

Usability Study

Participants:

This study was conducted using three people, two females and one male. One female fell into the 5th percentile for stature, the second fell into the 50th percentile and the male was in the 85th percentile. They were all between the ages of 20 to 23 and were chosen to represent the physical therapy students from Nazareth College in Rochester, NY.

The study:

The participants were asked to follow the instructions and make adjustments to the lockout ropes, pedal resistance and springs. After the proper adjustments had been made, the seat lock was put into place, the participants got onto the bike and tested out the feel of riding.

Observations and comments:

The lockout ropes are still very difficult to interchange. This may be more true now than it was previously due to the tilt mechanism being better. It requires a good amount of force to get the 5 degree ropes on and off, making it very difficult for women to perform the adjustments.

All of the participants found the pedal resistance adjustment and the seat lockout to be very easy and intuitive to use. Adjusting the pedals for greater resistance was easily achieved. The same cannot be said for the spring resistance. While it was very easy for them to turn the springs, it was not intuitive which direction made the spring force greater or weaker. The instructions told them to turn it to the right to make it greater, but this was not sufficient to easily determine the correct direction.

When riding the bike, the tilt and pedals felt comfortable for all of the participants. However, in climbing onto and off of the bike, the female participants commented on the difficulty in getting up to the height of the seat. The step stools that will act as guards were not in place during testing and should alleviate this problem.