Leisure activities are important. Through them creativity is encouraged, tension is released, and a sense of achievement is reached. After the acute phase of rehabilitation it is important for physically disabled individuals to return to former leisure skills using adaptive equipment or to develop new leisure activities.

A device to maintain tension on yarn was fabricated for a bilateral below elbow amputee who wished to resume knitting, an activity she enjoyed before her injury (see Figures 1 and 2). The patient could manage the knitting needles with her prosthesis but was not able to maintain tension on the yarn. The device is portable, light weight, and it can be secured to most table tops.

Materials and Fabrication

The following materials are needed:
- 2 pieces of tin, 2 in. by 2 1/2 in.
- 2 pieces of leather, 2 in. by 2 1/2 in.
- 1 piece of copper pipe, 3/4 in. by 9 in.
- 1 3-in. C clamp
- 2 bolts 3/16 in. in diameter by 3/4 in. long, used with wing nuts
- 2 pieces of spring 3/8 in. long, which will slide over the bolts

The C clamp is welded to one end of the copper pipe, and one piece of tin is welded to the other end of the copper pipe. Using contact cement, glue the leather to each piece of tin. Drill two 3/16 in. diameter holes in each piece of tin/leather as shown (see Figure 3).

Hold the pieces of tin so that the leather sides face each other, and place springs between them at the location of the holes. Slide bolts through the holes and springs and thread on wing nuts so the unit is held together. By tightening or loosening the wing nuts, tension can be adjusted for different sizes of yarn.
This patient required assistance attaching the C clamp to the table but was otherwise independent with this leisure activity. The author was not aware of other adaptive devices on the market that provided enough tension on the yarn. This piece of adaptive equipment can also be used by people with hemiplegia for maintaining tension on the yarn during crocheting.

Figure 2
Patient Using Knitting Device

Figure 3
Yarn-Holding Device

Leather Pieces

$\frac{3}{16}$" Hole With Bolt

Copper Pipe

Tin