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ABSTRACT

The devices listed in this reference circular are designed to assist people who have visual impairments by magnifying objects and print or graphic materials. Before buying a magnification device, one should consult a low-vision specialist to determine the level of usable vision, the power of magnification needed for a particular eye condition and particular task, and to learn how to use the magnifier correctly. A student has different visual needs than a working-age adult or an older adult who may be retired. The first two sections list available products and the third section gives the addresses and telephone numbers of the producers and vendors. Subsequent sections provide a selective list of books and journal articles related to low vision, describe evaluations of specific devices, and list selective Internet resources. Because prices are subject to change without notice, contact companies directly to verify current prices and product specifications. Visit the web site of companies to check for the availability of Internet specials, free demonstration software, and home trials. Items listed in this reference circular are not part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program, and their listing does not imply endorsement. (AEF)

Magnifying Devices: A Resource Guide



**National Library Service
for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped**

The Library of Congress

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Introduction

The devices listed in this reference circular are designed to assist people who have visual impairments by magnifying objects and print or graphic materials. Before buying a magnification device, one should consult a low-vision specialist to determine the level of usable vision, the power of magnification needed for a particular eye condition and particular task, and to learn how to use the magnifier correctly. A student has different visual needs than a working-age adult or an older adult who may be retired. One may need a device for distance viewing to be able to drive, read characters on a blackboard, or enjoy a sports event. Other devices assist with activities such as close reading, performing detailed tasks, writing, and walking around.

The first two sections list available products and the third section gives the addresses and telephone numbers of the producers and vendors. Subsequent sections provide a selective list of books and journal articles related to low vision, describe evaluations of specific devices, and list selective Internet resources. Because prices are subject to change without notice, contact companies directly to verify current prices and product specifications. Visit the web site of companies to check for the availability of Internet specials, free demonstration software, and home trials.

Items listed in this reference circular are not part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program, and their listing does not imply endorsement.

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Magnifiers

Magnifiers come in many weights and styles: attached to a handle or a neck cord, on a stand, or as a headset. Prices vary based on factors such as the material and strength of the lens and the type, if any, of illumination (battery, bulb, or light-emitting diode). The different types are described below. A low-vision specialist can provide detailed information and demonstrate how to use each one. A local rehabilitation facility or lighthouse for blind persons may have low-vision resources. The following selective companies, which sell a variety of magnifiers, should be contacted directly for a catalog. Their addresses begin on page 21:

Ann Morris	LS&S
Beyond Sight	Maxi-Aids
Bossert	Mons International
BUGZ-EYE International	National Association for Visually
Carolyn's	Handicapped
Disability Specialtys	Optelec
Edmund Scientific	Phillips Magnification
Image Marketing	S. Walters
Independent Living Aids	Spalding

Bar Magnifier

Provides 2x magnification for one or two lines of type at a time. Measures 1"-2" in width and comes in 5-1/4" and 12" lengths to cover the full line of most books. Lies flat directly on the reading material and the magnifier is moved down the page. May have feet to raise the magnifier a few inches above the material. Price range: \$2-\$34, \$54 for a raised-bar magnifier.

Binocular Magnifier

Is worn around the head, such as the **OptiVisor**, either alone or over prescription or safety eyeglasses for closeup precision use. Features an adjustable headband and a flip-up frame to move the magnifier out of view.

Ann Morris, \$39.95, \$42.95
Beyond Sight, \$34.95, \$49, \$64.95
Carolyn's, \$43
Edmund Scientific, \$16.95, \$49.95, \$62.95
Independent Living Aids, \$24.95, \$29.95
Spalding, \$38, \$62

Dome or Globe Magnifier

Has a spherical shape that can lie flat on a small reading surface or can be viewed vertically for activities such as threading a needle or reading a thermometer.

Price range: \$6-\$105.

Fresnel Magnifier

Comes in a variety of sizes: bookmark, credit card, index card, and full page.

May be framed or unframed and may be hand-held or attached to a stand that can sit on a table with an object underneath or be placed in front of a computer monitor. Price range: \$7-\$150.

Hand-Held Magnifier

Varies in quality from inexpensive models that can be purchased in a drugstore to high-quality, distortion-free instruments. Is useful for spot tasks such as reading a label on a medicine bottle or a telephone number, checking a stock listing or price tag, or consulting a map. Comes in nonilluminated and illuminated models and in round and rectangular shapes. Price range: \$10-\$120.

Neck or Pendant Magnifier

Magnifies 2x to 4x. Rests on a person's chest and is supported by an adjustable cord around the neck. Allows both hands to be free to hold reading material or to work on sewing or other tasks. Comes in nonilluminated and illuminated models. Price range: \$10-\$74.

Page Magnifier

See: **Fresnel Magnifier**

Pocket Magnifier

May be housed in a hard plastic case that slides or snaps open and shut or in a soft cover that can be used as a handle. May come with two or more lenses that can be used singly or in combination. Comes in nonilluminated and illuminated models. Price range: \$5-\$90.

