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Vita E Operating Instructions and Owners Handbook

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INTRODUCTION TO YOUR VITA E

Thank you for purchasing a TGA Vita E mobility scooter. We hope your new scooter will bring freedom, independence and pleasure to your life.

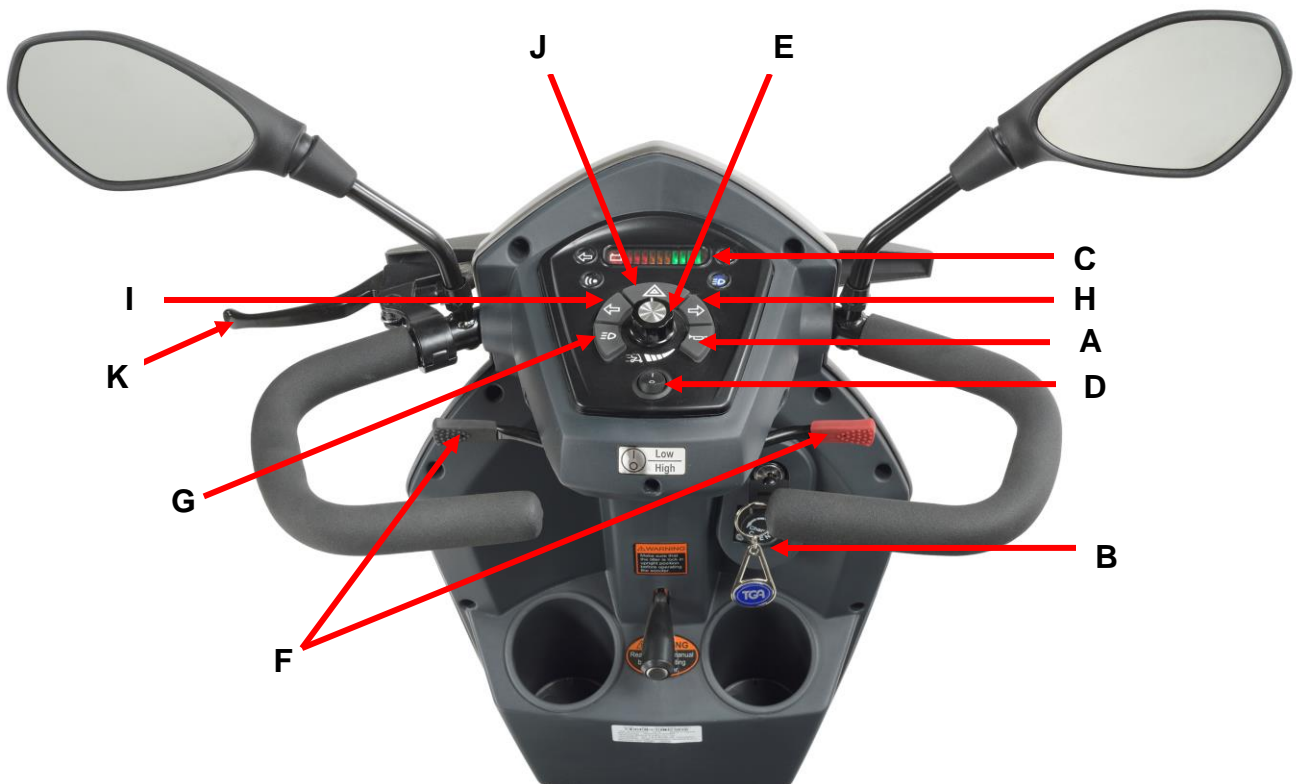
This handbook provides important information on the most common operational and maintenance concerns that you should be familiar with. It is very important that you are familiar with the driving technique and are able to operate the controls competently before venturing far from where there is assistance.

Please make sure you read this handbook in full and fully understand how to operate your scooter before venturing too far from assistance. This handbook will draw your attention to important safety related issues by **Care! Warning** labelling throughout. Please keep this handbook for future referral.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Your Vita E is a class 3 mobility scooter and intended for indoor or outdoor use and is road legal. It is designed to be on and off road and has a 4mph setting for pedestrian areas making it ideal for trips to your local town and shops. It is capable of 8mph, can climb slopes up to 17% and negotiate obstacles up to 7cm high. Care must be taken when using your scooter in these conditions.

