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iJoy 130 Robotic Massage Chair

The iJoy™ Revolution

When we discuss trickle down theories of how various technologies benefit human beings as a species, I bet not a thought comes to mind regarding the evolution of massage chairs. Once reserved for the “Rich & Famous” crowd, massage chairs today come in all shapes and sizes—but more noteworthy, they can be affordable. Of course, other high end massage chairs will still set you back (no pun intended) almost \$4K or possibly more. My point is this; you can own an awesome iJoy™ massage chair capable of many features of those pricey models for a fraction of the price. If you’re like me and are looking for a massage chair with great looks, affordability, and most importantly, a soothing and customizable massage at the touch of a button—then look no further than the iJoy™ 130.

The iJoy™ Family

The iJoy™ line up of massage chairs is available in many different models, shapes, colors, and price points. There are four different iJoy™ models sold through various stores and catalogs. When you shop for your iJoy™ you will notice some retailers carry different models than others. What’s different are simply added features and styles to please individual tastes, however some added features will result in higher price tags. For example, the top of the line iJoy™ from Sharper Image (iJoy™ 250) in faux leather will set you back \$899. In contrast, the iJoy™ 100 is the most affordable option at only \$599! No matter which iJoy™ model you select you’ll be extremely satisfied—because the core massage mechanism and related programs are the same! Keep in mind all iJoys™ fully recline to whatever position you prefer (approx. range of 110/170 degrees), albeit some models have powered recline. I selected the iJoy™ 130 in the “cashew” color with micro-fibre suede fabric as it provides a great mix of features with a reasonable price of \$699. Chances are you’ve probably seen the iJoy™ line of massage chairs in stores such as Brookstone, Healthy Back, Relax the Back, or even Sharper Image. After all, iJoy™ is the best selling massage chair in the world. Next time you’re in the mall, don’t just stare at the iJoy™ ...plunk yourself down and take it for test drive!

The Joy of...iJoy™

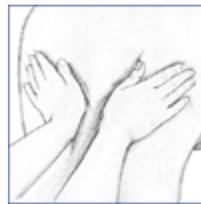
Let's discuss the iJoy™ "raison d'être," shall we? The iJoy™ 130 does an unbelievable job of simulating a human massage. I interviewed several executives at Interactive Health, the company that makes the iJoy™. They are very proud of their multi-patented Human Touch Technology (HTT) which is incorporated into every iJoy™ massage chair. In fact, it's the preferred technology of the American College of Chiropractic Orthopedists, and HTT is recommended by this same organization. Let me explain what HTT means in plain English and why it so closely simulates a massage by a trained massage therapist. HTT was designed and developed to closely follow the natural contours of your spine in a free form 3-dimensional mechanism which can adapt and move in four distinctly different modes. This research yielded the ingenious "Quad Roller" electro-mechanical device—and it does a remarkable job of working like hands, fists, and wrists to provide you with a massage that's as good as a pro! In a nutshell, the iJoy™'s HTT provides the four basic modes of massage which are Rolling, Kneading, Compression, and Percussion. To illustrate these massage modes and better understand what HTT can achieve, see the diagrams below.



Rolling



Kneading



Compression



Percussion

To be perfectly honest with you, I have been using this chair vigorously for almost 14 days and have come to the following conclusion: The iJoy™ 130 is a tremendous quality massage chair and I never could imagine being without this marvelous creature comfort which provides great therapeutic and health benefits! The massage is as good as the HTT hype, and three of the four modes do in fact feel like the strokes a human massage therapist would apply (sans the \$100 an hour a masseuse would probably charge). Notice I said three of the four modes felt like a human. The only mode I thought could use a little more refinement is the Percussion mode. Instead of feeling like an alternating drumbeat of hand chops, it felt more like side to side type motion, but nonetheless, an invigorating sensation indeed!

The iJoy™ Automated Program Experience

The iJoy™ 130's Remote Control unit is built into the left arm of the chair. It looks like a high tech control panel embedded into the arm. It's actually connected by a cord, so it's always where you need it—and you don't misplace it. There are three fully automated pre-set program sequences, each lasting 15 minutes. All three auto programs (Full, Upper, & Lower) use slightly different sequences and ranges of motion, but all combine the rolling, kneading, percussion and compression in an optimal cycle providing you with a deep, soothing massage for your deserving back. An accessory called the "Massage Softening Pad" is also included for you more sensitive types that may need a softer touch.

Chairs to the iJoy™!

In case you can't tell, I love this chair and feel it is a terrific value at \$699! Its double stitched micro-fibre suede fabric is durable and easy to clean. I have been playing Xbox™ games in my iJoy™ this week and can tell you it's a great gaming chair...except for the fact you may be tempted to "massage" while playing which puts a whole new whirl on Force Feedback! An optional iJoy™ accessory, the Ottoman 2.0 (MSRP \$249), provides foot and calf massages, or serves as an adjustable foot rest. To learn more about the iJoy™ line, hop on over to www.iJoy.com.