

The Natural-Fit – Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

* What information do I need to provide when ordering the Natural-Fit?

In order to get the correct components and mounting hardware you will need to know the following to place your order:

1. Natural-Fit or Natural-Fit LT (Difference is in the size of the oval – see below for more info)
2. Standard Grip or Super Grip (Coating options for the Thumb Piece – see below for more info)
3. Wheel Size (20", 22", 24", 25", 26")
4. Wheel Type (standard spoke, mag, Spinergy, X-Core, etc.)
5. Attachment Type:
 - *6-Point Tab Mount - Tabs on the handrim. (See below for more info)
 - *6-Point Rivet Nut (Screw mount into rivets on the handrim – See below for more info)
 - *7 and 8-Point Rivet Nut - Invacare or Skyway Mag – 24" only (does not fit 4 or 9-point mags)

Notes: For flat free or solid insert tires on Tab-Mount wheels, the Natural-Fit must be installed **prior** to the flat free tires. Also, you cannot install on Quickie Mag Wheels ordered without a handrim ("handrim delete") -- they will not have the necessary standoffs on the wheel. Always order mag wheels with the handrim, then remove it to install the Natural-Fit.

* What is the difference between the Natural-Fit and the Natural-Fit LT?

Natural-Fit and the Natural-Fit LT both have two components: The contoured thumb piece and the oval. The size and weight of the oval is the difference between the Natural-Fit and the Natural-Fit LT. The Natural-Fit uses the original, larger profile oval. It offers 80% more surface area for gripping than a standard handrim yet weighs just 26 ounces. The Natural-Fit LT uses a reduced weight, smaller profile oval. The LT is for those looking for a reduction in weight or a smaller gripping surface (for those with smaller hands). The LT is 25% lighter than the original Natural-Fit -- it weighs just 19 ounces (only 4 ounces more than a standard handrim).

* What is the difference between the Standard Grip and the Super Grip?

For the contoured thumb area of the Natural-Fit, we offer two coating options: The Standard Grip coating is a thin, light-weight powder coating on the thumb area intended to serve as a propulsion surface that is slightly higher friction than the smooth surface of a standard anodized aluminum handrim. The SuperGrip is a higher friction coating for the thumb area that is an advanced copolymer which is similar to a PVC coating. For those users particularly interested in the ergonomic features of the Natural-Fit but who do not like high friction surfaces, then the standard grip will be your best choice. The SuperGrip thumb will be the best choice for users who want both the ergonomic benefits of the Natural-Fit along with a grippier propulsion surface. The grippier surface of the SuperGrip may be particularly helpful when going up ramps, hills, or when traversing difficult surfaces (e.g., like deep-pile carpeting). Keep in mind that these coating options are for the thumb area only. The oval part of the Natural-Fit is always hard anodized in black to provide a smooth braking surface.

* When ordering the Natural-Fit, what is the difference between a Tab and Rivet Nut attachment?

The Natural-Fit attaches to the wheel through either a Tab or Rivet Nut mount (depending on the type of wheel). For a Tab mount, connecting screws go perpendicular to the wheelchair axle into the wheel rim and through flat tabs on the handrim. Most spoke wheels (except standard Quickie wheels) and Spinergy use a tab mount. With a Rivet Nut mount, screws go parallel to the wheelchair axle into plastic round spacer sleeves and into a rivet nut set in the handrim (no tabs on the handrim). Rivet nut is used on Mag, X-Core, and standard Quickie wheels. (Note: Quickie Performance and Quickie 26" wheels use a tab mount). For pictures of these different attachments, go to the Natural-Fit Order Form or Installation Instructions on our web site (www.thenaturalfit.com).

* Do the tires have to be removed from the wheel to install the Natural-Fit?

It depends on the type of wheel. For wheels that use a Tab attachment, the tires need to be removed to install the Natural-Fit. For flat free or solid insert tires on wheels with Tab attachments, the Natural-Fit must be installed prior to the solid insert tires. For wheels that use a Rivet Nut attachment, you do NOT need to remove the tires to install the Natural-Fit.

* Is the Natural-Fit designed for people with paraplegia or with good hand function?

Yes. The Natural-Fit Handrim is designed for a person with paraplegia or with good hand function because its design incorporates a grip that uses the thumb.

* Does the Natural-Fit add to the width of my chair?

The Natural-Fit handrim will not add any width to your chair if you have a tab mount and you typically mount your handrim with the tab in the outside position (this means that the screw connecting the handrim to the wheel goes through the hole at the end of the tab). If you typically have your tab set in the inside position (the screw goes through the inside hole), then you will have to move it to the outside position in order to install the Natural-Fit. This will add 3/8 of an inch to the width of each wheel. If you have a rivet-nut mount, the Natural-Fit will add 1/8 of an inch to the width of each wheel.

* Can the Natural-Fit Handrim help me with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and pain in my hands and wrists?

Yes and we have had Natural-Fit users confirm this both in testimonials and in a scientific surveys of Natural-Fit users. On our web site (www.thenaturalfit.com), you will find Testimonials and Research Evidence pages that document how the Natural-Fit benefits people who use it. We encourage you to evaluate the evidence and to consult with a clinician.