



DME

Durable Medical Equipment Pty. Ltd.

Neater Eater



For greater independence, dignity and choice.

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Solutions for Everyday Needs

Neater Solutions is recognised by health professionals and clients worldwide for the design, manufacture and supply of specialist eating and drinking systems for people who have difficulty in feeding themselves.

The company now supplies a range of complementary equipment with new products being sourced and designed all the time in order to give people greater independence, dignity and choice in their lives.

Neater Eaters products are distributed worldwide and range, enabling people to feed themselves, to the Neater Table which allows easy access for wheelchair users.

The Neater Eater® is probably our best-known product and is based on a modular system, ensuring that the equipment includes exactly the right features for the user or diner. We even offer a free home assessment so that you can be sure that it meets your needs before you decide to buy.

The Neater Arm Support® is becoming increasingly popular particularly amongst people with muscular dystrophy.

Other Products

Information about other products offered by Neater Solutions can be found in this brochure. New products are being introduced all the time, so please contact us to discuss your specific requirements.

If you have an unmet need, ask us for a Neater Solution.



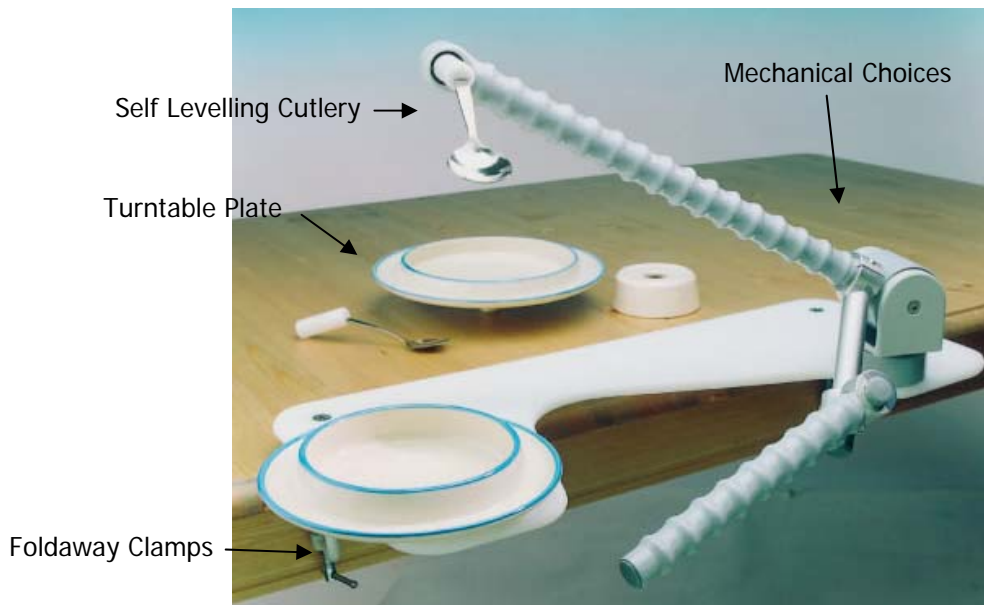
Jon Michaelis invented the first Neater Eater as an engineering student at Imperial College in 1986. He was awarded the Governors' prize and went on to found Michaelis Engineering and then Neater Solutions to make the technology available to people who needed it. Working with potential users of the equipment, their therapists and carers, Jon and the dedicated team at Neater Solutions have continued to develop a range of products to help meet people's needs. "I feel privileged to be able to use my skills and those of others in this way. I am grateful to the many individuals that have offered help along the way. Included amongst the organisations that have been involved are: National Hospital for Neurology, Imperial College, Action Research, Chailey Heritage, London Innovation, MS Society, Design Council, Business Link, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, Cambridge University and the Audit Commission."

Solutions for Everyday Needs

What does it do?

The Neater Eater operates as follows:

- Food is scooped up as the level spoon comes forward against the turned over lip of the plate.
- The plate can be turned directly, remotely or under electric power to reach the food required.
- The spoon is lifted up and forward until it reaches the mouth.



LCD Programmable
(*electric version*)

Who can use it?

