

Manual locking knee



Description

The manual locking knee is locked stiff at the knee when in use. The knee will not bend until a release mechanism is operated to free the knee lock (e.g. when sitting). This system makes the knee extremely safe.

These types of knee are best suited to users with weak musculature or balance issues. Occasionally they are used locked in the early stages of rehabilitation with a view to unlocking them as the user progresses through therapy and becomes more confident and able.

Advantages

- A manual locking knee is the most stable type of knee joint when locked.
- Can be made very lightweight.
- Inexpensive.
- Automatically engages knee lock in extension (following manual release).
- Relatively easy to unlock.
- Usually used by amputees who are weak, unstable or unwell.

Disadvantages

- May be difficult to unlock when weight is being taken through the knee or if the user has insufficient hand control or strength.
- Stiff legged gait requires higher energy input
- Asymmetrical gait.