Stand Magnifier

Is set in a holder that is attached to small legs or other supports. Sits above a page in a frame that is fixed or at a tilt so it automatically maintains a consistent distance from the reading material and remains in focus even if the user has

unsteady hands or tremors. Comes in nonilluminated and illuminated models.
Price range: \$28-\$196

Magnifying Lamps

High-intensity lighting and magnifying lamps reduce glare to improve the viewing of close tasks.

Big Eye Magnifying Floor Lamp

Has an 18" gooseneck with an adjustable 5" lens attached to the shade.

Beyond Sight, \$69.95

Carolyn's, \$145

LS&S, \$88.95

National Association for Visually Handicapped, \$90, \$108

Spalding, \$129

Big Eye Magnifying Desk (Table) Lamp

Has a gooseneck with an adjustable 5" lens attached to the shade.

Beyond Sight, \$44.95

Carolyn's, \$65

LS&S, call for price

National Association for Visually Handicapped, \$45, \$54

Spalding, \$65

Big Eye Two-Arm Floor Lamp

Has a gooseneck with a lamp on an 18" flexible arm and a 5" diameter 2x lens on a separate 18" adjustable arm.

LS&S, \$124.95

Big Eye Two-Arm Table Lamp

Has a gooseneck with a lamp on a 14" flexible arm and a 5" diameter lens on a separate 18" adjustable arm.

LS&S, \$58.95

National Association for Visually Handicapped, \$65, \$78

Spalding, \$69.95

Dazor Desk and Floor Magnifier Lamps (Dazor)

Have various powers of magnification with fluorescent, halogen, and incandescent light sources.

Boyd, \$120-\$3,550

Dazor, \$120-\$3,550

Disability Specialties, \$159-\$229

Independent Living Aids, \$169-\$239

Lighting Specialties, \$98-\$395

National Association for Visually Handicapped, \$175-\$330

Giraffe Floor Lamp with Magnifier

Magnifies 2x. Adjusts from 2' to 7' in height. Has 30" long gooseneck and cast iron base.

Independent Living Aids, \$230

Disability Specialties, \$230, \$240

Luxo Desk and Floor Magnifier Lamps (Luxo)

Have various powers of magnification with fluorescent, halogen, and incandescent light sources.

Luxo, call for pricing and distributors

National Association for Visually Handicapped, \$200-\$330

Magnifying Lamp

Is attached around the head with Velcro, stands on the floor, or attaches to a desk, table, or chair, usually with an adjustable arm.

Ann Morris, \$19.95, \$29.95

Beyond Sight, \$45 (desk lamp), \$70 (floor lamp)

Boyd, \$100-\$400

Independent Living Aids, \$45-\$160

Screen Magnifiers

Screen magnifiers display the information on a computer or television screen in a variety of magnifications. The software programs are compatible with many word processing, database, and spreadsheet applications.

Hardware

Compu-Lenz (Florida New Concepts)

Uses a Fresnel lens to enlarge character size up to 4x and reduces glare on the screen. Attaches to a personal computer.

Florida New Concepts Marketing, \$204.95; swivel mount, \$20.95

Maxi-Aids, \$189.95; swivel mount, \$25.95

Computer Screen Magnifier

Hangs on top of 14"-17" or 17"-19" monitors to magnify up to 2x.

LS&S, \$39.95, \$49.95

Maxi-Aids, \$38.95, \$39.95, \$49.95

Optelec, \$49.95

Computer Screen Magnifier

Attaches with a self-adhesive strip to computer monitors with 12"-15" screens. Enlarges images up to fifty percent.

Sammons Preston, #C4210, \$184.95

EZ Magnifier (Less Gauss)

Magnifies up to 2.4x. Attaches to a monitor up to 17" with Velcro or Bungee.

Less Gauss, \$198

LS&S, \$194.95

GNK Magnifier (Less Gauss)

Provides up to 3x magnification on monitors from 12" to 19". Lens is mounted on an oak base.

Less Gauss, \$269

Maxi-Aids, \$269

Japanese 2x Computer Screen Enlarger

Has weighted stand with rubber base and adjustable lens to magnify 2x.

LS&S, \$164.95

Japanese Fresnel Stand Magnifier

Sits in front of a computer screen to magnify 2x.

LS&S, \$154.95

Laptop Magnifier (Less Gauss)

Magnifies 2.2x. Has a hood that folds flat and fits over a monitor to reduce glare.

Less Gauss, \$105

Maxi-Aids, \$98

Magic Window Magnifier

Magnifies up to 3x and works on monitors from 14" to 21".

Bossert, \$149.95

Less Gauss, \$115, \$125, \$140, \$155

Magni-Filter or Magnifier Filter

Enlarges characters 2x. Fits laptop and 12"-21" screens; price varies according to screen size. Has contour frame with tempered glass and is designed to cut glare.

