

## **Making Projects Information**

‘Making’ is simply the process of physically creating something yourself. More than this, it’s become part of a global subculture which champions this process and the benefits “doing it yourself” brings - from increasing skills with the tools used, to understanding the technological and engineering concepts behind them, and the community aspect created from doing these projects alongside other people in a “makerspace”. This culture is centred around makerspaces, which are workshops open to the public that allow for sharing of both tools and the knowledge of other participants.

Despite this ideology of inclusivity, many makerspaces and “making” as a whole remain inaccessible to people with disabilities. Reasons for this include makerspaces simply being physically inaccessible, and tutorials being in formats disabled people cannot understand or use. One less tangible barrier is people with knowledge of Making not having knowledge of people with disabilities and how to work with them. And then, people that have knowledge of disabled people (i.e. carers, disability coaches) not having knowledge of Making. Both these groups’ knowledge is required in allowing these disabled people to get the benefits of Making.

“Making Projects” aims to tackle these barriers. It is essentially a library of ‘maker’ project ideas that are adapted to an individual's specific needs. It attempts to bridge this knowledge gap to allow people with disabilities to get the benefits from ‘making’. As well as individual projects, users can create a customised “syllabus” of projects to help build their skills toward their specified goal.

“Making Projects” is designed with a focus on people with intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and cognitive impairments, but also intends to be helpful to people with other disabilities too.

Please note that the projects currently on the website are not “real”, in that they aren’t expected to actually be carried out. We are not trying to evaluate the actual projects, rather the structure and design of them. We apologise if this makes it harder to evaluate the site. Please do ask any questions at any point.

---