Each Neater Eater is tailor-made to individual requirements through the use of modules offering different features. It is this modular design that makes the system suitable for a wide range of abilities. Current users include people with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, head injuries, spinal injuries, rheumatoid arthritis, muscular dystrophies, upper limb amputations, cerebella ataxia, strokes, Parkinson's disease, learning difficulties and many other neurological conditions and disabilities.

Standard features on all models include:

- Arm mounted on a choice of baseboards
- Fold-away clamps for fixing to table
- Special high-sided ceramic or plastic turntable plates with spigots (pegs), designed to fit into baseboard
- Plastic or metal cutlery fitted into holder that clips to Neater Eater arm
- Built-in mechanism in arm to keep spoon level as arm is moved

The benefits:

- Increases independence
- Encourages social interaction through taking part in mealtimes
- Helps maintain dignity and self-respect
- Helps teach movements, improve posture and mouth control
- Improves interest in vital food
- Assists carers

Systems designed to assist people with difficulty in controlling movement



Example 1 – smoothes out tremor

The diner moves the Neater Eater arm up and down and back and forth by holding it, with any tremors in their arm movement being absorbed by the viscous dampers in the base of the Neater Eater arm. If the diner holds the Neater Eater arm nearer to the spoon end then there is less resistance to movement (and tremor) and so the diner can find the ideal position.



Example 2 – eliminates uncontrolled movement

An adjustable counter balance spring inside the Neater Eater arm lifts the spoon automatically to the adjustable up stop. An adjustable spring then brings the spoon forwards to the adjustable forward stop. The diner is not required to grip the Neater Eater arm and only needs to be able to push it back and down.



Example 3 – requires only weak or limited movement

The spoon is moved by using the additional adjustable handle that is attached to the Neater Eater arm. The special baseboard allows the handle to move below the level of the table, for example, with the diner's hands resting on their lap. No grip is required and only weak and limited movements are needed to operate this light system as the damping resistance is reduced significantly.

The adjustable handle is now quick-release to ease transport and storage.

The baseboard can be raised on spacers to reduce the distance from plate to the diner's mouth and so reducing the arm movement required.

A remote plate-turner attachment can be fitted that enables rotation of the plate from small movements of the diner's hand in their lap or from movement of their knee.

Solutions for Everyday Needs

Example 4 - Robotic Neater Eater - electrically powered, automated and easily programmed for up to five diners

The Neater Eater arm is moved by microprocessor-controlled electric motors, which pull on ropes to take the spoon back and down. As the motors release the ropes, the damped sprung mechanism brings the spoon up and forward. This is safe as no power is directly applied to move the spoon towards the client.

In order to best suit diners with a wide range of physical and cognitive abilities, there are many different automatic operating modes to choose from for movement of the spoon and for turning the plate.

The system can 'learn' the set up choices of up to five different users, each with different mouth positions, plates, spoon pause times, operating choices etc. It is easily taught using the Liquid Crystal Display and plug-in joystick.

A wide range of options is available to ensure that the system is best suited to the diner. For example, automatic rotation of the plate for every cycle of the spoon, non-stop cycling of the spoon and movement of the spoon only whilst the 'go' switch is pressed.

The **Neater Button** switches are very light with a slight tactile feedback. They can be positioned using a Velcro mounting (included) and operated with a light touch of the finger or head applied directly or at an angle. We can provide other switches such as: Head switch, finger switches, foot switches or a "Click switch".



Head Switch



Finger Switch



Finger Switches

Solutions for Everyday Needs

Example 5 - The modular design of the Neater Eater allows the different elements of the system to be mixed to best suit different individuals.

New elements are added to the system as we encounter additional needs. Recent developments include a kit to offset the clamp for more convenient positioning and a teardrop shape base which is more compact than the cut-away base, but still allows attachment of the adjustable handle and the remote plate turner.



This photograph shows a man using a special foot-controlled system. Movement of the spoon is controlled by pushing on two foot pedals. (Most people who want to “eat with their feet” now use an electric Neater Eater controlled with foot switches).



Other attachments for the Neater Eater include: sandwich or snack holder, universal clamps for holding light objects such as an electric toothbrush and standard cutlery holder for fitting own cutlery to the Neater Eater.



