

I got a new brace. Some of you may remember my post about "That Brace"

<https://www.jimcrozier.com/bio/ThatBrace.pdf> .

As I tell in that story, I resumed wearing a brace after some 40 years in 2016. That new brace was pretty similar to the one I used as a kid, with the major differences being that it has a foot mold that fits into my boot, instead of requiring "special shoes" to accept the brace, and that is was made from aircraft aluminum instead of steel - making it lighter.

So it turns out that I'm too rough on a brace (still) for the aluminum (especially since I had them take away all of the other plastic molding that wasn't essential to holding the brace together or holding me up). While traveling this past Summer, I was on three different trips, and the brace broke on each occasion. I had some great experiences getting it fixed on the road, once at a Hanger Clinic in Ft Worth, TX, and the other time at PA Brace and Limb in Erie, PA, and finally at my home shop, Williams Orthotics in Tallahassee, FL - and it now performs well - and is now my "spare brace" since I decided that we needed to take what had been learned and make a new one (also at Williams Orthotics).

As it happens, Medicare will not replace the current brace since it has been less than 5 years, so I had to pay out of pocket for it, but it worked out well. It was decided to return to stainless steel, and the integration with the plastic provides better support for the brace. The fit on the old one was nearly perfect, and that feat was replicated, thankfully. This new one is stronger than the other one had been and provides a wonderful feeling of security in the knowledge that it is unlikely to let me down. After hearing of so many issues in this forum, I count myself as blessed to have such a wonderful tool, since I am still very active as I approach 68. My travel schedule resumes with at least 4 trips planned during the coming year - and I hope to not find it necessary to develop another relationship with an out-of-town CO.

Jim Crozier

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