

Owner's Manual



M4TV



M2TF

Transport / Companion Wheelchairs



M2TL



M2TC

INTRODUCTION

*Congratulations on the purchase of your
new companion chair.*

**Please read this introduction with your
companion / helper**

WARNING

Do not operate this chair without first reading and understanding this manual. If you are unable to understand the safety instructions, contact a healthcare professional, dealer or technical personnel if applicable before attempting to use this chair-otherwise injury or damage may result.

Thank you
for choosing a companion wheelchair.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

This chair is designed to operate with your companion. Rider cannot propel this chair without an attendant's help.

Please read this user manual with your attendant before you operate this chair.

MERITS provides a choice of many wheelchair styles to meet the needs of the wheelchair user.

Choosing the best chair and set-up for safety depends on:

- 1- Your disability, strength, balance and coordination.
- 2- The types of hazards you must overcome in daily use.
- 3- The need for options for your safety and comfort.

NOTE:

Before using this chair, you and each person who may assist you, should read this manual and make sure to follow all instructions.

-  Designed for use on firm, even surfaces, asphalt and indoor floors and carpeting. Do not operate your chair in sand, loose soil or over rough terrain.
-  NEVER exceed the weight limit of 200 pounds (91 kgs), for combined weight of rider and items carried.
-  Check your wheelchair before operating.
 - 1- Make sure the chair rolls easily and that all parts work smoothly. Check for noise, vibration, or a change in ease of use.
 - 2- Repair any problem. Your authorized supplier can help you find and correct the problem.
 - 3- If your chair has anti-tippers, please lock them in place.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Operating with caution

- 1- After engaging wheellocks, practice bending, reaching and transfers until you know the limit of your ability. Have someone help you until you know what can cause a fall or tip-over and how to avoid doing it.
- 2- Get to the areas where you plan to use your chair. Look for hazards and learn how to avoid them.
- 3- In most states, wheelchairs are not legal for use on public roads. Be alert to the danger of motor vehicles on roads or in parking lots. At night, or when lighting is poor, use reflective tape on your chair and clothing.

Do not modify your chair

- 1- If you modify or adjust this chair, it may increase the risk of a tip-over.
- 2- Always consult your authorized supplier before you modify or adjust your chair.
- 3- Unauthorized modifications or use of parts not supplied or approved by MERITS may change the chair structure. This will void the warranty and may cause a safety hazard.

Watching environmental conditions

- 1- Use extra care if you must ride your chair on a wet or slick surface.
- 2- Contact with water or excess moisture may cause your chair to rust or corrode. This could cause your chair to fail.

In motor vehicle

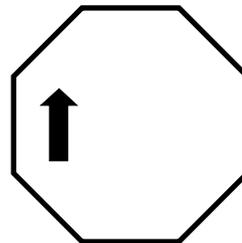
- 1- NEVER let anyone sit in this chair while in a moving vehicle.
- 2- In an accident or sudden stop, the rider may be thrown from the chair. Wheelchair seat belts will not prevent this, and further injury may result from the belts or straps.
- 3- NEVER transport this chair in the front seat of a vehicle. It may shift and interfere with the driver.
- 4- ALWAYS secure this chair so that it cannot roll or shift.
- 5- DO NOT use any chair that has been involved in a motor vehicle accident.

OPERATING SAFETY

Operating on a slope

Which includes a ramp or side hill, will change the center of balance of this companion chair. The chair is less stable when it is at an angle.

