

## INNOVATION

→ Alinker R-volution: the cool, revolutionary balance bike

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## ALINKER R-VOLUTION: THE COOL, REVOLUTIONARY BALANCE BIKE

On 21 Augustus 2014, the first Alinker balance bike DEMO day took place in Nijmegen. This was the day when the revolutionary balance bike was presented to dozens of curious and enthusiastic people. The non-motorised walking aid encourages people to remain active, whether they have a limitation or not. Due to its safety, great freedom of movement and cool appearance, it is the perfect alternative for the walker, wheelchair or mobility scooter.

### Stigma

Inventor Barbara Alink got the idea when her mother became less mobile but refused to walk with the assistance of a walker. This was due to the stigma surrounding the aid. After further research it appeared that more people (requiring aids) have issues with prejudices about walkers, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. They don't feel they are taken seriously when using such an aid. This encouraged Barbara to develop a functionally better walking aid about which people would have no prejudices.



### Prototype

After years of development, the final prototype consists of an aluminium frame with three wheels, handlebars and a bike saddle. People experience the pleasure of walking with wheels while sitting erect. The users move about at eye level, it means people no longer look down on them and they feel more like a real person. 'I am no longer that woman with a handicap but the woman with a cool bike, and I also happen to be missing one-and-a-half legs,' says a satisfied user.

### User experiences

Since then more people have tried the Alinker with very positive results. They all experience the pleasure and convenience of the balance bike. Thus, for the first time in years with the help of the Alinker, MS patient Joe Revello from New York could walk 3 kilometres. Its trendy appearance makes the bike appealing to everyone wanting to remain mobile and active.

The sale of the Alinker will start later in the year through a crowdfunding campaign. The production takes place via Nijland Products, Heeten and its manufacturers in Taiwan. The recommended retail price of the Alinker is fifteen hundred euros.

You can find more information on the balance bike on: <http://thealinker.com/nl/#homenl>

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