

# A Very Useful Grabber

**Alan Wilburn**

*As anyone who has had a hip replacement will know, the inability to bend down and pick things up can be very frustrating. Alan Wilburn describes a very capable 'grabber' from Lakeland, and asks if anyone knows of one better.*

In our household, we have been using 'reachers' for many years, to pick up items from the floor and awkward places, ever since my wife had her first bionic hip installed. We came across one that is designed to pick up items of up to 2kg (or 5lb in old money).



When it is folded it can be slotted at the back of work surfaces out of the way until needed.



It is nearly a metre long when unfolded.

In normal use there is a lock to meld the two pieces together.

The handle end contains the trigger to make the two suction cups close on the item to be picked up, with a locking key to make sure the two grippers stay in place.

We have found it to be ideal for reaching tins from top shelves, though I'm a bit wary of lifting more than a large tin of soup because we have glass chopping boards around(!), but it suits us very well.

It is available from Lakeland for about £8 ([Click here](#)).

Incidentally, I have been looking for a reacher that I tried out about 17 years ago. It was all steel and could lift a building brick with ease. We had been to the launch site for a cleanup initiative by some government minister and some unknown firm donated them to my school for the kids to pickup rubbish safely. If anybody comes across them please send details of the web site as they are ideal for use in the garden.