



BeBalanced! MEETS BodyART™



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BeBalanced! meets BodyART™

What is the AIREX[®] Balance-pad?

The Balance-pad is a special foam pillow consisting of over 90% air. It was developed in 1996 by the company Alcan Airex AG in Switzerland.

What is so special about the AIREX[®] Balance-pad?

When attempting to achieve balance, the body requires all the different groups of muscles to interact perfectly. This ability to coordinate determines how quickly someone copes successfully with new situations.

The Balance-pad enables you to achieve familiar training moves more effectively. The enhanced ability to keep your balance enables movements to be mastered more effectively and situations to be mastered more quickly – life becomes less of an effort, more elegant and more fun.

Less pain and more enjoyment lead to more motivation and less fear of new challenges. Physical and mental equilibrium are the basis for physical and mental fitness, and for every type of performance enhancement.

The Balance-pad is at the forefront of new developments and can be used for core training (stabilising and strengthening the core of the body) as well as proprioceptive training (sensitisation and economisation of muscle activity).

The benefits at a glance

- Unique stimulation of the sensorimotor system
- Multifunctional
- Easy to store
- Naturally soft – consisting of 90% air
- With antibacterial coating
- Cost effective

The benefits of the AIREX[®] Balance-pad

An aid for efficient toning, back exercise and BodyART™
Endurance training without impact stress
Unique stimulation of the sensorimotor system
Balance and posture training
Fluid, linked movements relevant to daily life
Compensatory exercises for the feet
More economical movements through improved fine motor skills
Mental harmonisation
(flowing movements / music in 3/4 or 4/4 time)
Vascular exercises

Technique

Posture

Good posture is the foundation for every safe and effective technique. We also want to convey positive images to the customer. We show them what correct posture looks like, and tell them what they can do. We do not talk about prohibitions and restrictions, but point out options to them: We train with them!

Good physiological posture is especially important in BeBalanced! training, to achieve the stability required to work on the pad:

- Feet in basic position (ankle, knee and hip joint in one vertical line)
- Weight is distributed equally between the 3 points of the feet
- Knee above the centre of the foot
- Neutral pelvis posture and physiological posture of the spine
- Tense up the torso (lower belly)
- Close the costal arches
- Lift the breast bone forward and up
(increasing the distance between the breastbone and the navel)
- Shoulders back, arms loose (thumbs / forefingers to the front)
- Head in neutral position and neck straight



BodyART™

BodyART™ © by Robert Steinbacher <http://www.bodyartschool.com/de/>

In the **BodyART training principle**, the focus is on the person as a functional unit. One's inner attitude reflects external posture, and consequently the energy that is transferred into daily life. BodyART combines elements from yoga, kinesiatics, Japanese DO IN, some new positions and classic breathing techniques – to create a synergy of training and relaxation. The ultimate goal of BodyART training is to guarantee the correct operation of the complete body by strengthening its functions and stabilising the entire apparatus of movement.

By means of carefully selected, coordinated exercises and positions, the body breaks down acquired patterns of movement and positively counteracts poor posture. Each exercise is deliberately conducted with breathing and concentration, slowly enough for the body to have sufficient space to counteract negative loads or excessively rapid, unconscious movements.

In contrast to classic power training, the emphasis is not on the individual muscle but on the human body in its entirety. All the exercises and positions are whole-body exercises, which exploit (train) several muscles in the body at the same time. Many positions in BodyART require enhanced balance and equilibrium techniques. In this way the attention is focussed on the body's core.

This has the advantage that the person doing the training concentrates consciously on his/her own body, and does not allow him/herself to be distracted by external surroundings. This guarantees correct breathing, and increases the supply of oxygen to the brain and muscles. The consequence of this is that the body is simultaneously relaxed during training as a result of increased awareness and the conscious application of breathing.

In their leisure time, people who are aware of their bodies are increasingly looking for opportunities for relaxation, stress reduction and peace – in other words a way to rediscover themselves and to bring body and mind into harmony.

Many people take the time to visit a gym in order to improve their physical fitness, or to balance or dissipate the energy they invest in their working lives. Of course many also train to achieve a beautiful body, following examples from advertising, the media and our personal ideals. But achieving a beautiful body and a positive attitude takes not just your body but also your soul.

The solution is a workout that does not aim to train individual muscle groups, but views the individual as a combination of body, mind and soul. BodyART.