Universal clamp sizes: spring clamp for objects 0 to 2.5cm; screw down clamp 0 to 7.5cm. The clamps can be held at any angle out of the front or side of the holder that clips onto the Neater Eater or Neater Snacker.

The sandwich holder enables people to eat “finger foods”. The light clamping action allows people with good head control to move the snack within the holder as it is eaten.

Dining Options

CUTLERY

Comes in a range of materials including stainless steel, grey/green polycarbonate and brown unbreakable plastic. Cutlery includes spoons, 'sporks' and forks. Cutlery shown in holders that clip onto the Neater Eater.

- Standard flattened front aids scooping.
- Round front spoons and soup spoon available for runny food.
- Narrow spoons and small spoons for children, people with head tremor and others.
- Polycarbonate spoons are quite rigid. Unbreakable spoons are softer and suitable for people with a strong bite.
- Stainless steel "sporks", forks and spoons only for people with good head control.



CROCKERY

Deep ceramic plates with curled-over lip to aid scooping. With or without the peg on the bottom that locates in the Neater Eater baseboard.

Standard rim colour: light blue
Sizes: Small 21cm x 3.3cm deep
Large 26cm x 2.5cm deep
Dishwasher, microwave and ovenproof

- Curled over lip aids scooping
- Rim catches spills
- Coloured edges help diner see
- With or without peg to locate in Neater Eater® baseboard



Heated Plastic Plate with cavity for hot water with or without peg to locate in Neater Eater® baseboard. Size: 21cm x 3.2cm deep.

Soup Bowl with saucer attached and peg on the bottom that locates in the Neater Eater baseboard. Requires Soup spoon for Neater Eater. Size: 18cm x 5.3cm deep.

Plastic plate with peg for use with the Neater Eater. It has a vertical lip. Size: 24cm x 2.3cm deep. Choice of colours.

Plate Stand for supporting plates with pegs e.g. on tray or in microwave. Ceramic or plastic.

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NEATER TABLE

Originally developed to offer a stable wheelchair accessible platform for the Neater Eater, the Neater Table is now available for general use.

Features

- Sturdy
- Easy Access (especially for wheelchair users)
- Lockable Castors (optional extra)

Finger screws hold the veneered wooden top to the metallic frame which folds away easily by swivelling the legs around.

The rear cross beam of the Neater Table frame sits on the floor (or on 6cm castors if fitted) allowing wheelchair footrests to move over the top unobstructed. So wheelchair users can sit right up to the table, the height of the Neater Table top having been adjusted to clear obstacles such as wheelchair armrests or joystick controls.



Models Available



With Narrow Base



With Handle that can go lower than the table



Electric & Programmable



With Wider Base



With Foot Pedals

Neater Eater Solutions

For greater independence, dignity and choice

Neater Solutions introduces new products to its range to meet previously unmet needs, largely through the design and manufacture of its own products but also by sourcing products from other suppliers. The range is therefore subject to change so please contact us for the latest information.

Neater Drinker and Neater Snacker

Portable and easily adjusted, limited head movement only is required to drink and eat snacks when out or at home.



The Neater Drinker is a special long straw in a special sturdy ceramic mug with a lid. The tough straw can be bent and positioned so that it can be reached easily. A non-return valve at the bottom keeps the drink in the straw and so makes sucking easier. The mug is very stable with a non-slip base and a lid holds the straw in place as well as keeping drinks warm. Choice of colours. Capacity: 385ml.

The **Neater Straws** are also available separately. Standard length: 60cm. Extra long: 120cm. Soft mouthpiece attachment and syringe for priming straw are included.

The Neater Snacker consists of a long arm on the end of a fold-away clamp, which holds it to a table or other furniture. The arm can be bent to any position so that it can be reached easily. A sandwich holder that can be used for other snacks such as pizza and biscuits clips on the end. The Neater Snacker can hold the same cutlery and attachments as the Neater Eater.



Dignity Ware with inward turning lip to aid one sided eating and to avoid spillage. Dishwasher and microwave safe.

Sizes: Plate - 23cm x 3cm deep
Bowl - 16cm x 3.5cm deep
Mug - 8cm high

Instructions on how to assemble and get the most out of your Neater Eater ,
Are available from DME.

