rim connectors	Aluminium
Bearings	Steel / Aluminium
Screws and bolts	Steel
Push rim	Aluminium ²
Push rim spacer	Polyamide (nylon)

¹ For standard loopwheel push rim. Alternative push rims may comprise other materials.



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The information in this manual may be subject to change without notice.



This product complies with Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices. The launch date of this product is stated in the CE declaration of conformity.

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