

## SIZING CHART

Thruster RLF & Aligner ESE (custom sizes available in the Thruster RLF)

SIZE	LEG CIRCUMFERENCE		
	THIGH	CALF	
	Men & Women	Men	Women
<b>XS</b> X = 01	15.0" - 17.5" 38.1 cm - 44.5 cm	12.0" - 13.5" 30.5 cm - 34.3 cm	10.5" - 12.0" 26.7 cm - 30.5 cm
<b>S</b> X = 03	17.5" - 20.0" 44.5 cm - 50.8 cm	13.5" - 15.0" 34.3 cm - 38.1 cm	12.0" - 13.5" 30.5 cm - 34.3 cm
<b>M</b> X = 05	20.0" - 22.5" 50.8 cm - 57.2 cm	15.0" - 16.5" 38.1 cm - 41.9 cm	13.5" - 15.0" 34.3 cm - 38.1 cm
<b>L</b> X = 07	22.5" - 25.0" 57.2 cm - 63.5 cm	16.5" - 18.0" 41.9 cm - 45.7 cm	15.0" - 16.5" 38.1 cm - 41.9 cm
<b>XL</b> X = 09	25.0" - 27.5" 63.5 cm - 69.9 cm	18.0" - 19.5" 45.7 cm - 49.5 cm	16.5" - 18.0" 41.9 cm - 45.7 cm
<b>XXL</b> X = 11	27.5" - 29.0" 69.9 cm - 73.7 cm	19.5" - 21.0" 49.5 cm - 53.3 cm	18.0" - 19.5" 45.7 cm - 49.5 cm
<b>XXXL</b> X = 13	29.0" - 31.0" 73.7 cm - 78.7 cm	21.0" - 22.5" 53.3 cm - 57.2 cm	19.5" - 21.0" 49.5 cm - 53.3 cm

When ordering substitute value of **x** above in place of **xx** in the appropriate Part Number below.

## PART NUMBERS

Thruster RLF & Aligner ESE:

Suggested HCPCS Code: L1843 (off the shelf) or L1844 (custom)

	Medial Left	Medial Right	Lateral Left	Lateral Right
<b>Standard</b> 5' 6" (168cm) and taller	TA0091xx	TA0092xx	TA0081xx	TA0082xx
<b>Men Short</b> 5' 5" (165cm) or less	TA0191xx	TA0192xx	TA0181xx	TA0182xx
<b>Women Short</b> 5' 5" (165cm) or less	TA0291xx	TA0292xx	TA0281xx	TA0282xx
<b>Aligner ESE:</b>	Medial Left AR0791xx	Medial Right AR0792xx	Lateral Left AR0781xx	Lateral Right AR0782xx

**AFO Attachment:**

Universal - TK074075

## ACCESSORIES & REPLACEMENT PARTS

Carrying Bag • Supplex/Lycra Undersleeve • Neoprene Undersleeve  
Replacement Pad and Strap Kits

## INDICATIONS

**Thruster RLF & Aligner ESE Medial (MA)**

This device is indicated for Medial Unicompartmental Gonarthrosis, to help relieve pain and inflammation, to aid in delaying osteotomy or total joint procedures, to increase daily walking time while increasing activities, and to aid in slowing the progression of the condition. Also indicated for post-operative or post-injury applications following lateral and postero-lateral injuries to the connective tissue of the knee to help relieve stress on these healing structures.

**Thruster RLF & Aligner ESE Lateral (LA)**

This device is indicated for Lateral Unicompartmental Gonarthrosis, to help relieve pain and inflammation, to aid in delaying osteotomy or total joint procedures, to increase daily walking time while increasing activities, and to aid in slowing the progression of the condition. Also indicated for post-operative or post-injury applications following medial collateral ligament injury or reconstruction to help relieve stress on these healing structures.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

**Thruster RLF & Aligner ESE Medial (MA)**

This device is contraindicated for Lateral Unicompartmental Gonarthrosis tri- or bi-compartmental osteoarthritis for knees with injury or chronic stretch of the medial collateral ligaments or other medial or antero-medial structures of the knee.

**Thruster RLF & Aligner ESE Lateral (LA)**

This device is contraindicated for Medial Unicompartmental Gonarthrosis tri- or bi-compartmental osteoarthritis for knees with injury or chronic stretch of the medial collateral ligaments or other medial or postero-lateral connective structures of the knee.

## RESTRICTIONS ON USE

The Thruster RLF and Aligner ESE are offered for sale by or on the order of a physician or other qualified medical professional. The Thruster RLF and Aligner ESE are not intended for reuse on a second patient. The Thruster RLF and Aligner ESE are not intended to prevent injuries or reduce or eliminate the risk of injury.

## WARNING

Do not leave this device in the trunk of a car on a hot day or in any place where the temperatures may exceed 150° (65° C) for any extended period of time. If any additional pain or symptoms occur while using this device, discontinue use and seek medical attention.

## BLED SOE LIMITED WARRANTY

This device is warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 90 days for pads, straps and normal wear components, 12 months on all other parts and 3 years against hinge breakage. These warranties apply to devices that have not been modified or subjected to misuse, abuse or neglect.

## THRUSTER RLF 60-DAY PAIN RELIEF GUARANTEE

If the Thruster RLF OA Knee Brace does not provide satisfactory pain relief to the patient in the first 60 days of use, it can be returned for a full refund to the ordering facility. No one offers a stronger guarantee because no one else offers a better OA brace. Guarantee details may be obtained from our Web Site at [www.BledsoeBrace.com](http://www.BledsoeBrace.com).

