

Stance Control Orthotic Knee Joint: User's Instructions



Automatic Mode:

Horton's Stance Control Orthotic Knee Joint [SCOKJ] offers the person who needs protection against knee collapse an alternative to the stiff-legged gait of yesterday's cumbersome braces. Whenever you are certain it would be safe to do so, you can set the SCOKJ *Mode Selector* to the "A" or "Automatic" setting, as shown in the illustration.

In this mode, the joints are designed to automatically prevent your knee from bending whenever your heel is on the ground. To automatically unlock the SCOKJ, two things must happen:

1. Your heel must be off the ground
 2. Your knee must straighten very slightly, for just a moment
- Then, the SCOKJ will release, and you can bend your knee freely.

For maximum safety and durability, the manufacturer recommends that both the SCOKJs in your brace be set in the "Automatic" mode.

CAUTION!

Each time you start walking, you should step on your heel and cautiously try to bend your knee, to confirm that the SCOKJ mechanism is working properly, and will securely support your weight.

WARNING!!

If the mechanism does not seem to be working properly, stop walking *immediately* and contact your orthotist for assistance.

Locked Mode

Whenever you want, you may lock your knee by straightening it completely and turning the *Selector* to the "L" or "Locked" mode. This setting bypasses the automatic unlocking mechanism so the SCOKJ will remain locked. Some people prefer this setting for walking in crowded places, when working out of doors, and at other times when they want to be certain their leg will remain locked straight at all times.

Unlocked Mode

When the *Selector* is set to the “U” or “Unlocked” position, you can bend your knee easily. Some people prefer this setting for getting into a car, or when sitting down.

CAUTION!

When the SCOKJ is “Unlocked”, it will *not* support you, so you must be careful not to stumble or fall. Only set the SCOKJ in the “Unlocked” mode when you are sure it will be safe to do so.

Servicing

Although the SCOKJ is designed to work reliably for thousands of steps, like all mechanical devices, it will eventually need to be adjusted or rebuilt due to normal wear and tear. For your safety, it is important to return to your orthotist for inspections at the recommended intervals to insure that the SCOKJ is working optimally.

WARNING!!

There are no user-serviceable parts in the SCOKJ, and unauthorized disassembly, modifications, or lubrication of the SCOKJ will void the warranty and may cause it to malfunction. Any time you suspect that your SCOKJ is not working perfectly, stop walking immediately and contact your orthotists for assistance. Attempting to walk on a SCOKJ that is malfunctioning may lead to serious injury!

Load Limit

The load limit for safe operation of the SCOKJ is 220 pounds [102 kilograms]. This includes your body weight and any objects you normally carry around.

WARNING!!

Loading the SCOKJ beyond the manufacturer’s stated limit may lead to malfunction or structural failure, and could subject you to risk of serious injury!

Operating Conditions:

For maximum durability and safety, please do not expose your SCOKJ to the following conditions, which may damage it or cause a malfunction:

- Severe vibrations
- Corrosive atmospheres
- Excessive loads
- Dusty or dirty environments
- Immersion in fresh, salt, or chlorinated water

Signature Form

My signature below certifies that I have read, and understand, the Instructions for Users for the SCOKJ and that I will follow all safety recommendations. In addition, if I have any questions or concerns about the operation of the SCOKJ, I will contact my orthotist immediately for advice.

Signature _____ Date _____

Witness [if minor, or unable to sign] _____