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Self-determined mobility thanks to customized vehicle modifications***How custom vehicle modifications with Space Drive, modern assistive technology, and personal support are helping Lena achieve a self-determined life on four wheels***

Lena in her custom-adapted Skoda Superb with Space Drive – on the path to self-determined mobility. Photo: Paravan

Mobility means freedom. For Lena, it means one thing above all else: being able to get around independently—in her daily life, at work, and in her free time. The 19-year-old, who is currently training to become a preschool teacher, has now taken this step. With a custom-adapted Skoda Superb and the Paravan Space Drive driving and steering system, she is now independently mobile.

From driver's license to her first car

Lena began her driver's education at the Paravan branch in Heidelberg when she was just 17. Only three weeks later, she held her driver's license in her hand. "At first, I thought: How am I supposed to manage this so quickly? But by the second week, I already felt confident. It's amazing what's technically possible," she says looking back.

After a break of about a year and a half, getting back behind the wheel went smoothly—even if the first driving lesson was a bit nerve-wracking. "It was also a sense of anticipation," Lena explains. After just a few hours, she began to feel confident behind the wheel.

Today she drives a Skoda Superb equipped with the Space Drive electronic driving and steering system. The vehicle is controlled via two joysticks—the right one for steering, the left for the gas and brake. A custom-fitted backrest in the driver's seat provides additional comfort. She operates secondary functions such as turn signals, lights, and the sunroof via the Paravan Touch system as well as voice control. The electric sunroof is one of her personal highlights. The entry and handling

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have been precisely tailored to her needs: a sliding board makes transferring easier, while the Robot 3000 stows the wheelchair in the trunk at the push of a button.

When choosing a vehicle, Lena was clear: no van, no high-roof station wagon. "It had to be a passenger car—also because of parking." Since her E-Fix wheelchair cannot be folded, she chose the Skoda Superb, which offers ample space in the rear. She was inspired by videos from a Paravan customer. "I saw the system there and thought: This could work," she says. She also recommends these videos to friends: "Check out the videos—this is how it works."

"Mobility is freedom"—moving about independently in everyday life

Lena relies on a wheelchair due to a congenital joint stiffness. This made a customized fit down to the last detail all the more important. "I can have the joystick modified a hundred times—the main thing is that it fits perfectly in the end," she says, emphasizing the patience and support from the Paravan team.

As her driving experience grew, a routine quickly developed—both while driving and when getting in and out. The next goals are clear: visiting family, meeting friends—and, for the first time, picking up her brother herself, who has been driving her until now. For Lena, mobility is simply freedom—being able to drive somewhere on her own now.

"Knowing that my car is waiting outside and I can just drive off—that's a wonderful glimpse into the future." As her driving experience grew, she quickly got into a routine—both behind the wheel and when getting in and out of the car. After a good two months, Lena has already driven about 3,000 kilometers on her own. This has noticeably changed her daily life: she can now plan her routes independently and is much more spontaneous and flexible on the road. What used to require planning is now a matter of course. For her, mobility means one thing above all else: freedom—and a significant boost to her quality of life.



Fine-tuning the details: Paravan technician Daniel Haberbosch assists Lena with the individual customization of her vehicle. Photo: Paravan



Adaptation of the wheelchair and the entry area for safe and independent transfer into the vehicle. Photo: Paravan.



Custom vehicle adaptation in detail: Control via joysticks and Paravan Touch for maximum independence. Photo: Paravan



Intuitive operation: Paravan Touch and joystick enable control of all vehicle functions. Photo: Paravan



Customized: Ergonomic backrest ensures stability and a comfortable ride. Photo: Paravan



Automated wheelchair loading: The Robot 3000 enables safe stowage in the vehicle. Photo: Paravan

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About Paravan GmbH:

PARAVAN GmbH is the global market leader in highly customized vehicle solutions for people with disabilities. Approximately 180 employees at the Pfronstetten Aichelau site and the Heidelberg branch develop and produce custom-adapted vehicle conversions and electric wheelchairs, as well as specialized driver training. PARAVAN pursues a holistic approach with its "one-stop-shop concept." The technological highlight is Space Drive, an intelligent digital control system based on the drive-by-wire principle. Thanks to the active redundancy of the servo motors, it is completely fail-safe and the first of its kind to be approved for road use. With the help of this innovation, people with severe disabilities—some without arms or legs—can drive independently and safely. These drivers are unable to physically turn the steering wheel. Over the past 20 years, Space Drive has proven itself on over a billion kilometers of roads worldwide and is used by numerous industry customers for test vehicles in the field of autonomous driving. The system is available as a retrofit kit with an open interface for all known vehicle types. www.paravan.de