

Wheelchair Backpack Project

Abby Tamara

Model A



Prior to receiving my WHILL Model M power chair, I had the opportunity to use the Model A. The back of the Model A has an area to easily attach a backpack to carry my items: a 13" laptop computer, 2 insulated water containers (one for myself and one for my service dog), insulated lunch box, food for my dog, hand cleaner, case to carry computerized electronic glasses safely, other dog-related items, large print calendar, and other necessities depending on my planned daily activities.



The WHILL Model A allows the straps of my yellow backpack to be positioned behind the seat back.

Model M



The Model M has a much more integrated and reinforced seat back than the Model A. The ergonomic back cushion overlaps the reinforced back support in such a way that doesn't have the same ease of attaching and accommodating a substantial backpack. The only way I have found to attach the backpack is over the back of the seat.



The Model M has a different seat configuration that requires that the straps of a backpack be positioned over the seat back.



My yellow backpack attaches to the Model M by thick shoulder straps and a small cross strap on the seat back. These straps are painful on my back and defeat the ergonomic features of the chair.



I found an alternative backpack that has thinner straps, but is not as well reinforced to carry all my items. It is still uncomfortable on my back and does not provide me with ergonomic seating.



I am looking for an attachment solution for a substantial backpack that does not require its straps go over the seat back.