At the centre of these training and relaxation methods stands the principle of ying and yang. In training this would mean breathing in, breathing out, tensing and relaxing. All the exercises (activities) are interconnected and self-contained, without beginning and without end. This is an essential component of the BodyART training principle. Every exercise and every position fits together like a jigsaw puzzle and is interconnected. In a sequence of several training positions, you begin at a starting point and at the end of the training unit you return to this departure point.

Depending on the level of the participants and the intensity of the training, the training sequence can be repeated or give way to a different set of exercises. This results in enhanced coordination between the two halves of the brain. Body and mind are merged into one entity, a synergy of physical training and mental relaxation.

When BodyART training is carried out regularly, new movement patterns are internalised and the human body breaks down old movement patterns (poor posture), creating a bridge to enhanced body-awareness and increased energy in daily life. Increased awareness takes root, opening up new scope and pushing back physical and mental barriers.

The AIREX[®] Balance-pad and BodyART training thus form an ideal combination for making exercises and positions easier or harder. But the utmost attention should always be paid to execution and technique.

BeBalanced! Lesson

Warm-up: 10 to 15 minutes of individual warm-up

Exercise 1: Chair (simplified)



Dynamic leg and bottom strengthening

Position: Legs shoulder-width
Technique: Bend and stretch legs
Number: 8 to 16
Sets: 2

Exercise 2: Chair



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Legs shoulder-width
Technique: Hold, tense up the torso
Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
Sets: 2

Exercise 3: Chair with rotation



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Legs closed
Technique: Hold and turn from the thoracic spine
Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
Change sides
Sets: 2

Exercise 4: Balance



Balance exercise

Position: Weight on one leg
 Technique: Hold and tense up the torso
 Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
 Change legs
 Sets: 2

Exercise 5: Balance (more difficult)



Balance exercise

Position: Weight on one leg
 Technique: Hold and tense up the torso
 Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
 Change legs
 Sets: 2

Exercise 6: Lung



Dynamic leg and bottom strengthening

Position: Lunge, rear leg bent
 Technique: Down and up
 Number: 8 to 16
 Back onto the pad and change legs
 Sets: 2

Exercise 7: Warrior



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Lunge, rear leg stretched out
 Technique: Hold, tense up the torso
 Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
 Back onto the pad and change legs
 Sets: 2

Exercise 8: Triangle propped up on one arm



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Lunge, rear leg stretched out
Technique: Hold, torso steady
Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
Back onto the pad and change legs
Sets: 2

Exercise 9: Transition exercise to V-position



Exercise 10: Dog, inverted V



Whole body exercise

Position: Climbing with legs back
Technique: Hold, legs bent, pelvis tilted, back stretched, neck straight
Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
Sets: 1

Exercise 11: Push up



Dynamic chest and arm strengthening

Position: Hands on pad, knees on floor
Technique: Elbows beside the body, bend and stretch arms
Number: 4 to 8
Sets: 2

Exercise 12: Hover



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Forearms on the pad, legs away from the floor
 Technique: Hold, tense up torso, neck straight
 Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
 Sets: 2

Exercise 13: Back



Dynamic back strengthening

Position: Bauch auf Pad
 Position: Stomach on the pad
 Technique: Raise upper body slightly and lower again, extend the movement idea, arms in external rotation
 Number: 8 to16
 Sets: 2

Exercise 14: Back



Dynamic back strengthening

Position: Stomach on the pad
 Technique: Arm and leg lightly crossed raise, extend the movement idea
 Number: 8 to 16 (changing sides)
 Sets: 2

Exercise 15: Quadruped



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Hand on floor, knee on pad
 Technique: Raise arm and leg, extend the movement idea
 Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant (change sides)
 Sets: 2

Exercise 16: Stomach



Dynamic stomach strengthening

Position: Back on pad
Technique: Activate pelvic floor,
Raise and lower shoulder and head
Number: approx. 24 (or acc. to participant)
Sets: 2

Exercise 17: T-stand



Stabilisation exercise

Position: Forearm on Pad
Technique: Hold, shoulder joint stable,
raise torso laterally,
Holding period: min.10 seconds, or acc. to participant
(change sides)
Sets: 2

Cool-down: 10 to 15 minutes individual wind-down

Note: If there are too few Balance-pads available, divide into two groups and swap the pads between the two sets. Keep loosening up the body now and again between sets, and mobilise the shoulder joints and spine.