In the rehabilitation of physically disabled people, occupational therapy often stresses the development of leisure activities. The prosthetic literature includes several adaptations developed for the amputee individual involved in the leisure pursuits of sports and musical activities (1-4). This paper discusses a crochet aid developed for a woman whose left (nondominant) hand was amputated below the elbow. The woman wanted to continue a leisure activity learned before her hand was amputated.

Construction
The crochet aid was made with Polyform and Velcro (see Figures 1 to 3). A 31 cm \times 2 cm piece of Polyform was heated and folded in half (along its width) to form a 31 cm rod. The piece of Polyform was bent at an 80° to 90° angle and laid over the thumb piece of the aid. Velcro loops were then placed at both ends of the aid to provide a secure grip. The finished aid is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

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the prosthesis terminal device (TD). The TD used here was the Dorrance Number 5X hook. The proximal end of the Polyform rod was then molded around three fourths of the threaded stud area of the TD as shown in Figure 2. A 4 cm × 1.5 cm piece of Polyform was molded into a U-shaped tray and attached anteriorly to the distal end of the aid. A Velcro hook was adhered anteriorly to the middle portion of the rod and a Velcro loop (Strap 1) was wrapped around the crochet aid and the top finger hook of the TD. A second Velcro strap (Strap 2) may be needed to stabilize the aid to the prosthesis at the thumb piece. This was wrapped in a figure eight fashion around the thumb piece and the aid.

Application

The patient pulls the yarn from the yarn skein to the crochet aid and wraps it counterclockwise 1½ times around the Polyform tray. The yarn is then threaded through the finger hooks of the TD, and the patient crochets with the hook in her right hand. The yarn is held taut by the position and the resistance of the finger hooks of the TD. As further yarn is needed, the patient abducts her left arm without having to open the finger hooks of the TD. The yarn glides along the tray of the crochet aid and through the finger hooks of the TD.

The crochet aid helped the patient improve her speed and dexterity, and it motivated her to complete projects initiated prior to the amputation.

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References