

Ergo-Knife invented by CPT Yeager receives 1st Place at the 2004 Maddack Awards!

The Ergo-Knife, designed by an Army OTR, is the winner of the 2004 Maddak Awards held at the AOTA conference in May. In February, this device and six other inventions by CPT Arthur Yeager were selected for patent filing by MRMC's Invention Evaluation Committee. For 30 years Maddak Inc. (a manufacturer of assistive equipment) sponsors a national contest with cash prizes for AOTA member. Judges, OTR's from the conference host city, selected the Ergo-Knife for 1st place in the professional category and awarded CPT Yeager with a \$1,000 prize.

The Ergo-Knife, got its start as a utility knife (Ergo-Blade) for lab techs who open hundreds of urinalysis bottle boxes a day. It was designed as a preventive measure against injury caused by uneven forces placed on the wrist when holding a utility knife. This concept was then applied to the design of an adaptive cutting device for populations with decreased hand dexterity, strength, and or range of motion.

A key feature of the knife is that the handle permits cutting without using the thumb or a closed hand. A user can perform a medium dexterity task using only the gross motor movement of the upper extremity, thereby preserving their independence, dignity and quality of life. Both the Ergo-Blade and the Ergo-Knife can be held with a traditional grip. This aspect provides grading of the task thereby increasing its utility for a wider range people whether for injury prevention or adaptation. Another version of the knife allows the user to place their own knife in the device, making it easier to clean and portable for dining out.

For more information about other winners of the Maddak Awards and next years contest, please go to the following website:
<http://service.maddak.com/awardinfo.a>

Other inventions submitted by CPT Yeager for patent filing by the Army Invention Evaluation Committee include:

TAMC 03-52	tucker	Provisional filing
TAMC 03-53	arm attachment	Provisional filing
TAMC 03-54	mesh belt	Provisional filing
TAMC 03-55	prosthetic arm	Provisional filing
TAMC 03-56	bottleaze	Regular filing
TAMC 03-69	ergoknife	Regular filing
TAMC 03-71	wheelchair brake	Regular filing



Ergo Knife



- Allows stable grip without thumb
- Adaptable version accepts other knives
- Universal design provides grading to a traditional grip
- Excellent for populations with decreased grip strength or dexterity