- 1- Always go up and down perpendicularly.
- 2- Do not turn or change direction on the slope.
- 3- Do not stop on a steep slope.
- 4- Always stay in the center of the ramp. Make sure ramp is wide enough that you are not at risk that a wheel may fall over the edge.
- 5- Beware of:
 - ☞ Wet or slippery surfaces.
 - ☞ A change in grade on a slope (or a lip, bump or depression), may cause a fall or tip-over.
 - ☞ A drop-off at the bottom of a slope. A drop-off as small as 3/4 inch can stop a front caster and cause the chair to tip forward.
- 6- To reduce the risk of a fall or tip-over:
 - ☞ If occupant can lean or press body uphill, this will help adjust for the change in the center of balance caused by the slope or side hill.
 - ☞ For M2TC / M2TL, keep pressure on the loop brake to control your speed on a down slope. If you go too fast, you may lose control.
- 7- Ramps at home: For your safety, ramps at home must meet all legal requirements for your area.
MERITS RECOMMENDS:
 - ☞ Ramp Width-at least 4 feet wide.
 - ☞ Guardrails-to reduce the risk of a fall, sides or ramp must have guardrails (or raised borders at least three inches high).
 - ☞ Slope-no more than a 10% grade.
 - ☞ Surface-flat and even, with a thin carpet or other non-skid material.
 - ☞ Bracing-ramp must be sturdy.



OPERATING SAFETY

Descending a curb or single step

- 1- Stay at the rear of the chair.
- 2- Several feet before you reach the edge of the curb or step, turn the chair around and pull it backward.
- 3- While looking over your shoulder, carefully step back until you are off the curb or stair and standing on the lower level.
- 4- Pull the chair toward you until the rear wheels reach the edge of the curb or step. Then allow the rear wheels to slowly roll down onto the lower level.
- 5- When the rear wheels are safely on the lower level, tilt the chair back to its balance point. This will lift the front casters off the curb or step.
- 6- Keep the chair in balance and take small steps backwards. Turn the chair around and gently lower front casters to the ground.

Climbing a curb or single step

- 1- Stay behind the chair.
- 2- Face the curb and tilt the chair up on the rear wheels so that the front casters clear the curb or step.
- 3- Move forward, placing the front casters on the upper level as soon as you are sure they are past the edge.
- 4- Continue forward until the rear wheels contact the face of the curb or step. Lift and roll the rear wheels to the upper level.

Climbing Stairs

- 1- Use at least two attendants to move a chair and wheelchair user up stairs.
- 2- Move the chair and wheelchair user backward up the stairs.
- 3- The person at the rear is in control. He or she tilts the chair back to its balance point.
- 4- A second attendant at the front firmly grasps a non-detachable part of the front frame and lifts the chair up and over one stair at a time.
- 5- The attendants move to the next stair up. Repeat for each stair, until you reach the landing.

Descending Stairs

- 1- Use at least two attendants to move a chair and wheelchair user down stairs.
- 2- Move the chair and wheelchair forward down the stairs.
- 3- The person at the rear is in control. He or she tilts the chair to the balance point of the rear wheels and rolls it to the edge of the top step.
- 4- A second attendant stands on the third step from the top and grasps the chair frame. He or she lowers the chair on to the step by letting the rear wheels roll over the stair edge.
- 5- The attendants move to the next stair down. Repeat for each stair, until reaching the landing.

OPERATING SAFETY

Before you assist a wheelchair user, be sure to read and follow the instructions:

- 1- Work with the wheelchair user's doctor, nurse or therapist to learn safe methods best suited to your abilities and those of the wheelchair user.
- 2- Explain to the user what you plan to do and what you expect the user to do. This will put the wheelchair user at ease and reduce the risk of an accident.
- 3- Make sure the chair has push handles. They provide secure points for you to hold the rear of the chair to prevent a fall or tip-over.
- 4- To prevent injury to your back, use good posture and proper body mechanics. When you lift or support the wheelchair user or tilt the chair, bend your knees slightly and keep your back as upright and straight as you can.
- 5- Remind the wheelchair user to lean back when you tilt the chair backward.
- 6- To avoid tripping, unlock and rotate anti-tippers into place if you must leave the wheelchair user alone, even for a moment. This will reduce the risk of a tip over or loss of control of the chair.

TRANSFER

Be aware that there is a point in every transfer when the wheelchair seat is not below occupant.

