

Joëlette *and* *Co* *by Ferriol-Matrat*

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

JOËLETTE « NEW GENERATION »





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The hiking chair named "Joëlette" is an all-terrain one-wheeled chair that enables mobility-challenged people to get involved into hiking and running activities, even on the rockiest trails and roughest terrains.

Thanks to its unique wheel and suspension system, the enables the access to the roughest terrains so far inaccessible with a classic wheelchair both off and on the trail!

A back handle and a front pair of arms enables the two guides to handle it easily as the weight of the passenger lies on the wheel!

From leisurely walks to adventure races and even marathons, the Joëlette adapts to all outdoor activities. Only the physical capacity of the guides, runners or hikers, makes the limits of a Joëlette.

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HOW TO OPERATE A JOËLETTE

In order to make sure that the passenger is in security, the guides should be in a good physical condition.

However, you needn't be a « professional » sportsman to operate it. The Joëlette can also be used for peaceful strolls and walks on easier paths.

Operating a Joëlette requires some technical skills and a little training in the beginning. For this reason, we suggest that you start using the Joëlette on easy terrain and then you can progressively increase the degree of difficulty.

✓ GENERAL INFORMATION

THE TEAM

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Depending on the difficulty of the paths, the guides' experiences and the weight of the passenger, the number of guides varies from 2 to 5.

The « standard team » is composed of 3 guides. However, should the itinerary be easy to cross, the guides be experimented and the passenger be lightweight, two pilots may be sufficient.

Each guide has got a special function according to his position. It is essential that everyone fulfils his specific tasks in order to have a joyful and effective hike.

THE BACK GUIDE

The back guide is mostly responsible for maintaining the balance of the Joëlette. His main task is to make sure that the Joëlette is always balanced out, in both ways: from the back to the front and also laterally (right to left). He constantly pays attention to the balance and immediately intervenes and corrects.

The back guide also ensures that the passenger is comfortably seated. This means that he should be horizontally balanced with a slight decline to the back. This position is very comfortable for the passenger and shows that the Joëlette is well balanced.



Once the balance is established, the back guide adjusts the back arms to **the height of his waist**.

- A lower position would not be comfortable for the guide.



- A position higher than the waist would endanger the passenger's security since there is a risk of the Joëlette tipping forwards.



Setting of the back handlebar:

The front guide firmly holds the front arms. Should there be only two guides, the back guide holds the back rest with his right hand and sets the back handlebar with his left hand to the height of his waist.

In case of a change of terrain, the back guide must adjust the back handlebar.

Way down, he chooses a higher position, way up he does the opposite adjustment.

Way down, the back guide operates the brake (right handle).

Way up, if necessary, the back guide may push with the arms or even with his way due to the straps located on the back arms.

Caution: Adjust the back arms only when on halt, otherwise there is a risk of tipping forwards of the Joëlette. Be careful not to mix up the right handle (brake) with the left handle (adjustment of the back handlebar).

THE FRONT GUIDE

The front guide is responsible for the itinerary. He observes the terrain in front of him and decides which way to go. He pays attention to all obstacles and tries to avoid them. In order to bypass them, he keeps in mind that the wheel is more or less 1m behind him. If it is not possible to bypass the obstacle, he informs the passenger and the back guide.

The front guide is the “motor” of the Joëlette. He is the one responsible for the traction. The most efficient way to pull the Joëlette is by slightly leaning forward with the hands a little behind the back holding the back arms of the Joëlette. We also recommend using the traction harness as it allows the guide to be more efficient since he uses his whole body.

During traction, the front guide makes sure that he does not disturb the balance. Only in case of security needs or in order to support the back guide, he exceptionally intervenes.



THE THIRD GUIDE

He takes over from another guide, should the other become tired.



He ensures the safe passage on difficult paths and terrain.

He helps traction of the Joëlette in front of the front guide with another harness fixed to the Joëlette's front arms. He can also help by being positioned sideways during difficult passages by pushing or pulling the vehicle at the armrests. (Beware of the lateral balance!)

Since he is not constantly involved, he can give support to the others whenever needed

such as open or close gates, help the passenger etc.

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THE PASSENGER

He is in the center of the Joëlette therefore he feels every move! He should tell the guides if he feels a lack of balance during the trip. Without balance, the passenger is not at ease, which should be corrected immediately by the guides.