For a copy email dean@durmed.com.au

Or simply call us on: (02) 9674 8904

Neater Eater Arm Support

Developed by engineers at Cambridge University, the **Neater Arm Support** offers a “helping arm” to people with muscular weaknesses such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy or spinal muscular atrophy.



The device, which can be attached to the back of a wheelchair or to a separate stand, supports the weight of the user's arm in a stable sling, enabling them to move their arm back and forth and side to side freely using their own muscle power.

The adjustable sling is attached via a metal linkage with frictionless joints to an electrically powered mechanism, which lifts up and down. The user can control the height using a switch that can be operated by the opposite hand or another part of the body.

Features:

- Powered vertical movement
- Quick Release Pin
- Angled Joint
- The four-link frictionless arm support folds around the user's wheelchair allowing a very wide range of movement without adding to the chair's width or significantly to its length.
- No mechanism under the user's arm to obstruct tabletops etc.
- The angled forearm joint makes user's elbow drop down as arm raises so bringing hand closer to face automatically. The position of this joint is adjustable to best suit the individual user.
- Most users can park the sling on the wheelchair armrest and slide their arm in or out.
- Sophisticated electronics ensures smooth start and stop of the variable speed motor, programming of end-stops to avoid strain to the user's joints and protection of batteries. (The Neater Arm Support usually takes power from the wheelchair's batteries).
- A twin arm bracket option enables quick change from right to left handed use. This is useful for exercising the user's other arm. It is also possible for two complete Neater Arm Support units to be fitted for continual use. (Head switches can be used to control each unit leaving both hands free to move).

Physical benefits:

- Independent movement through large range reduces development of joint contractures
- Gentle assisted movement helps maintain strength
- Use of normal movement patterns helps reduce development of postural deformities

Functional benefits:

Depending on the individual user, include:

- Eating & drinking
- Washing & Cleaning teeth
- Scratching face
- Wiping nose and eyes
- Using a keyboard, laptop or telephone

Psychological benefits:

Less dependence on carers for even the simplest of tasks such as feeding oneself, scratching ones face or rubbing an eye is likely to be psychologically beneficial.

Neater Eater Feedback

"In my opinion the Neater Eater is an invaluable piece of equipment in maintaining someone's independence and self esteem." *Senior Occupational Therapist, at a Lincolnshire Hospital*

"I've got no movement at all in my shoulders and upper arms. With the Neater Arm Support I can drink a cup of tea, or feed myself, or scratch my nose, or hold a telephone, or even do some exercises, which give me good stretches in my shoulder and elbow." *(from the video).*

"The Neater Arm Support is probably the most useful piece of equipment I have ever used. It is very easy to use with a wide variety of practical tasks. It makes life much more straightforward".

"That's brilliant!" *user's mum*

"The Neater Arm Support can be invaluable for people with a progressive weakness of the shoulder girdle muscles. It can help to reduce the development of joint contractures and maintain muscle strength". *National Occupational Therapy Advisor, Muscular Dystrophy Campaign*

"I can now do functions that I could never do before such as adjusting my glasses, scratching my chin, exercising my shoulder and eating as many crisps as I want!" *Student, Nottinghamshire*

"Wow, I can use a mobile phone!" *Teenager, Ireland*

"With the Neater Eater she went from total dependence to total independence in two minutes." *Community Paediatric Occupational Therapist*

"Clearly the Neater Eater is an essential tool for independence. As a speech and language therapist it's also particularly useful for encouraging good posture, the training of lip closure and the learning of cause and effect through the use of switches." *Speech and Language Therapist at a college in Northants.*

"I never dreamt I'd be able to feed myself like this, but now I find that I can eat a hot meal. I feel great. I'm independent". *User.*

"One young lady took her system to a wedding at which she was bridesmaid, at 11 years old it was of huge importance to her to sit at the table with everyone else..." *Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist at an East Midlands Hospital.*

"The Neater Eater gives me independence and enables my wife and me to have our meals together again." *User.*

"I think of it as a knife and fork now". *User.*

"I would like to see as many children as possible using Neater Eaters, because many families are still spoon-feeding their children, when the children could have their own independence." *Carer.*



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