

# The Multi-Award Winning Integrated Limb System



Blatchford has combined a compassionate approach to patient needs with huge ambition and exceptional systems engineering. In doing so, they have created the first ever integrated lower limb that behaves like a human leg, and produced a platform technology that signifies the beginning of the next generation of prosthetics.

Dr Dame Sue Ion DBE FREng, Chair of the MacRobert Award judging panel

# LIMB SYSTEM

Within the human body our bones, muscles and joints work seamlessly together, enabling us to walk and navigate our surroundings without having to think about it or consider our next move.

Linx has been designed to deliver an experience that mimics the incredible and complex structure of the human leg by actively sensing and analyzing data on the user movement, activity, environment and terrain providing a coordinated stream of instructions to the hydraulic support system.

The result is a walking experience that is closer to nature than ever before, giving the user the freedom and confidence to get on with their life.





MacRobert Award Winner 2016











After many years, I can now enjoy going for a walk with my wife. John

# Precision Performance

Integrated sensors continually analyze data, adjusting the hydraulic technology to seamlessly align the leg for the next step. This integrated and coordinated limb response ensures fast adjustment times and easy navigation of slopes and steps, allowing the user to think about where they are going, rather than how they are going to get there.

### Down Ramps

Linx delivers controlled ramp descent with different response levels for steep and shallow slopes. The knee and foot work together to optimize the rate of plantar-flexion and dorsi-flexion. The knee resistance is simultaneously adapted by introducing an intermediate resistance. On intermediate ramps, Linx offers a braking effect at both the knee and ankle that secures the whole body for safe descent.



### **Up Ramps**

The knee and foot work in unison to dorsi-flex quickly. The toe remains dorsiflexed for safe and efficient swing-through, while the heel stiffens to support the knee flexion. If stationary on a ramp, the toe will remain in dorsi-flexion to help reduce the extension moment on the knee, allowing a more upright posture for a more comfortable standing position.

## Speed and Terrain

Additional synergies gained from simultaneous knee and foot programming, combined with the optimized control unit and hydraulic/pneumatic system means smoother transitions between speeds, and effortless progression over varied terrain.





# Musculoskeletal Health

Amputees can face health issues long after amputation, with lower limb amputees being 2-3 times more likely to develop osteoarthritis compared to the general population.<sup>1</sup>

Long term musculoskeletal health depends on the replication of the dynamic and adaptive qualities of natural limb movement, and Linx is the world's first lower limb prosthesis to incorporate a completely integrated response system to serve this user need.

Ergonomic Design



The ergonomic design of Linx provides the user with a sense of balance in the body, as the weight distribution has been designed to mimic that of the human leg.

Standing Support



Standing support at the knee and foot allows a subtle redistribution of body weight, making standing for longer periods feel both comfortable and natural, minimizing tissue stress and physical and cognitive demand. The support can be released either on toe-off or by simply moving the foot.

Supported Sitting



Linx supports the body weight to control descent onto a seat. The foot dorsi-flexes so it can be placed safely under a chair in crowded spaces, like on the morning commute to work. If sitting with Linx extended the foot plantar-flexes automatically in a more natural way.

Biomimetic Hydraulic Technology



Hydraulics work to absorb energy and minimize tissue stress, resulting in a more comfortable socket interface. This in turn encourages the user to adopt a more symmetrical gait pattern, reducing the chance of long term limb disease.<sup>2,3</sup>

The first time I wore Linx it felt a lot smoother than anything I had used before.





Wearing Linx, you stop thinking about what's next that day, because you don't have to worry. Paul





# Exceptional Safety

The varying levels of stance support that Linx provides helps to increase the user's confidence and independence, reducing the risk of stumbles or falls to help ensure more balanced limb loading for greater long term health and protection. Linx provides optimal stance support, whether walking in a crowded environment, on uneven terrain, slopes, steps or when standing. This unique combination of the integrated stance support and hydraulic technology within Linx contribute to the user's safety.



### Controlled Stance Support

Supportive resistance throughout stance phase provides optimal stability for walking with greater safety and less effort on a variety of surfaces.



#### Standing Support

Maximum resistance stabilizes knee and foot on both flat and sloped terrain, encouraging better posture and balanced loading to relieve pressure on the sound limb and lower back.



