

ADAPTIVE SPORTS PARTNERS

461 Main Street
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of the NORTH COUNTRY

Rooted in the community, reaching out to all - all disabilities, all sports, all seasons



The Kartski

What is the Kartski?

The Kartski is a type of bi-ski that allows the seated skier active participation in the skiing experience. The skier steers and brakes the Kartski through the use of two handles that are directly connected to articulated skis and braking spines. The Kartski is designed for comfort, ease of use, and safety. The skier and tetherer use chairlifts and depending on the skill of both, may ski a wide variety of terrain.



Who Can Benefit?

The Kartski is designed for people who want to ski in an independent manner, who can use their arms, but who do not have enough balance to ski using a more traditional bi ski or a mono ski. The skier will need a moderate amount of arm strength, hand control and an ability to coordinate steering actions in a timely manner. Some examples are individuals with paraplegia, post-polio syndrome, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy.

How Does it Operate?

The skier is seated in the Kartski and directly and independently manipulates the skis using two handles. The learning progression for the kartskier begins with a wedge and progresses to parallel skiing. The two handles allow for only moderate braking ability on firm and gentle terrain, for this reason the kartski should be tethered at all times.



With practice the skier will quickly master green terrain. The skier is always accompanied by an experienced and trained tetherer who skis a short distance behind the Kartski and assures safety through a single tether connected from a waist belt to the frame of the Kartski.

The tetherer has no ability to effect directional change, only to assist in the slowing and stopping of the Kartski. On steeper terrain the tetherer is essential for helping to keep the Kartski from tipping. For the safety of both skier and tetherer an emergency word or phrase should be determined at the start of each session. On the slopes, the Kartski seat position ensures a reasonably low center of gravity, which when combined with widely separated skis, provides a fair degree of stability and tipping resistance which is further aided by the proper tension of the tether and positioning of the tetherer.

Articulated skis connected to the control arms allow for a high degree of maneuverability. Safety is improved by a system that stops the Kartski when it reverses. A silentbloc absorbs shocks to improve the comfort.

The Kartski has a unique system that allows for ease of use when loading and unloading on the chairlift. An assistive bar can be engaged to lock one of the skis. This locked set-up can be used to help the instructor/tetherer when moving the Kartski into position at the chairlift. A pneumatic cylinder assist system aids the lifting of the skier at the load and unloads.



Unlocked position



Locked position

Who Makes the Kartski?

The Kartski was designed in 2005. The manufacturer, Pierre Tessier, has a small company based in Saint Michel de Maurienne in Savoie. Tessier offers the widest range of seated skiing equipment in the world (5 patents). Their goal is to allow everyone to ski to the maximum of his ability. The company employs five workers and manufactures Tandemskis, Kartskis, dual skis, and uni-skis. For more information and pictures you can visit the Tessier website at <http://www/dualski.com>.



Personal Story

Henry is 61 years old years old, he contracted polio when he was four, but this has not stopped him from enjoying various sports throughout his life. After injuring his shoulder when using the bi-ski, Henry found the Kartski which has been a perfect piece of equipment for him. He is proud to tell you that he won a Bronze Medal in a Nastar race; he has quickly become an accomplished skier.