

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE



Micro



panthera
panthera

Instructions for use *Micro* panthera

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Intended use

Panthera Micro is a wheelchair for our youngest users. We have done everything possible to make this wheelchair easy to manoeuvre. It is designed for use indoors and should not be used outdoors. Users of the Panthera Micro are probably between one and five years old and find it difficult to manoeuvre other wheelchairs by themselves. The child may have an electric wheelchair for outdoor use.

It is especially important that you read page 7 in these instructions since they concern your safety.

Make sure you receive the chair you ordered:

- Check the width of the chair. Measure the outer dimensions of the seat. These should be 24 or 27 cm according to your order.

Conduct a technical inspection of the chair:

- The rear wheel axles should move smoothly in and out of the casing.
- The button at the centre of the hub should spring out when the rear wheels have been inserted.
- The caster fork can be easily rotated.
- The anti-tip-device is fastened.

If any of the points above are not satisfactory please contact us at Panthera Production AB before proceeding to use the chair.

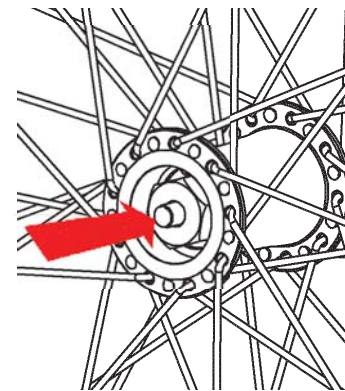


Figure 1. Button for quick release hub.

Assembly and dismantling

When transporting the chair you should remove the rear wheels.

To remove the rear wheels, press in the button at the centre of the hub as in figure 1. Then pull the wheel straight out. To insert the wheels, press in the button and push the axle into the hole in the casing. Then push the wheel all the way in, release the button and pull out to check that the wheel is securely in place and the button springs back out.

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Adaptation

When adapting the chair to suit the child's sitting position and provide the desired mobility, it is important that you make the following adjustments in the correct order. First, adjust the sitting position and after that adjust the balance of the chair. This sequence is important since when you change the sitting position in the chair the balance of the chair is also affected.

You should make these adjustments in the following order:

- 1) Length of the seat upholstery
- 2) Tension of the seat upholstery
- 3) Height of the footrest
- 4) Length of the footrest
- 5) Tension of the back upholstery
- 6) Balancing the wheelchair

1) Length of the seat upholstery

Lift the flap on the topside of the seat and move it backwards or forwards along the frame tubing till the seat is of suitable length. Re-attach the flap to the Velcro on the topside of the seat.



Figure 2. Band for tightening seat upholstery.

2) Tension of the seat upholstery

The rear section of the seat upholstery can be made tighter or looser by adjusting the Velcro band underneath the seat as shown in figure 2. This allows you to vary the sitting height by about 2 cm up or down.

3) Height of the footrest

The footrest (see figure 3) can be adjusted up or down by changing the hole for the attachment. Remove the screws attaching the foot plate. You will now be able to move the footrest up or down to one of the alternative height positions. You should have the footrest at a height which provides support for the thighs on the seat at the same time as the feet are supported on the footrest.



Figure 3. Screw for the footrest.

4) Length of the footrest

The footrest can be turned round so that the supporting plate faces backwards or forwards. Remove the two screws attaching the footrest. Turn the plate round and replace and tighten the screws.

5) Tension of the back upholstery

The back upholstery can be tightened or loosened by adjusting the Velcro band at the back. The back upholstery also has a flap fastened with Velcro under the seat upholstery. This can be moved back or forwards to obtain the required tension in the lower section of the back upholstery (known as the seat bucket). By adjusting these things you can form the lower part of the back upholstery to suit the shape of your back and obtain good support for your lower back. Start by loosening the band and sit as far back in the chair as you can. Then tighten the band to give you good support. If it feels as though you are not sitting far back enough in the chair it may be because the back upholstery flap is fastened too far forward under the seat. Relax this flap and move it back.



Figure 4. Back upholstery.

6) Balancing the wheelchair

The balance of the wheelchair can be adjusted by moving the rear wheels back or forwards (see figure 5). The further forward you position the rear wheels the more the chair will be 'rear balanced'. This makes the chair easier to manoeuvre and it will also be easier to tip up onto the rear wheels, for instance, when negotiating curbs, thresholds and so on. The chair should not be balanced too far to the rear because this may feel unstable due to increased risk of tipping backwards. It is important that you take time trying out a balance that suits the body and driving technique so that you adapt the chair to be as easy to drive as possible.



Figure 5. Back axle attachment.

