Why Would Anyone Settle for Less?

The Natural-Fit®

We Don’t Make the Wheelchair. We Make the Wheelchair Better.
The average person pushes on his/her wheelchair 2000-3000 times per day.
Problems with the Standard Round-Tube Handrim

**Standard Round-Tube Handrim Issues:**

- Poor ergonomic fit to the hand
- Small surface area for gripping
- Requires unhealthy “pinch grip”
- Gap between the rim and the wheel
- Handrims are used for propulsion and braking
  - Round-tube handrims are poorly designed for both

Pinch Grip with Standard Handrim
The Result of Poorly Designed Handrims

Problems with Poor Design:

- 60% of wheelchair users grip their tire
  - Results in dirty hands, cuts and infections
  - Pinch grip strains hands and wrists
- 30%-70% of users have Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- The high prevalence of pain leads to:
  - Decreases in quality of life
  - Increases in healthcare costs
Natural-Fit Use Leads to Positive Outcomes

Benefits of the Natural-Fit:

- Reduced fatigue, pain, and injury
  - Eliminates pinch grip and pushing on the tire
    - Cleaner hands, less cuts and infections
    - Eases pain in the hands & wrists
  - Better Performance and efficiency (less effort)
  - Large smooth surface for greater control when braking
- Eliminates fingers catching between rim and wheel
"The Natural-Fit makes pushing so much easier, and feels so much better on my hands than the narrow little rims I had before."

- Teal Sherer
Direct Evidence of Benefits: Objective Testing

Highlights of Research published in the Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine and Assistive Technology:

- When using the Natural-Fit, wheelchair users generate the same power, with lower grip forces
- 71%-81% reported less pain in the hands and wrists
  - Reports of reduced pain were more pronounced as time using the Natural-Fit increased
- 67% reported that daily tasks were “less work”
- Each of 8 activities of daily living were perceived, on average, as less difficult
“I’ve been using my Natural-Fits for years and haven’t had any of the wrist or forearm pain that I used to have.”

- John Tuzzolino
Natural-Fit Quick Facts 1

- 80% more surface area for gripping than a standard handrim, yet weighs just 12 ounces more
- Oval and thumb piece create the ergonomic grip of the Natural-Fit

**Oval Options:**
- Natural-Fit uses the original, larger profile oval
- Natural-Fit LT uses reduced weight, smaller profile oval (20% less weight than original)

**Thumb Piece Coating Options:**
- Standard Grip: Powder coat, lower friction surface
- Super Grip: Copolymer, higher friction surface
“Since I no longer push on the tires I don’t have cracks on my thumbs or calluses on my palms.”

- Tammy Wilber
- Fits 20”, 22”, 24”, 25” & 26” wheels

- Available through your local dealer or from all major wheelchair makers (just check the Natural-Fit box on their order form)

- The Natural-Fit and LT are designed for a person with good hand function (not intended for quads)
John Ruf

“Thanks for making such a big difference with every push I take.”

- John Ruf
Summary - The Natural Fit: Why It Matters

- Wheelchair users push on the handrim 2,000-3,000 times a day
- A handrim that doesn’t fit (like a shoes that doesn’t fit) has costly, negative consequences
- The Natural-Fit is specifically designed to fit the human hand

**Significant Outcomes:**

- Reduced pain in the hands and wrists
- Improved comfort and increased function
- Extends ability to remain in a manual wheelchair
- Eliminates grabbing the tire and promotes cleaner hands

_The Natural-Fit - “How much farther would you go?”_