

# TEST BENCH

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INDEPENDENT EXPERTS PUT PRODUCTS THROUGH THEIR PACES

**PRODUCT:** Flo monitor arm  
**COMPANY:** Colebrook Bosson Saunders  
**JUDGE:** Levent Çağlar

## INSTALLATION

Flo can be bolted through a desk or clamped at the edge, with a minimal protrusion of only the 5mm thickness of the clamp. The lower section of the arm can rotate through 360 degrees, but, if it is installed against a wall or desk screen, this can be limited to 180 degrees by repositioning a clip located in the base, which can be switched back if needed. The tension of the spring is adjusted easily with an Allen key to match the weight of the monitor up to 9kg, the typical weight of a 24in flat panel. There is a convenient numerical display on the upper arm showing the user's chosen tension which can then be replicated easily for mass installation, even pre-setting them off site. The monitor can be slid readily on and off the arm using the simple quick-release mechanism incorporated in the VESA plate.

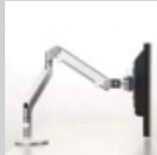


## ADJUSTABILITY

Flo is extremely easily moved to the precise position the user's chooses, offering much better manoeuvrability than is usual. It glides elegantly, stopping as soon as required with no unwanted bounce. It can be pushed back or pulled forward without the height or lateral position changing, using only a gentle force. It can be quickly rested only 15cm from the back of the desk when other work is to be done in front of it. The monitor can be lowered to rest it on the desktop. The extensive height adjustment range of more than 30cm makes Flo suitable for all users, even as a touch screen when the user is standing. As they can pull it forward by more than 50cm, they can place it near enough to be used comfortably as a touch screen. Changing orientation between landscape and portrait is smooth and precise. So too is adjusting the screen tilt, which does not gradually creep away from the set position, and when the monitor is used as a touch screen there is no noticeable vibration or movement.

## 3 RIVALS

**M2 BY HUMANSCALE**  
 Uses spring technology in a sleek elegant design with mirror-like finish



and excellent cable management. Easier to raise than lower. Good depth and height range. 180-degree rotation limiter. Quick release.



**LX BY ERGOTRON**  
 Good depth and height range. Monitor tilts back through 80 degrees for

touch-screen use, but no quick release. Angular look. Cables are routed through the lower section of the arm but secured below the upper part with tie wraps.

**VIEWMASTER M5 BY DATAFLEX**



Good depth and height range achieved only by buying the basic arm with one extension. 145-degree tilt enables touch-screen use. Takes weights up to 12kg. Gas spring gives a more chunky look. Cables visible. No quick release.

## DESIGN

As its name suggests, the Flo floats effortlessly from one position to another. The innovative use of an arc instead of a universal ball joint enables the monitor to tilt further, through  $\pm 40$  degrees, so it can be used as a touch screen. It has been designed with an environmentally friendly spring mechanism to move easily and stay stable at the chosen position, and does so excellently. Its pure and simple cylindrical form conceals the mechanisms well.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Avoiding gas cylinders and using only steel, plastics and 35 per cent recycled aluminium, with a natural aluminium finish, Flo components can be separated easily for recycling.

## CABLES

Cables are well concealed inside the lower arm within a plastic casing, although the exit slots may be a little narrow if the user needs three cables. As one exit is at the front of the base, the cables need to run in view across the top of the clamp. They are also visible running along the lower edge of the upper arm where they sag near the joint because there is only one clip, placed at the end near the monitor.

## VERDICT

Excellent manoeuvrability and stability make Flo a truly ergonomic monitor arm. Ingenious design enables it to double up as an effective touch-screen support. Through the use of a spring it achieves a minimalist simple form which is pleasing to the eye and also environmentally responsible.

★★★★★



## JUDGE: LEVENT ÇAĞLAR

Levent Çağlar has been the senior ergonomist at FIRA (Furniture Industry Research Association) for more than 15 years. His initial training is in design/mechanical engineering. Çağlar has been involved in the design of a number of well-known chairs – some design icons. He has carried out ergonomics evaluations of most of the reputable and many not-so-reputable chairs on the market, and is involved in the campaign for better seating for schoolchildren.