YOUR SCOOTER CONTROLS



- A. Horn – press the horn button to sound your horn.
- B. Key – insert the key and rotate it clockwise to power on your scooter. To turn off your scooter rotate the key anti clockwise.
- C. Battery Condition Indicator – When your scooter is switched on the blocks on the indicator will illuminate from the left 'Red' sector to the 'Green' sector indicating the state of charge in your batteries. As the charge is used up in your batteries the blocks will slowly go out, moving towards the red sector indicating the state of charge at that precise time. As the lights go out towards the red sector your batteries are losing charge and when there is only one or two left your batteries need to be recharged. For more information see the Charging Your Scooter section.
- D. Half Speed Switch - Allows you to switch between low and high speeds. Low speed is a maximum of 4mph and is to be used in footpaths, shops and all pedestrian areas. High speed is 8mph and is to be used on the road.
- E. Speed Adjustment – This allows you to pre-select your desired maximum speed. The adjuster is proportional to speed and can be set anywhere between minimum and maximum. Turn the adjuster knob fully anti clockwise for the lowest speed and gradually rotate clockwise to increase your maximum speed.
- F. Throttle Control Lever – The Throttle Controls also adjust the speed of your scooter. The further you push the control the faster you will go.
- G. Lights – This switch will turn your lights on and off
- H. Right Indicator – To be used when you are turning right to indicate to other people where you are heading,
- I. Left Indicator - To be used when you are turning left to indicate to other people where you are heading,
- J. Hazard Warning Lights – This will flash all 4 indicators together.
- K. Emergency Brake - All braking on the Vita E is automatic and the emergency brake should never need to be used. It is only for emergency use, in the very unlikely event that the automatic braking fails. If used this lever will cut off the power of the machine and bring you safely to a halt. Lever located on left handle bar.

DRIVING YOUR SCOOTER

Before driving your scooter make sure that the battery is fully charged, check that the tyres do not appear to be soft (see Maintenance section for details of monthly checks and tyre pressures). Check that the key is in the off position before entering. When comfortably sat, ensure that the seat is secure. Ensure that the armrests are in the correct position.

Set your speed to low, hold the Tiller with both hands and gently apply pressure to the throttle control lever to move forwards. The more pressure you apply to the lever, the faster you will go. Remember to always come to a stop before changing from forward to reverse.

Releasing the throttle control lever automatically operates the motor brake to slow down your scooter to a stop. Once stopped, the parking brake will automatically engage.

Use the Tiller to steer your scooter left and right. Simply move your left hand towards you to steer left and your right hand towards you to turn right.

To reverse, apply pressure on the opposite throttle control lever. The speed in reverse is reduced automatically for safety and your scooter will beep.

To negotiate kerbs you should always approach at right angles. If you are going up, select the highest speed setting then drive until both front and back wheels are on the pavement, then immediately lower the speed. If going down, proceed slowly until on the road, then switch to a suitable higher speed to cross the road safely.

Watch your Battery Condition Indicator. The distance you can travel depends on many factors. Range is influenced by many environmental conditions, hills will substantially decrease the range. Establish what you can obtain around your locality by gradually increasing the distance and checking the battery indicators at the end of each journey.

Should the battery “run out” before you get home there are two things you can do to avoid being stranded. Stopping and switching off your scooter for 5 – 10 minutes will allow the battery to “recover” a little power so that you can proceed further. You can attempt this a number of times. If you are unfortunate and cannot return to home under the battery power there is a “Free Wheel” device that will allow someone to push your scooter home (see Parking Brake Release).

Driving inside shops and buildings

When inside it is your responsibility to drive slowly and safely and not damage your surroundings or hurt other people.

When using the footpath – Just because you are on the footpath or pedestrian precinct does not make you a pedestrian. If you are on a scooter you are no longer a pedestrian.

In a crowded precinct, market area, or footpath - It is your responsibility to ensure you do not run into anyone or do any harm with your scooter. While many people will make way for you, you cannot expect everyone to do so. Some will appear to not even realize you are there. They will climb round and even over your vehicle rather than allow you room to move. Also be very aware of people’s feet.

Watch out for:

- * Children – They may well run in front of you without warning. You may only be moving very slowly, but you could still injure a child.
- * Elderly People – They may be unable to quickly move aside to let you pass. Give way to them.
- * Disabled people on foot – they too may be unable to move aside for you.
- * People with visual problems or impaired hearing – Give them space and time.
- * Other scooter users – You may be doing all the right things. This does not guarantee they will do likewise

Driving on the road

Remember although this is legal for all Class 3 scooters it is not always safe or sensible to do so. You are responsible for your own safety and that of other road users. The normal rules of the road apply and you must observe the law about:

- * Driving on the left side of the road. Never drive against the traffic.
- * One way streets – Never drive against the traffic.
- * Giving way where cars would give way (details in the Highway Code).
- * Obeying traffic lights and all other road signals and instructions.
- * Giving way to pedestrians on crossings.

Always remember your vehicle is not a car and is small and vulnerable – If you need to turn right across traffic, try to get on to the footpath before the turn and then use a safe pedestrian crossing or traffic light controlled crossing. Only try to turn right if you are completely sure it is safe to do so. Do not rely only on your mirror. It may give a false impression of distance. Always give clear indication of intention to turn left or right.