For more detailed information on these products, including fitting and adjustment instructions, visit our Web Site at [www.BledsoeBrace.com](http://www.BledsoeBrace.com). For product information or questions pertaining to sales or service, please contact the sales representative in your area or Bledsoe Brace Systems.



## The Changing Face of OA

John Haynes is 51 years of age and suffers unicompartmental knee OA.

As Captain of Marine Vessel 'Secret Island', he can spend 12 to 36 hours on duty. Climbing ladders. Crossing vessels. Loading equipment.

His Bledsoe OA brace enables him to stay active and productive. In fact, John has bicycled over 3,000 miles wearing his Bledsoe Thruster OA brace.

John is the changing face of OA.



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## Today's OA patients are more demanding



They need to resolve the pain to maintain successful careers.

They enjoy active lifestyles. They travel. Garden. Play sports.

Exercise to stay in shape.

There is only one orthopedic company with braces engineered for these younger, more active OA patients. Bledsoe Brace Systems.

There are three reasons Bledsoe OA braces outperform every other brace on the market.

### #1. Superior Pain Relief

Bledsoe OA braces have been proven in independent research to outperform the major competitive braces.

### #2. Superior Comfort

Few OA braces can be worn more than 4 hours.

Captain Haynes has worn his Bledsoe brace for 36 hours straight.

No other brace is engineered to be comfortably worn as long as Bledsoe braces.

Why? Because of the fit.

Because of the padding.

Because of the materials.

And because of the design.

### #3. Compliance is better in a Bledsoe Brace

Bledsoe has removed all the reasons not to wear it.

It works. It relieves the pain.

Migration is eliminated. The brace stays where it needs to stay to provide relief.

## The Best OA Pain Relief You Can Prescribe

*The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery\** published an independent study that evaluated and compared the performance of the leading OA braces. The study used fluoroscopic images of patients wearing each of five braces. Images were captured at five instances during the gait cycle where patients experience pain:

**Heel strike; 1/3 of stance phase; Mid-stance; 2/3 of stance-phase; and Toe-off.**

The amount of medial condylar separation was measured for each subject, at each stance phase, wearing each of the competitive braces. The measurements were then compared to determine which brace was most effective.

The **Thruster** consistently rated best in every stance-phase. It is the only brace that provided pain relief throughout the gait cycle. The study was performed impartially and without financial support from any of the participating brace companies.

At heel strike, the Bledsoe brace averaged the highest separation.



At mid-stance, only the Bledsoe brace averaged separation values greater than the margin of error.



At toe-off, the Bledsoe brace average separation (1.3mm) was more than 3X greater than the second-best performer.



**The Bledsoe Thruster rated best in every stance phase.**

Ask your sales associate for a copy of the University of Tennessee study published in JBJS.

\* Komistek, Richard D. Ph.D., Director, Center for Musculoskeletal Research, Nadaud, Matthew C. MD; Dennis, Douglas, A. MD; Anderle, Mathew R.; Kubo, Matthew B. "In Vivo Three-Dimensional Determination of OA Brace Effectiveness: A Multiple Brace Analysis." American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, February 2005



Bledsoe  
**Thruster**  
RLF

### A Better Brace for a Growing Condition.

The Thruster RLF delivers renowned Thruster performance in a more comfortable, convenient brace.

### Re-engineered Shell Relieves Tibial Pressure

The Thruster RLF eliminates tibial pressure and pain common to other OA braces.

### Hinge Positioning Counters Rotational Tendency

Bledsoe's dynamic bracing innovation of removing side thrust as the knee moves into flexion has been enhanced by posterior hinge positioning. The new posterior positioning of the hinge behind the neutral point of the knee center counterbalances any anterior rotational moment common to fixed angle OA braces.



Also available in custom styles and colors.

## The End of Migration

Offloading braces create force. When harnessed, the force provides condylar separation to relieve pain. Mis-directed, it causes the brace to piston and migrate.

The new strap saddle maximizes circumferential support by preventing strap indentation into the soft tissue. This enhances force and keeps the leg coupled to the hinge.

By re-configuring the anchor points of the straps, Bledsoe created a more natural fit with all force focused on providing unicompartamental pain relief.

## Innovative Buckle Concept

Some patients have trouble tightening the straps. But, Bledsoe OA braces have a unique closure system. Borrowed from the ski industry, the over-center buckle design provides a better fit with less effort and hand strength.

The buckles also reduce the wear on hook & loop strapping. Fit the brace once, then the buckles handle daily wear.



Over-center buckles are easy to open.  
Easy to close.  
Simple to adjust.

## Patient Adjustment Dial

The Thruster RLF is a patient pain management tool.

Bledsoe OA braces have an easy adjustment for pain relief. Just push in and turn the dial with the leg in flexion.

The patient can adapt the brace immediately to resolve their level of pain.

Bledsoe OA braces offer more degrees of correction than any other brace, enough to provide pain relief through abundant soft tissue.



Bledsoe  
**ALIGNER** ESE

Thruster Performance for patients suffering mild to moderate knee OA, the Aligner ESE provides BIG pain relief.

It is perfect for patients who need pain relief to return to their daily activities, but don't need the power built into the Thruster RLF.