



Car adaptations for disabled drivers

Techmobility Hand Control System

Techmobility hand controls were developed in 1994 in response to concerns about the "secondary safety" of traditional systems.

Studies at that time showed there were risks of injury in the event of an accident particularly to the feet, knees and legs from the exposed rods linking the hand controls to the floor pedals.

Techmobility designed their hand controls removing the rods and linkages from the area around the driver's lower limbs and routed them such that they ran along the line of the steering column mainly enclosed within the steering column shroud.



Secondary Safety Study

A follow-up study in 1999 entitled "Secondary Safety of Vehicle Adaptations for Disabled Motorists - Five Years On" by the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA), the publishers of the original study, reported:

"The Techmobility systems represent a major improvement to the secondary safety of push-pull hand controls.... There is virtually no impingement on the space ahead of the knees, and the driver would have essentially the same safety as for a non-adapted car." (pages 7 and 8) And, in the view of the authors of the report, Vehicle Safety Consultants Limited". TechMobility systems should be used wherever possible in preference to the older, cruder designs because of the markedly better safety offered... the authors would have no hesitation in recommending the TechMobility type solution as the solution of choice for simple mechanical systems";. (page 12).

But Also: Ease of Access

With the absence of rods and linkages in the footwell, getting in and out of the car is much easier and there is nothing to hinder other drivers from using the floor pedals.

Drivability

Techmobility have also taken great care to ensure that driving with hand controls is as comfortable as possible. The throttle has a longer distance of travel and is therefore much lighter and smoother than other designs. The brake is smooth and progressive. The controls also look much neater blending in with look of the car and much less damage is done to trim and coverings.



Cost

Although Techmobility hand controls have significant benefits compared to other systems, they are no more expensive to install. They are available for most makes and models of vehicles with a full range of options e.g. steering devices, indicator/horn/light switches, brake pedal guard and hinged throttle pedal, etc.

Special Requirements

Other adaptation options are available for example: twin lever, left handed, electronic throttles, lightened brakes, small steering wheels, lightened steering efforts, - all requirements catered for!