- 1- Lock the rear wheels before you transfer.
- 2- Move your chair as close as you can to the seat you are transferring to. If possible, use a transfer board.
- 3- Rotate the front casters until they are as far forward as possible.

ESCALATORS

Never use this chair on the escalators.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHAIR

ARMREST

For M4T that has a detachable arm, the armrests detach and will not bear the weight of this chair.

FOOTREST

- 1- At the lowest point, footrest should be at least 2 ½" off the ground. If set too low, they may hang up on obstacles.
- 2- Avoid putting weight on the footrests, as the chair may tip forward.
- 3- Never lift this chair by the footrests. Footrests detach and will not bear the weight of this chair. Lift this chair only by non-detachable parts of the main frame.

TO UNFOLD CHAIR

(If the chair has a folding back (M2TF and M4TF) Pull the backrest tube up until it locks into place.

- 1- Stand to one side of the chair.
- 2- From side, tilt chair toward you far enough to take the weight off the opposite wheel.
- 3- Push down on the top of the seat rail nearest to you, where the seat upholstery is attached until chair opens fully.

TO FOLD CHAIR

- 1- Make sure footrests or elevating legrests are out of the way. You can take footrest/legrest out or pivot footplates upward to vertical position.
- 2- Stand to one side of chair.
- 3- With both hands, grasp center of seat sling and lift sharply until chair folds.
- 4- (If the chair has a folding back (M2TF and M4TF) Push down the backrest tube while pulling out the lock pin.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHAIR

FOR M4T, DETACHABLE ARMRESTS:

TO INSTALL

- 1- Align arm over receive sockets located beside the side frame.
- 2- Push down on armrest until detent is engaged and lock clicks into place.

TO REMOVE

- 1- Press down detent lever located on the receiver sockets located beside the side frame.
- 2- Holding the armrest in the center, pull up on arm until it is free of the receive sockets.

When removing armrest of M4TV, be sure to pull straight up to prevent armrest tubes from becoming wedged in receiver sockets. To correct this problem, push armrest back down into place and repeat the process, emphasizing on upward with a straight and even motion.

SWINGAWAY FOOTREST / LEGRESTS

INSTALLATION

- 1- Engage both wheel locks.
- 2- Place footrests on the 2-pin hanger plate offset to outside of the frame. Make sure the holes on the footrest / legrest bracket are well seated over both mounting posts.
- 3- Swing footrest toward inside of chair until it locks into place.

FOOTPLATE HEIGHT

ADJUSTMENT

- 1- Loosen bolt located on the bottom of footrest tube (pivot and slide tube).
- 2- Slide up and down to your desired position.
- 3- Tighten nut securely.

LIMITED WARRANTY

This warranty is only extended to original consumer purchasers of our products. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other legal rights that vary from state to state.

MERITS WARRANTIES THE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BY IT TO BE FREE OF DEFECTIVE MATERIALS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR. THE FRAME OF THE PRODUCT HAS A LIFETIME WARRANTY AGAINST MANUFACTURER DEFECTS. IF THE PRODUCT OR ANY OF IT'S COMPONENTS ARE ALTERED IN ANY WAY, THE WARRANTY BECOMES NULL AND VOID. PROBLEMS AND BREAKAGE OF PRODUCT RESULTING FROM ABUSE OR MIS-HANDLING ARE NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY. IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DISTRIBUTOR FOR REPAIR SERVICE. REPLACEMENT OR MODIFICATION OF PRODUCT COMPONENTS ARE NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY IF THEY ARE NOT MANUFACTURED OR APPROVED BY MERITS.

The forgoing warranty is exclusive and in lieu of all other express warranties, implied warranties, if any, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness of particular purpose, shall not extend beyond the duration of the express warranty provided therein. MERITS shall not be liable for any consequential or incidental damages whatsoever.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitations of incidental or consequential damage, or limitation on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above exclusion and limitation may not apply to you.

HEALTH PRODUCTS, INC.

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