Research – Ariel Rideout

An article on the history of the car cupholder:
http://slate.msn.com/id/2096958/

And a review of some great successes in the design of everyday objects
http://slate.msn.com/id/2100245/

It is probably relevant to note that the wildly successful OXO GoodGrips line of merchandise was originally conceived for arthritis sufferers.
http://www.oxo.com/home.php