

ALBER E-FIX 36 Power Add-on drive

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3s92NuP8HA>

http://www.gerald-simonds.co.uk/catalog/product.php?CI_ID=4

The Alber E-fix 36 consists of:

- 2 motorised wheels
- a lithium battery
- an electric joystick control
- two anti-tip bars, which stop the wheelchair tilting backwards.

These items can be fitted to a standard manual wheelchair (need to check compatibility) to turn a manual wheelchair into a motorised wheelchair.

The unit will need to be fitted to the manual wheelchair and remains fitted (it's not designed to be removed quickly), however, the battery, motorised wheels and joystick are all easily removed.

E-Fix 36 – Base price, £3,755.00



Removable motorised wheels, lithium battery and joystick control



Battery fixed in place



The Alber E-Fix components attached to a manual wheelchair.



The E-Fix control pod and joystick



Silicone LED bike lights that are weather proof and can be easily fitted to a wheelchair, front and rear.

Anti-tilt bars, which can be detached easily. They also serve to steady the chair when swapping the wheels.



The lithium battery is much lighter and holds its charge better than a regular wheelchair battery. It's easy to remove and carry (can be carried in a hold all). All the wire connections (plugs) are magnetised and simply slot into a socket, so you don't need much manual dexterity. The wheelchair battery is removed and carried aboard as hand luggage. I usually remove the joy stick control too, as this could easily get damaged in the hold.

The motorised wheels can be engaged or disengaged by simply rotating the centre hub. The wheels can be interchanged with the regular wheelchair wheels, so these can be transported in addition, and swapped should the motorised/electric parts fail to work. It's also useful that you then have a wheelchair that can be either manual or electric.

When the chair has its motorised wheels on, it becomes very heavy (each wheel weighs 8.2kg) and can just about be lifted by a strong person. However, disassembled into separate parts, it is easy enough to load the wheelchair into the boot of a car for transportation.

I have purchased some cheap silicone bike lights that can be easily fitted and/or removed from the front and back of the chair so that I can safely use it on unlit roads, making other road users and pedestrians aware of my presence.

What I like about this chair:

- Easy to transport
- Ideal to travel with, especially if you're not certain of accessibility or availability of wheelchair accessible transport.
- Much easier to take on flights (battery removal and engaging/disengaging wheels)

- Great to have as a back-up/second chair
- Can transport in a regular vehicle (no lift required)
- Batteries hold their charge well and are quick to charge. It would be possible given the size of the battery, to carry a spare for longer journies.
- Good range – around 8 or 9 miles per charge.

What I don't like:

- This wheelchair easily tilts backwards when going up slight inclines (eg, up a dropped kerb). Although the anti-tilt bars stop the chair from tipping right back, the sensation of tipping is a bit unnerving!
- It's impossible to load up the back with bags (for the same reason)
- Maximum speed of 4mph – which seems very slow when you're used to a chair with a 6mph upper limit!

My E-fix is fitted to a Tilite Aero X manual folding wheelchair, which is very light weight and also had the advantage of folding.

Attached to a Tilite Aero X ultra light folding manual wheelchair (see following page)



Travelling with the Alber E-fix 36, spare wheelchair wheels are useful to take along in case of breakdown.

Tilite Aero X ultra light folding manual wheelchair

http://www.tilite.com/chairs_aerox.php



length 900mm
width 500mm
height 930mm
Mass of heaviest part = 8.2kg
Aero X weight = **8.2kg**

E-Fix E36

Battery: 1 x Lithium Ion cell, leak-proof and maintenance free
Weight in kilos **27.5kg**

Cost: Ti-lite Aero X – £2,060.00

Tilite Aero X ultra light folding manual wheelchair

Both purchased from:
Gerald Simonds, 9 March Place, Gatehouse Way,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8UE

Tel: 01296 380200

www.gerald-simonds.co.uk

Great wheelchair and mobility specialist where you can have the opportunity to see and try out various models and options. Plenty of parking. Located in a industrial unit just outside of Aylesbury.

TOTAL WEIGHT FOR AERO X PLUS E FIT 35.7kg

SUNRISE SALSA R

Length with leg rests 114cm
Width 61cm
Weight 168 kg (23 stone)
Mass of heaviest part 18.5kg

Purchased this to replace my Sunrise Quickie F55 which was no longer manufactured

Very rugged power chair. Total weight of 168kg (26 stone) means that this can only be transported in a vehicle with an electric hoist or lift with a 200kg lifting capacity.

It is powered by two heavy batteries that are located in a pull out drawer underneath the seat. It can be fitted with a seat tilt/recline and/or a riser, which lifts the seat about 30 cm higher.

The seating and

What I like about this chair:

- Rugged and dependable, can cope with most terrains (gravel, grass, steep slopes) and although large can fit onto buses and into wheelchair accessible taxis.
- Can be fitted with a kerb climber (capable to mounting kerbs up to about 10/15cm)
- Arm rests can be swung back enabling side transfer
- Heavy bags can be loaded onto the back for airports / train jounies
- Comfortable for sitting in for long periods (I have the upholstered comfort seat)
- Can be fitted with lights – useful when travelling along unlit roads, a seat tilt and seat riser as optional extras
- Top speed of 6mph, great when wanting to get somewhere fast.
- Motor engage/disengage levers are easy to access

What I don't like:

- Not very transportable and disconnecting the batteries for an air flight is quite fiddly.
- If it breaks down, it's very heavy to push, even when empty.
- Limited battery life – around 6 – 7 miles on a single charge
- Batteries need a long time to recharge

Cost: From £4,100.00

I purchased mine from Scooter Store. http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Scooter-Store_W0QQsspagementZMEQ3aFQ3aSTQQtZkm

I have used them for the purchase of four wheelchairs (two new, and two second hand). This operates on ebay, and is an individual working from his home close to Gatwick Airport. He has a good workshop / covered show room area attached to his house and works to get the chair adjusted so that it is comfortable and usable. He's modified the control pod fixing for me in the past.



Sunrise Quickie Salsa R