It's not self-evident for a disabled person to agree using the Joëlette since he or she gives up his or her autonomy which one has in a usual wheelchair. His or her security and mobility depends entirely on the guides.

Even most heavily handicapped persons can use the Joëlette since there is the possibility to place seating systems on the Joëlette and to fix them behind the backrest. The backrest just needs to be in his most horizontal position.

Since there are several types of disabilities, the guides should prepare all necessary adaptations such as cushions, special foams beforehand in order to guarantee a maximum of comfort.

The Joëlette is conceived for passengers up to 120 kg. However, for security reasons, we suggest that the weight of the passenger should not go too far beyond the weight of the guide in the back (to be adjusted according to the capacities of the team and the difficulty of the itinerary.



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

The front guide tows the Joëlette

- ➔ He chooses the itinerary, avoids all obstacles, if possible. He communicates with the other guides in order to ensure security. He also anticipates possible problems which might occur and he does his best not to disturb the balance of the Joëlette.

The back guide is in charge of the balance

- ➔ He is responsible of the correct positioning of the Joëlette and makes sure that the Joëlette is horizontally balanced and that the weight of the passenger stays constantly on the wheel. When going downwards, he is in charge of the braking.

The third guide

- ➔ He supports and assists the other guides during difficult passages such as ascents. He also replaces the other guides in case of exhaustion. He supports the.

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The guides keep the Joëlette in balance and tow or push it. They don't carry! Carrying the Joëlette by one guide is a sign of lack of balance.

The Joëlette is conceived in a way that once it is balanced out, the guides and the passenger are in a comfortable position. Always make sure that the balance is guaranteed!

✓ **SPECIFIC TECHNICAL HANDLING**

GOING UPWARDS

The front guide starts traction and makes sure that regarding the height of the front arms, the back guide can still keep the balance in a correct way.

The 3rd guide helps towing the Joëlette in case of hard slopes by placing himself ahead of the front guide, using the strap which is supplied with the Joëlette. He fixes the strap at the end of each front arms of the Joëlette. The strap is around his waist and should be entirely under tension. In curves, he makes sure that his traction effort is in the same line as the Joëlette. Traction with this strap is especially efficient on slopes without many obstacles and without strong curves.



When he helps towing by placing himself laterally at the passenger's level and pulling the Joëlette with the armrests or the backrest handles, he has to make sure that his traction effort is orientated in the same direction as the front guide so as not to destabilize the balance given by the back guide.

If necessary, **the third guide** helps towing by placing himself laterally at the passenger's level and pulling the Joëlette with the armrests or the backrest handles, he has to make sure that his traction effort is orientated in the same direction as the front guide so as not to destabilize the balance given by the back guide.

Depending on the degree of slopes a fourth or fifth guide might be necessary.

If necessary, **the back guide** can also help by pushing the Joëlette with the help of the belly-band attached to both ends of the back handle. Caution: When pushing there is a danger of putting the front arms into a too high or too low position which could create a difficulty for the front guide.

GOING DOWNWARDS

In case of descent, **the back guide** uses the brake handle and pays special attention to the balance, in order to avoid any risk to fall over in front:

- He operates the brake very smoothly avoiding all brusque operations.
- He positions the back handle at the height of his waist.
- During long descents it is preferable to remove the belly-band of the back handle, thus allowing the back guide to position himself slightly in the midst of the bars.
- Make sure that the weight difference of the back guide and the passenger is not too large.

Going downwards, **the front guide** focuses on the itinerary and communicates closely with the back guide and follows his instructions.

He avoids holding back the Joëlette, since the back guide takes care of the braking.

He should not be too much in the midst of the front arms and be aware of the footrest behind him.

He never pushes down the front arms since otherwise the Joëlette might fall over forwards

- The higher the degree of the slope , the higher the front arms are positioned :



- In case of stronger slopes or important steps, the front arms may arrive above your shoulders. In this case the front guide turns towards the passenger and holds the front bars as highly as necessary and helps the other guides put the Joëlette on the floor :



- Should the Joëlette meet an obstacle during the slope, the front guide keeps the traction as before without pulling the front bars to the floor in order to avoid falling forward.