Stumble Recovery

Stance resistance engages during swing phase extension to ensure knee stability, should the user stumble. Under such circumstances the flexion resistance dynamically increases to provide enhanced stumble recovery.



#### Dynamic Stair Descent

With immediate support from the first step, knee resistance progressively increases with knee flexion for enhanced control and safety when descending stairs.



#### Dynamic Slope Descent

The integrated knee and foot response allows the user to walk leg-over-leg on intermediate slopes.

# Next Generation Prosthetic Technology

- Varying levels of stance resistance to optimize safety at all times:
  - Standing support

Maximum resistance stabilizes the knee and foot, on both flat and slopes, encouraging better posture and balanced loading to relieve pressure on the sound limb and lower back.

#### - Supported sitting

Progressive hydraulic resistance ensures greater support and control allowing the user to sit down with safety, confidence and more balanced loading across both limbs.

#### - Controlled stance support

Supportive resistance throughout stance phase provides optimal stability for walking with greater safety and less effort on all-terrain.

#### - Stumble recovery

Stance resistance engages during swing phase extension to ensure knee stability, should the user stumble. Under such circumstances the flexion resistance dynamically increases to provide enhanced stumble recovery.

#### - Dynamic stair descent

With immediate support from the first step, knee resistance progressively increases with knee flexion for enhanced control and safety when descending stairs.

#### - Dynamic slope descent

The integrated knee and foot response allows the user to walk leg-over-leg on intermediate slopes.

#### • Situational Awareness

Integrated sensors continuously collect data on the user, activity and terrain to seamlessly adapt the limb's response.

#### • Biomimetic Hydraulic Technology By considering the natural function of the limb and replacing its structure through a unique combination of design elements, Endolite biomimetic hydraulic technology provides greater safety and a more natural walking experience.

- Cycling Mode and Fixed Angle Flexion Lock Mode
- Knee Flexion to 130°
- Intuitive Programming Software
- Lithium Ion batteries with up to 3 days life
- Battery Life Indicator and Low Power Mode

# Specifications

Max. User Weight: Activity Level: Size Range: Component Weight: Build Height:

**Heel Height:** 

125kg (275 lbs) 3 22 to 30 2.6kg (5 lbs 11.7 oz)<sup>†</sup> 470mm to 565mm (18 ½" to 22 ¼") 10mm

# Order Example

Product Code	Size	Side	Spring Set
LINX	25	L	3

For dark tone add suffix D. Example: foot size 25 left, spring rating 3 Proximal adaptor ordered separately

## Adaptors

Rotating Pyramid with Shift	239017
Non-rotating Pyramid with Shift	239089
Rotating Female Pyramid with Shift	189128
M36 Threaded Adapter	239092
Long Pylon Kit, adds up to 4 ½"	339965

Activity Level 3 has the ability or potential for ambulation with variable cadence. Typical of the community ambulator who has the ability to traverse most environmental barriers and may have vocational, therapeutic, or exercise activity that demands prosthetic utilisation beyond simple locomotion.

Activity

#### User Weight 44-52 53-59 60-68 69-77 78-88 89-100 101-116 117-125 kg 100-115 116-130 131-150 151-170 171-195 196-220 221-255 256-275 lbs 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Spring set

<sup>†</sup>Component weight shown is for a size 26cm without foot shell.

#### References

- 1. Hungerford DS, Cockin J. Fate of the retained lower limb joints in Second World War amputees. J Bone Joint Surg. 1975; 57(1):111.
- A.R. De Asha, R. Munjal, J. Kulkani, J.G. Buckley. Walking speed related joint kinetic alterations in trans-tibial amputees: impact of hydraulic 'ankle' damping. Journal of Neuro Engineering and Rehabilitation (JNER) 2013; 10:107
- 3. Moore R. Effect on Stance Phase Timing Asymmetry in Individuals with Amputation Using Hydraulic Ankle Units. JPO: Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics. 2016; 28(1):44-8.

## LINX INTEGRATED LIMB SYSTEM





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An annual visual inspection is recommended. Check for visual defects that may affect proper function. Maintenance must be carried out by competent personnel.

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