Remember – the car you can see when you look behind may appear a long way away, but it is almost certainly moving faster than you are, often deceptively so. It could well be upon you before you complete your manoeuvre. And it may not be able to stop in time. When passing a parked vehicle take great care you are not moving into the path of a faster moving vehicle coming behind you, or towards you. Always signal your intention to pull out.

In the event of a difficult or dangerous situation – Use your hazard lights – But do not drive with them on unnecessarily.

ADJUSTING YOUR TILLER



If you'd like to adjust your tiller simply push down on the adjustment lever until the top part of the tiller moves freely up and down. Once the tiller is in the correct position just let go of the lever.

ADJUSTING YOUR SEAT



A. Backrest Adjustment Lever – Push up to adjust the backrest forwards and backwards.

B. Seat Swivel Lever – Push forwards to rotate your seat. The seat will swivel to the left or right with locking positions each side at 45° intervals.

C. Seat Slide Lever – Pull up to slide your seat forwards and backwards. The seat will lock in 7 different positions.

D. Headrest – Push the button on the front of headrest bar and lift the headrest up or push it down. The headrest will lock in 3 different positions. To remove pull all of the way up.

E. Armrests – Lift up or push down. To adjust the downward angle roll the adjuster on the underside of each armrest.

Care! Warning

* Always ensure the seat is locked in place before attempting to get on or off your scooter. Failure to check this could result in injury

Removing your seat

To remove your seat simply lift the base up and away from your scooter.

Care! Warning

* The seat is heavy and difficult to handle

CHARGING YOUR SCOOTER

Only use the charger supplied with your scooter as other makes of chargers have not been tested and may permanently damage your batteries. Your battery charger is designed and tested for use with your scooter so it may not be suitable for any other scooters.

To charge your batteries follow these simple steps.

1. Switch OFF your scooter and remove the key.
2. Plug the charger lead into the socket located on the tiller. Plugging the charger in automatically cuts all power to the electronics so your scooter cannot be driven.
3. Push the plug from the charger into a suitable wall outlet and switch on.
4. The Green light on your charger will come on for "mains on". An Orange light will then come on indicating the battery is charging. The Orange light will then turn Green when your batteries are fully charged.
5. When your batteries reach their charged state, the charger will automatically stop charging so the batteries cannot over charge. The lights will, however, still be on.
6. Although to get out of trouble the batteries can be put on charge for a short period of time, it is always best to go through a complete charge cycle each time. Excessive short period charging will be detrimental to battery life.
7. For the best results and to prolong your battery life, try to run the battery down by at least 50% before recharging and in addition it is always best to go through a complete charge cycle every time.
8. Depending on the depth of the discharge, the minimum time taken to recharge serviceable batteries fully will vary up to 12 hours. Please note that this time may increase as batteries get older. During periods without use it is wise to charge the batteries every 4 to 6 weeks.
9. For the best results your batteries must be cycled for their first 10-15 charges. This means run them down as much as you safely can in use and then give them a full charge. They will not work at their best until this process has been carried out.

You will find that the distance that your scooter can travel will gradually increase over the first few weeks of use as the batteries reach their optimum efficiency after approximately 12 cycles of discharge and recharge.

Care! Warning

- * Do not smoke or use a naked flame while your batteries are being charged.
- * Do not use the charger if it has received a sharp blow, been dropped or otherwise misused in any way.
- * Do not dismantle your charger.
- * Do not leave your charger plugged into your scooter with your charger switched off as this may discharge your batteries.
- * For a complete charge – Do not switch off, unplug or interrupt the recharge cycle until it has completed.

FREE-WHEEL MECHANISM

Your scooter is fitted with a free-wheel release lever. This is located at the rear of your scooter to the right of the left-hand rear wheel. The lowest position is normal use, lifting up releases the brake and allows your scooter to be pushed. There will be no power to drive when the lever is in this up position, however when switched on the battery condition indicator lights will flash indicating a fault mode. Never release this lever when your scooter is on a slope.

MAINTENANCE

We recommend that your scooter has an annual service and maintenance check by either TGA or an approved mobility specialist. There are however a few tips you can follow yourself to keep your scooter in good condition.

- Keep all components clean and dry.
- Keep your tyres inflated according to the technical specification. Low tyre pressure will degrade your scooters performance, so it is very important that you check them frequently.
- Check your tyres for wear and replace them as soon as there is any sign of excessive wear.
- Your scooter uses maintenance free batteries which are leak-proof regardless of their position so charging the battery is the only maintenance required. **DO NOT** leave the batteries flat though, charge them every 4-6 weeks if your scooter is being stored or not in use.
- Check any accessible electrical cable connectors are fully home and secure.
- Battery replacement is dependent upon use. When your batteries lose power too quickly, it is likely they need replacing. If you want to change the batteries yourself installation instructions are included with the replacement batteries from TGA.
- Make sure all repairs relating to electrical or mechanical components are carried out by TGA or an approved mobility specialist only.
- Do not apply oil or grease to any components. Sealed bearings and nylon bushes eliminate the need for lubrication.