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DIFFICULT TRAILS

In case of difficult obstacles (steps, bigger stones...):

- Keep communicating with each other in order to know where the other guides are located. Give a signal to each other before difficult operations such as lifting the Joëlette together at the same time (usually the front guide).
- Pay attention to the footrest and the passenger's feet.
- The third guide may help the others by lifting the Joëlette at the arm rests, if necessary. He must be sure to lift or pull in the main direction as the other guides and be careful of not disturbing the balance.



Difficult crossing (small paths, important slopes etc...)

- It is important that the third guide (eventually the forth, fifth...) stand on solid floor in order to ensure the passenger's security.
- If their position is not stable because of the consistency of the soil, they will build a chain of guides in front and behind and pass the Joëlette from one hand to the other and thus avoid the obstacle.



A fourth or a fifth guide might be necessary according to the difficulty of the paths.

Should the passenger not support any shakes, the guides make sure that the Joëlette will be put slowly on the floor. In case of stairways the guides hold back the Joëlette so that the descent is operated in a smooth way.

CURVES

- Avoid turning the Joëlette without a movement, and avoid quarter- and U-turns. However, should you not have any choice, give a signal to the back guide and turn slowly making sure that he has enough time to follow your movements.
- In narrow curves the front guide anticipates the position of the back guide and ensures that the latter will not get into an unstable position outside the path (trunks, undergrowth, etc.)
- In extremely narrow curves, the guides position themselves between the front and the back bars and possibly ask for help to other participants.

CROSS SLOPES

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In cross slopes (lateral inclination of the terrain), the Joëlette should be held in its vertical balance, so that the passenger's weight stays entirely on the wheel. This allows having an optimum attachment to the ground.

These are the basic information concerning the Joëlette. Now, it is up to you to try the Joëlette beginning with easy terrain and then constantly you can find more difficult paths.

Keep in mind that the passenger's comfort and security are the main focus of all activities with the Joëlette!

INSTALLATION OF THE PASSENGER ON THE JOËLETTE

TRANSFER

With the new generation model, the transfer of the passenger on the Joëlette is facilitated since the seat is at the standard height of wheelchairs.



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Make sure that the Joëlette is in a stable position on its legs on a solid floor.

The front and back guides help the passenger to get installed in the seat. If necessary, a third guide places himself at the back of the Joëlette to ensure stability.

- Should the passenger be able to seat himself alone, he goes near the seat in between the front arms, turns around and sits down, avoiding stepping onto the foot rest since they are not conceived to hold the whole body-weight.

- It is also possible to remove one arm on order to make an autonomous lateral transfer from the wheelchair to the Joëlette.



- Should the passenger need help, the two guides who are standing laterally to the Joëlette lift him into the seat. Usually they take him under his shoulders holding the passenger's belt with one hand. With the other hand they hold the passenger's leg under the knees and lift him into the seat.

Should the passenger be in a specialized seating system, the cushions only need to be removed from the seat and the system be placed and fixed onto the Joëlette.

When lifting the passenger, be sure that you are in a stable position. Bend down your knees a little. Make sure the transfer is comfortable to the passenger. Otherwise, he knows best his handicap and he can tell you which way to proceed.

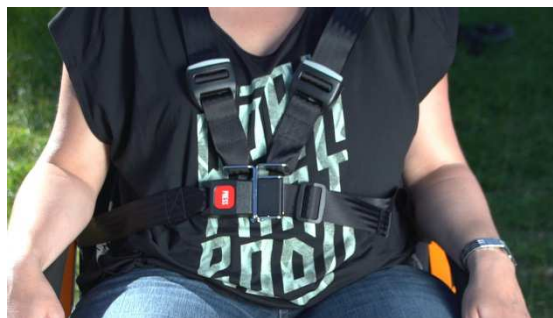
PASSENGER'S SECURITY AND SUPPORT



Fasten the seat belt.

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Passengers who lack tonicity at the chest level with or children may use the four point harness (in option).



Adjust the height of the footrest with the locking handle situated between the footrest.

Attach the passenger's foot to the footrest with the Velcro tape.





Adjust the inclination of the footrest with the 3mm Allen key.

Adjust the headrest at the correct height with the two handles.

