

Wheelchair camera mount

Summary

Mounting a camera on a wheelchair is more complicated than it sounds. The camera needs to be free to move, yet stay still and steady. Remap volunteer Austin Hughes enjoys this sort of challenge in his work with the Leeds branch of the charity.

The specifications set by photographer Richard were high indeed, but the solution provided did meet the requirements, allowing a full range of photographic activity, including taking pictures in both portrait and landscape.

The challenge

Richard was a keen photographer whose work had been exhibited, but following a collision in which he was knocked off his bicycle he now uses a wheelchair and has only limited head and arm movement. He had tried various mounts to fix his camera to the wheelchair, but they did not work well. Typically, if the camera fixing was loose enough to enable movement it did not stay in position and if fixed tightly, it was too hard to move. Another requirement was for the viewfinder to remain in the same position regardless of the camera being used in portrait or landscape aspect.

The solution



Austin Hughes, a volunteer with Remap Leeds set about finding a solution. He identified the key was to support the camera from above rather than below, making it inherently more stable. He built a camera mount which includes a base table, where Richard additionally keeps his mobile phone, and a cradle constructed from aluminium to support the camera itself. Steel counterweights ensure the camera is well balanced and camera positions can be fine-tuned through slotted or screw adjustment.

The benefits

Richard is now out and about again, using his camera. He says “I now have a piece of equipment which enables me to still use my camera, in a way I never thought possible. It opens up the world to me again, giving me a purpose in my life which I wouldn't have without photography.”