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I have reviewed the operation of the Wovel and offer the following comments:

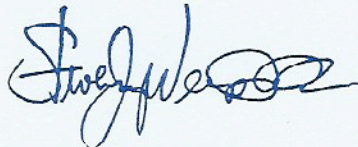
First of all I am an osteopathic physician, licensed to practice medicine; board certified in osteopathic neuromuscular medicine. I am on the faculty of two medical schools, am a clinical trainer of physicians, residents, interns, and students in the fields of biomechanics, Osteopathic medicine, and chronic pain problem-solving. I am recognized as an expert in the fields of mechanics, pain management and sports medicine.

Snow shoveling is not for the faint of heart or frail of body! Every winter I see dozens and dozens of people who suffer musculoskeletal injuries, often severely, as the result of snow shoveling. The conventional snow shovel is an inefficient device. It places excessive strain upon the arms, shoulders, upper back, lower back, sacrum, pelvis, and legs.

I am also aware of the statistics regarding people who die from snow-shoveling related heart attacks or strokes. Some degree of care must first be taken to determine, perhaps based upon a doctor's advice, whether snow shoveling is appropriate for your health and whether you are at risk of snow shoveling injuries. As in any strenuous physical activity we should be at least a little prepared: stretching, and maybe some strength and cardiopulmonary training in preparation to make ourselves fitter and minimize the risks of problems.

So where does the Wovel fit in? Finally with the Wovel, it would appear that personal snow shoveling has entered the machine age! While it will not remove all risks of strain or injury, it appears to have made shoveling much more efficient, safer, less strenuous, easier, thus reducing the risks for either musculoskeletal or heart-related injuries. I have carefully reviewed the device and films of the Wovel in operation. It is designed specifically to minimize upper body and arm as well as low back and pelvic strain, and because it uses leverage and mechanical advantages it, by virtue of this increased efficiency, will decrease strain upon the heart. It makes me wish that I had had one when I lived on the north coast of Maine and shoveled large amounts of snow every winter.

Again, if you *must* shovel snow, and are physically fit and prepare enough to consider doing it responsibly, then I would not hesitate to recommend the Wovel as the first major improvement in the personal shovel since the Middle Ages. It represents a truly safe and viable alternative to either a snow blower or hiring a truck with a snowplow.



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