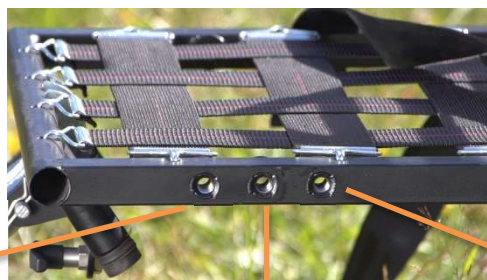


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COMFORT

The comfort of the passenger is the main issue on each use of the Joëlette and should constantly be in focus of all action

- Regulate the foot rest and head set. The back rest also offers three different positions. Please note that the fixation of the backrest is made while unfolding the Joëlette.



Position avant



Position normale



Position arrière

- Make sure that the passenger's clothing is correctly arranged. (Often during transfer the clothing disarranges)

START AND STOP

PLACING THE JOËLETTE ON ITS WHEEL

You can start the process of putting the Joëlette on its wheels when only the back and front supports are in contact with the floor.



- The front guide places himself inside the arms, in front of the passenger. Then, he grasps the indexing finger situated under the seat on the right hand side of the passenger and pull it towards him to pivot it in a **vertical position**. Thus, the seat will be automatically locked before leaving.

- **If you miss this manipulation, it is compulsory to check that the indexing finger is in a vertical position before any departure.**

- The front guide places himself inside the arms, in front of the passenger and firmly holds the front arms.
- The back guide adjusts the handlebar on one of three upper holes of the adjustment system, so as to have his arm outstretched in the axis of the handlebar. Then, he actuates the brake.



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- **He absolutely has to actuate the break until the Joëlette is on its wheel.**

- Then, the back guide topples his upper body backward and initiate a backward movement so that the wheel can enter in contact with the floor. Meanwhile, the front guide relieves the weight going towards the passenger until the seat gets locked.



- If necessary, it is possible to use the support point situated on the wheel axle which facilitates the process.



- The process is over when you can hear a “snap” which indicates that the seat is well locked.
- If necessary, check whether the indexing finger is on an upright position or actuate the brake softly to ensure the seat is locked.

Placing the Joëlette on its supports



Choose a flat and solid ground.

- The front guide places himself inside the arms, in front of the passenger. Then, he grasps the indexing finger situated under the seat on the right hand side of the passenger and pull it towards him to pivot it in a **horizontal position**.
- The front guide stays inside the arms, facing the passenger and holds the two arms.
- The back guide adjusts the handlebar on the line of his outstretched arms and actuate the brake.

The back guide gives an impetus forward to begin the descent **and applies the brake until the end of the process**. The front guide holds the arms until the supports are in contact with the floor.



The passenger is in security, the guides can release the arms and handlebar while remaining vigilant.

Two main key rules to remember:

- To place the Joëlette on the wheel or on its supports: always maintain the brake actuated during the whole process.
- Before any departure: check that the indexing finger is on a vertical position

REGLES DE SECURITE EN JOËLETTE

THE TRAIL

CHOICE OF TRAILS

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Before starting your hike with a Joëlette, you should have verified whether the itinerary is adapted to the Joëlette and the team. As a matter of fact, obstacles which are easily surmountable for a common hiker, may become technically difficult for the Joëlette and may be not be adapted to the Joëlette.

However, don't think that only constructed trails are convenient. On the contrary, most paths are accessible!

The best way to find out whether the Joëlette is adapted is to use a mountain bike on the trail. The Joëlette passes wherever a mountain bike can pass. Difficult trails with stones, tree trunks roots just demand a higher technical competence and physical fitness.

SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS

THE TEAM

- According to the difficulty of the trail, the experience of the team and the weight of the passenger, the number of guides varies between two and five. The standard team is composed of three guides.
- Make sure that all guides are physically able to operate the Joëlette.
- Don't underestimate that you need a certain level of fitness and technical skills.

PREPARING THE HIKE

- Check out the itinerary beforehand

- Choose the itinerary according to your physical capacity and technical skills
- Check whether the Joëlette is in a good state, especially in a mechanical way.
- Check the meteorological conditions beforehand. Don't use the Joëlette during thunderstorms. The metal construction may provoke a bolt of lightning. Please note also that a path may become extremely difficult during times of rain.
- Inform your entourage about your itinerary.

