

Shape Up! Ability Based Seating™

Using my own injury as a starting point, I built what became Etac's first wheelchair. My aim was to sit better and thereby become faster and stronger. Today, our focus is a user group that is considerably more care dependent. Developing our first multi-functional wheelchair; 'Performance' continues to be an important watchword for me and my development team. What do we mean by 'performance' when we talk about multi-functional wheelchairs?

It's a matter of individual ability. Our aim is to maximise the ability of the user, using design and supportive features. The right shape and support cannot be pre-ordered; it is created by you, the professional, with the user positioned in the wheelchair. In this information series, we will talk about new possibilities offered with our multi-functional wheelchair Etac Prio. About the importance of creating conditions for activity and mobility. Above all, we talk about setting goals on the basis of the user's ability. And about the importance of "shaping up" your position. This is what we call Ability Based Seating™.

Bosse Lindqvist, Head of Development since 1984



Bosse Lindqvist 1984, Berlin Maraton



Sit better and achieve more

How many wheelchair users are passive due to ineffective sitting support? How many develop chewing or swallowing problems, or escalating back problems due to a poorly supported kyphosis? What are the risks when all a users energy is used to keep their trunk and head upright? Not being active as a result of insufficient or even incorrect sitting support can cause significant health problems.



Ability based approach

I often meet colleagues who are concerned that they have less time and resources for wheelchair assessments. We know that the positioning influences reach, strength and mobility. With an ability based approach we can focus on utilizing the user's capacity in a functional way. Maintaining and leveraging abilities is the goal. This requires time and know-how. Contour and stability is created with the user sitting in the wheelchair.

*Maria Amnell, AT, Etac Education,
has worked with Etac wheelchairs since 1988.*

Ability Based Seating™

We are proud to have lived up to the high requirements set by occupational therapists and physiotherapists for more than 40 years. The prescribers create value for the user by using our products to provide postural control and stability. This has led us to back support innovations such as adjustable back strap upholstery, the 3A back system with lumbar setting. And now with Prio, a dynamic pelvic support and the 3D back support, an entirely unique solution to accommodate kyphosis and other asymmetries.

We summarise what we think is most important by using a new term: Ability Based Seating™. With this, we want to spread Scandinavian rehabilitation philosophy – how can the users ability be used for activity while sitting.

In a series of newsletters... we provide you with principles of Ability Based Seating™ and examples of how to practice with Etac Prio, our new multi-functional wheelchair. In our next newsletter, we will practise our thoughts behind the Prio measurements based on the Prio user.



Ability™
Based
Seating