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How to move the rear wheels:

1. First remove the rear wheels.
2. Loosen the bolts under the back axle attachment on both sides as shown in figure 5.
3. You will now be able to push the wheel attachment forward or back along the horizontal frame tubing. It is important that you have the wheel attachment in the same forward position on both sides of the chair. You can check this by measuring the distance between the forward section of the vertical tubing and the rear section of the wheel attachment using a tape measure or ruler, and check that the distance is the same on both sides as shown in figure 6.
4. Tighten the bolts to ensure the back axle is securely attached.

Consider that the effort you put into adapting the chair will provide long-term benefits. Try out different adaptations over a few days and make sure that you have found the best sitting position and balance of the chair. After a month or so you should check again to make sure that everything is working correctly.

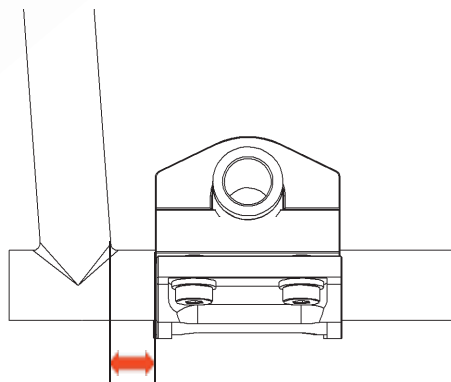


Figure 6. Balancing.

Maintenance

Your Panthera is constructed to be virtually maintenance free. A few parts do require regular checking however.

Once a month you should:

- Lubricate the rear wheel axles. Remove the wheel and distribute some drops of oil over the axle. You should do this more often if you rarely remove the wheels.
- Pump up the tyres. The tyres can be pumped by screwing the top off the valve and filling with air using an appropriate valve adapter. The tyre can take 8 kg of pressure.
- Clean the caster fork casing (between the wheel and the fork). Hair and dust collect here which can damage the bearing. Loosen the nut using key no. 10 while holding the bolt with key no. 10. Remove the bolt and then the wheel. Clean the washers between the wheel and the fork and wipe the outside of the wheel bearing with a cloth. Drop some oil into each bearing. Reassemble the parts.
- Wash the seat upholstery, the back upholstery and the cushion cover in 40 degrees machine wash when necessary.
- Wipe the chair chassis over with car shampoo or washing-up liquid and a damp cloth. If very dirty you can use a degreasing agent. Lubricate all moveable parts with a universal lubricant (5-56, WD-40) after cleaning.

Guarantee and lifetime

The life of a Panthera depends on how much wear and tear it is exposed to and how thorough you are with maintenance.

Guarantee: We offer a seven year factory guarantee on the chassis. For other parts there is a guarantee of 12 months.

Maximum weight: 30 kilos.

Safety



A Panthera wheelchair is designed to be as easy to drive as possible and because of this it reacts quickly to the actions you perform. If you perform the wrong actions the chair can tip backwards if you don't have anti-tips. The chair can potentially tip up and it is not possible to issue a warning regarding all the circumstances in which that might occur. The most important safety measures you can take include ensuring that you have tested the chair thoroughly and spend time practicing your wheelchair technique.

If you have any questions about wheelchair technique you should contact the person who prescribed the chair/your therapist. If they are unable to help you, please do not hesitate to contact us at Panthera Production AB. We would like to include some points here that may be helpful for your safety.

Intended for indoor use only

- The reason why the chair only has a single front caster is to make turning easier, but this also means that the chair can tip sideways more easily if driven at speed over an obstacle or a dip in the surface. This may also happen indoors but is considerably less likely.
- Most small children need a safety belt to stop them losing their balance and falling out of the chair. A simple belt is provided with the chair but if this is not sufficient the child should not use the chair until a prescriber has obtained an alternative safety belt that ensures adequate protection.

Sitting posture

- Incorrect sitting posture can result in pressure sores. If you are unsure you should contact an approved prescriber immediately.
- The seat is intended for use with a cushion.

Other children may hurt themselves on the wheels

- Spoke guards make the chair heavier to drive and for this reason they are not supplied as standard equipment. However, if the child spends time with other children there is a risk that other children may get their fingers/hands caught between the spokes so spoke guards may be necessary.

Technical check

- Once the chair has been adapted for the user you should check that all the screws and nuts are securely tightened.
- Always check that the rear wheels are securely in place after being inserted.

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Panthera Production AB
Gunnebogatan 26, 163 53 Spånga
Telefon 08-761 50 40 Fax 08-621 08 10
panthera@panthera.se www.panthera.se