Seat Upholstery

You can use a damp cloth and a little soap to keep your seat looking good. Do not use abrasive cleaning materials as this will damage the coating of your seat. Upholstery can also be damaged by chemicals so do not over apply. Ultraviolet light can also reduce the life of the material coating your seat.

Bodywork

You can clean the plastic bodywork of your scooter by lightly washing it with clean soapy water. Car polish can be used to keep the paint and bodywork in pristine condition. Do not use abrasive cleaners or strong detergents as this will fade the colour.

Motor Brake

You can check if the motor brake is functioning correctly by testing, if you can push your scooter when it is switched off or switched on with the speed control throttle in the neutral position. If your scooter can be pushed when as described above, the motor brake may be faulty.

Care! Warning if this is the case do not use your scooter and contact TGA or an approved mobility specialist. You can also test this when driving your scooter, if you let go of the speed control lever it should lose speed very quickly. If you notice a change in the normal stopping time/distance you should also contact TGA or an approved mobility specialist.

DO NOT operate your scooter in extreme weather conditions i.e. very heavy rain.

DO NOT drive through deep water. This could damage the main electronic controller, or other electronics.

DO NOT store your scooter in damp conditions. This may affect the electronics if left for very long periods of time

DO NOT do not hose down your scooter. Water could be forced into the electronics and cause permanent damage.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

If your scooter will not start, check the following:

Make sure that the key is in the 'on' position, if it is then the battery condition indicator will be displayed, if it is showing empty then recharge batteries.

Check the free-wheel mechanism lever is in the engaged (down) position.

If the battery condition indicator fails to operate when the key is in the 'on' position, check the following:

Make sure your battery charger is not plugged in to the wall outlet, this will prevent your scooter driving.

Check the free-wheel mechanism lever is in the engaged (down) position.

If your scooter will not charge, check the following:

Check the lights on your battery charger are on and that the charger is plugged into a working wall socket.

Check your battery charger is connected to your charge socket correctly

Care! Warning if you find for any reason your scooter does not reduce speed when you let go of the speed control lever, use the manual emergency brake on the handlebars. If this fails to stop you, switch your scooter off with the key. The parking brake will activate immediately and stop your scooter. Beware the machine will stop very suddenly so brace yourself with the handlebars and sit back on your seat.

This operation should only be carried out as an emergency, continual use of this procedure will damage the drive transmission and motor brake.

TIPS FOR SCOOTER USERS

Scooters fall into two categories, Class 2 which is essentially a 4mph pavement scooter and can only legally be used on the road when either crossing over or because there are no footpaths.

A Class 3 scooter is capable of 4 & 8 mph and provided it is fitted with front and rear lights, flashing indicators, horn and rear-view mirror it is legal for use on the road. It can also be used on the footpaths but must not exceed 4 mph. Class 2 & 3 vehicles must not be driven on Dual Carriageways, Motorways, Bus Lanes or Cycle Tracks. Class 3 scooters must also be registered with the DVLA.

Insurance

There is no legal requirement for insurance, but it is a very good idea to have cover for fire and theft, accidental and malicious damage, and also third party damages. For more information call TGA.

Breakdown & Recovery Service

Again, not a requirement but a very good idea to enable you total peace of mind when going out on your scooter.

Mobile Phone

An essential item if you are out there alone. You never know, breakdown, accident, health - communication is a must.

Carrying Loads

Do not overload. It may make your scooter unstable and reduce its range. Place heavy loads inboard – in the middle – not behind the back wheel which can lighten the steering or can cause the front end to lift off the road on a bump, and not at the front which might make steering heavy.

Airline Checking

Sealed Lead Acid Batteries are permitted on aeroplanes. Airline personnel may insist on removing the battery cover to verify its contents. It is best to check with the airline beforehand. An airline compliance certificate is available from TGA.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specification

Length	Vita E
Width	137cm
Seat Width	66cm
Total Weight	46cm
Wheel & Tyre Size front	258lbs
Wheel & Tyre Size rear	31 x 100cm
Battery	31 x 100cm
Motor	12v 50amp
Controller	24v 750watt
Charger	24v 90amp
Max Speed	24v 5amp
Approximate Range	8mph
Max Carry Capacity	28miles
Max Gradient	22stone
Ground Clearance	17%
Vehicle Class	7cm
	3



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