

# Instruction manual

## Telefolding cane

Model series TF25, TF25/28 Hybrid, TF28



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## 1. General Information

The Comde-Derenda TF series white canes are high quality folding canes that can be optimally adapted to the height of the user by combining a freely selectable number of tubular elements using a telescopic mechanism. All types of the TF series are based on the same construction principle. This instruction manual is intended to familiarize you systematically and comprehensively with the features, functions and operation of your telefolding cane. It also contains a number of important safety instructions. Please read them carefully so that you can use the many functions of your telefolding cane safely and efficiently. Unless otherwise indicated, instructions and descriptions apply to all cane models. Please note that individual details of the device description and the illustrations may differ from the features of your individual product.

Comde-Derenda GmbH does not guarantee the completeness and correctness of the contents of this manual. Liability for consequential damages resulting from the use of products of Comde-Derenda GmbH is excluded.

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## 2. Intended Purpose

Telefolding canes of manufacturer Comde-Derenda GmbH are hand-carried aids for orientation (orientation function), for the detection of obstacles and warning of sighted people (protective function) and identification of blind or visually impaired people in road traffic (signaling function) and is intended to partially compensate the visual impairment. Users of the product are blind or visually impaired people.

For the **signaling function**, the cane is designed as a long, thin white cane, in case of deafblindness depending on regional conventions also segment-wise alternating red and white. For better visibility in poor light conditions, the surface is partially reflecting.

**Orientation function:** For orientation and detection of obstacles, the ground is touched with the cane's tip, depending on the technique either by tapping, sliding over the ground or using a pendulum movement in front of the user's body. Thus, information on the environment is obtained.

The **protective function** is based on the signal effect for sighted people which shall exclude users from the principle of legitimate expectations and be especially careful, as well as an extension of the user's perception range which ideally lets the cane meet an obstacle before physical contact or a crash. Thus, the cane provides information about an upcoming dangerous situation to the user.

There is no supporting function. The telefolding cane is not suitable to carry or support the user's body weight wholly or partially. Risks of falling or damage on the product are expectable.

### 2.1. Intended Use

The cane is carried with one hand and brought into contact with the ground. The cane transmits tactile information which is gained from contact with the ground, an object or obstacle.

**Configurability:** The product is configurable with the original handles for white canes intended for the certain model by manufacturer Comde-Derenda GmbH.

**Accessories:** The white cane must be used with a tip. Rigid or roller tips with a standard thread M8 x 1.25 with a maximum length of 12 mm and a maximum total weight of 100 g can be used.

So-called push broom tips with a maximum total weight of 250 g can be used on according indication or because of individual needs. The use of such tips can result in increased wear, damages may be more likely to occur.

**Modifications or changes** are not permitted. Exceptions: The rubber loop at the handle may be removed. The hook-and-loop tape (velcro® tape) can be removed or replaced with a functionally identical similar fixing tape or strip. Regarding the signaling function and indication according to road traffic regulations (German StVO and others), it is not permitted to remove or cover the white resp. red-white reflecting foil. A small-scale area on the segment where the type plate is located may be used to stick on individual decorative elements, if and only if the cane consists of at least two more segments with

white foil. The type plate must not be removed or covered. A diminished signal effect must be taken into account when attaching decorative elements.

## 3. Instructions for use

### 3.1. Functionality

Upon delivery, the telefolding cane is folded and held together by hook-and-loop strap on the handle tube. The telescopic part in the handle is slid-in.

To use the folding cane, first loosen the hook-and-loop strap and hold the cane loosely by the handle towards the floor. The cane then assembles itself with the help of its rubber cord.

To adjust the folding cane to your individual size, turn the sliding tube on its knurled nut (a ripped part below the handle) counterclockwise while holding the handle tube. After a half to full turn, the sliding tube can be slid out of the handle tube. When the desired length is reached, turn the sliding tube again, clockwise this time, while holding the handle tube to fix the length of the telescopic element.

### 3.2. Attaching the rigid tip

The rigid tips (models D25KB, D35KB, D14F, D80Snow) are affixed manually like a screw in the thread of the bottom tube without any further aid. The O-ring at the end of the threaded pin ensures a firm but detachable fit of the rigid tip by clamping. The tightness should be checked from time to time, as the probing movement may cause vibrations that could cause loosening of the screw connection. If the tip is to be loosened, it can be screwed off manually.



**Fig. 1: Rigid tip (example)**

### 3.3. Attaching the roller tip

The roller tip consists of two parts: the swivel and the replaceable roller cap. Upon delivery, the rolling element (cap) is connected to the swivel by grub screws to form a unit. The roller tip is screwed into the thread of the bottom tube with a wrench supplied with the purchase. For this purpose, a wrench is placed on the sharp-edged wrench face of the swivel. Using another wrench, the bottom tube of the stick can be held in place, holding the edged end.

The O-ring at the end of the threaded pin ensures a firm but detachable fit of the tip by clamping. The tightness should be checked from time to time, as the probing movement may cause vibrations that could cause loosening of the screw connection.

### 3.4. Changing the rolling element (cap) of the roller tip

The cap is connected to the swivel by two grub screws. They are released with the Allen key supplied. The worn-out cap is removed from the swivel, the new cap is fitted and its grub screws are tightened again, using an Allen key.



Fig. 2: Cap and swivel

### 3.5. Folding the cane

The individual tubes are held together by hard anodized conical connecting parts without clearance, and the rubber cord inside the cane. The conical shape of the connecting parts ensures a stable connection of the individual cane segments. To fold the cane, pull the individual segments apart, starting from the handle, and fold them on top of each other. Then use the hook-and-loop strap below the handle to fix the segments by putting it around the folded cane.

## **4. Important notes**

### **4.1. Instructions for use**

Your Comde-Derenda telefolding cane is a precision object, developed with great attention to detail, which, when used properly, will provide you with many years of reliable service. Our white cane has been optimized for the common, easy to use rolling or touch technique, which, if properly executed, will allow you to use the cane even during long daily use without joint or muscle pain. If you have any questions about the correct technique, please contact your mobility and orientation trainer, who will be happy to help you learn the correct technique.

Please note that you should always attach a roller or rigid tip to the bottom tube of the folding cane to ensure that the bottom tube is closed. Otherwise, the cane can be damaged by soil and the bottom tube can be damaged by continuously touching the ground and obstacles.

### **4.2. Repair services**

All Comde-Derenda white canes are designed to last for many years. Should the cane be damaged during use, each part of the cane can be replaced individually. However, in order to guarantee a perfect repair by our specialists, it is imperative that no modifications are made to the cane without agreeing with Comde-Derenda GmbH. If you have any questions how to handle your cane, please consult our staff.

## 5. Type overview

### Series TF25

Model	Length folded	Basic length	Maximum length	Number of elements
TF25KK	25 cm	66 cm	79 cm	4
TF25K	25 cm	88 cm	102 cm	5
TF25	25 cm	111 cm	125 cm	6
TF25XL	25 cm	133 cm	147 cm	7

### Series TF28

Model	Length folded	Basic length	Maximum length	Number of elements
TF28KK	28 cm	75 cm	92 cm	4
TF28K	28 cm	100 cm	117 cm	5
TF28	28 cm	126 cm	143 cm	6
TF28XL	28 cm	150 cm	168 cm	7

### Series TF25/28 Hybrid

Model	Length folded	Basic length	Maximum length	Number of elements
TF25/28 Hybrid	28 cm	117 cm	134 cm	6
TF25/28 Hybrid XL	28 cm	140 cm	157 cm	7

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