MAINTENANCE

At least once a year, you should check all technical issues of the Joëlette no matter the frequency of its utilization. When using the Joëlette regularly more than once a week, a second check-up is indispensable.

The maintenance is about the same as for a mountain bike.

You should verify:

- The air pressure of the tyres.
- The braking system, in particular the state of the brake pads.
- The presence of security pins
- Check the level of oil in the hydraulic system. If necessary, we can provide you a purging kit or you can contact a specialized professional.

We recommend that there is always an anti-puncture tyre sealant available. (Repair kit)

A bike/motorcycle repairman or a bike/motorcycle rental shop could carry out the maintenance.

INSURANCE

Each guide must have a liability insurance to handle the Joëlette. The use of the Joëlette usually does not require a specific insurance but must be declared to your insurance company.

It is your responsibility to check with your insurance company requires if a specific insurance is necessary in your country for the use of the Joëlette.

« RUCKSACK »

- Items which are in general useful during hikes. (Cards, first aid kit, cell phone etc.)
- Repair kit, exchange harness etc.
- Keep in mind that the passenger does not move and risks to get cold. Arrange for having warm clothes, caps, gloves etc... An umbrella, poncho and even a blanket could be helpful.

DURING THE HIKE

- A mountain bike helmet for the passenger.
- Adapted footwear for the guides.
- Make sure that the front arms well fixed, especially before difficult itineraries. Check the brakes before going downwards.
- Permanently keep the Joëlette in balance no matter which kind of terrain you are walking on.
- The back arms should not be higher or lower than your waist.
- Don't continue when you are tired. Keep in mind your physical capacities should be sufficient.
- Don't walk too fast. You need to know where the wheel is, where you put your feet and don't glide.
- Don't forget to communicate among each other, especially when the terrain is difficult.
- Beware of too big knapsacks which could get tangled up with the front arms.
- Pay attention to the passenger, especially when it is cold outside.
- Never leave a Joëlette and the passenger unattended when the Joëlette is on its stands.
- Keep in mind: usually, one doesn't fall on difficult terrain but during the quiet moments when everyone loses concentration.
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CONTACT

DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT THE TEAM OF JOËLETTE AND CO FOR ANY OTHER QUESTION



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UNFOLDING THE JOËLETTE



1- Remove the belt and clear the headrest



2- Remove the pin and security pin from their place and rotate the wheel



3- Place the pin again in its axle and put the security pin back



4- Remove the security pin and pull the axle out of its compartment



5- Lower the footrest to the maximum with the handle



6- Place the foot within the notches while pressing the tubes so as to facilitate the insertion



7- Put the axle back in its compartment and lock it.
Then, put the security pin back.



8- Place the indexing finger in a horizontal position

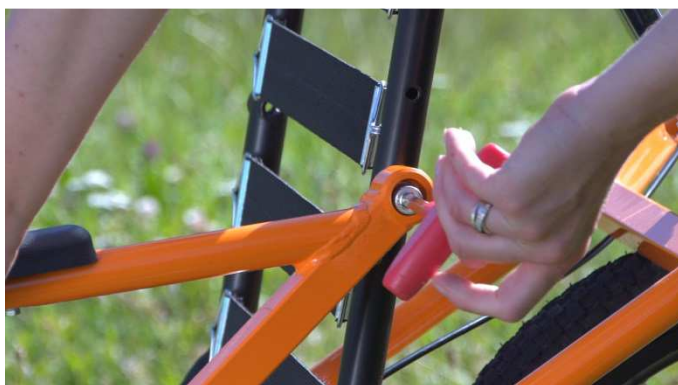
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9- Swing the Joëlette tu put it on its supports



10- Unfold the backrest with the little handle until the wheel gets in contact with the floor



11- Screw the armrest on the backrest
with the Allen key



12- Do the same for the seat and tighten the screws.
Proceed the same way on the second arm.



13- Place the cushion on the seat



14- Place it under the seat and press the stud



15- Place the cushion on the backrest en passant la doublure en tissu derrière le dossier et le maintenir à l'aide du scratch.



16- Unfold the arms and fit the two parts



17- Lock the arms with the safety pin



18- Your Joëlette is ready to be used !

To fold the Joëlette back, proceed the other way round.

A video is available on our website www.joeletteandco.com
And our You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/FerriolMatrat42>