

Invacare is recognizing the benefits of ergonomics

Invacare, the leading manufacturer of mobility aids in the world, had used “lazy-susan” type work stands in their wheel chair assembly line, before learning about the Ergo Master positioner capabilities.

The limited adjustments on the “lazy-susan” work stations did not allow the operators to easily manipulate the welded tubular wheel chair frame, while mounting all the peripheral parts including casters, seats, etc. on to the rigid wheel chair structure.

Today, the new Ergo Master assembly stations allow the operators full 3-axis positioning to reach and easily access the various sides and angles of the tubular wheel chair as all the necessary parts are added in the assembly process.

“The operators love it,” claims Steve Bolyard, the Manufacturing Process Engineer instrumental for its implementation at the Action by Invacare manufacturing division in Ohio. “The flexibility to be able to access all the different areas of the chair as well as to be able to adjust work height to a comfortable work position for the operators, have improved our overall assembly efficiency,” continues Mr. Bolyard. “Now the chairs are overall better positioned and still sit rigid for the operators during the assembly process – our workers love it,” ends Mr. Bolyard.

The performance chair assembly stations at the Action by Invacare manufacturing plant in Ohio as well as the racing chair stations at the Top End by Invacare

manufacturing plant in Florida are today successfully equipped with Ergo Master 3-axis manual positioners.



Figure: The Ergo Master with its 3-axis positioning system.