LS&S, \$149, \$199, \$219, \$329, \$359

Maxi-Aids, \$94.95, \$144.95, \$194.95, \$299.95

Television Screen Enlarger

Magnifies up to 2x. Is an adjustable free-standing unit. Fits 12"-33" screens.

Ann Morris, CSC1, \$59.95

Independent Living Aids, \$57.95, \$67.95

LS&S, \$34.95, \$39.95, \$44.95, \$94.95

Maxi-Aids, \$34.50, \$38.95, \$44.50, \$89.95, \$109.95

Optelec, \$32.95, \$36.95, \$40.95

Wrap Magnifier (Less Gauss)

Magnifies 1.5x. Slips onto 14"-15" and 17" monitors.

Less Gauss, \$112, \$115

Software

Artic MAGNUM

Enlarges Windows 95 or 98 from 1x to 32x and enlarges DOS text from 1x to 8x.

Artic Technologies, \$195

LS&S, \$195, \$395

BigShot Magnifier (Ai Squared)

Has twenty levels of magnification from 105 percent to 200 percent. Available to download in a trial version at < www.aisquared.com > .

Adaptive Technology, \$99

Ai Squared, call for price

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$95

Maxi-Aids, \$99.95

GALILEO (Baum)

Is an independent program, but was developed especially for use with Baum's Virgo NT. Magnifies from 1x to 48x. Is compatible with any video card and any sound card. Can be used with or without speech.

Baum, call for pricing

inLARGE (ALVA Access Group)

Magnifies all or part of the screen of a Macintosh up to 16x. Available to download in a trial version at < www.aagi.com > .

AccessAbility, \$295

Adaptive Technology, \$295

ALVA Access Group, \$295

C Tech, \$295

Independent Living Aids, \$295

Keyboard Alternatives, \$295

Maxi-Aids, \$295

Technologies for the Visually Impaired, \$285

LP-DOS and LP-Windows

Have DOS version to magnify text programs such as WordPerfect and Lotus 1-2-3 and Windows version for Windows 3.1 and 95. Magnify up to 16x.

LS&S, \$395, \$495, \$595

Maxi-Aids, \$395, \$595

Technologies for the Visually Impaired, \$380, \$580

Lunar and Lunar Plus (Dolphin)

Work with Windows 95/98/Me or Windows 9x/Me/NT2000 to magnify 2x to 32x. Provide viewing modes to full screen, split screen, Window, or lens.

Lunar Plus includes the multilingual Orpheus software speech synthesizer.

Available to download in a trial version at < www.dolphinusa.com > .

AccessAbility, \$195-\$795

Dolphin, \$295-\$795

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$375, \$565

Independent Living Aids, \$195, \$395

Pulse Data HumanWare, \$295-\$795

MAGic (Freedom Scientific)

Magnifies from 2x to 16x in LP Windows. Uses magnification and speech together or independently. Comes in a model for Windows NT/2000 platform.

Available to download in a trial version at < www.freedomscientific.com > .

AccessAbility, \$295, \$545 with speech

Adaptive Technology, \$295

Bartimaeus, \$295

C Tech, \$295, \$395 (NT), \$545 with speech

Freedom Scientific, \$295, \$545

Independent Living Aids, \$295, \$395, \$545 with speech

Keyboard Alternatives, \$295, \$545

LS&S, \$295, \$395

Technologies for the Visually Impaired, \$295

MagniReader

Combines optical character recognition and speech. Scans a document into a computer and displays an image of the scanned page at different levels of magnification, highlighting text as it is spoken.

C Tech, \$349

Envision Technology, \$395

Independent Living Aids, \$349

Kurzweil Educational Systems, \$349

Pulse Data HumanWare, \$349

MAGNUM

See: **Artic MAGNUM**

ProVision32 (Biolink)

Works in Windows NT. Magnifies from 2x to 16x. Available to download in a trial version at <www.biolink.bc.ca/index.html>.

Biolink Computer Research, \$395

VisAbility (Ai Squared)

Magnifies from 1x to 32x and prints at magnifications up to 8x. Can display the image full-screen or in a window. Available to download in a trial version at <www.aisquared.com>.

Adaptive Technology, \$495

Ai Squared, \$495

Bartimaeus, \$495

LS&S, \$495

ZoomText and ZoomText Xtra (Ai Squared)

Magnify from 2x to 16x in a variety of fonts. Come in a DOS and Windows version. **ZoomText Xtra** includes DocReader, a software-generated speech module. Available to download in a trial version at <www.aisquared.com>.

AccessAbility, \$395, \$595

Adaptive Technology, \$395, \$595, \$795

Ai Squared, \$395, \$595, \$795

Bartimaeus, \$395, \$595, \$795

C Tech, \$395, \$595

Disability Specialties, \$295, \$395, \$595, \$795

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$375.25, \$565.25, \$660.25

Enabling Technologies, \$495, \$595

Independent Living Aids, \$395, \$595, \$795

Keyboard Alternatives, \$595

LS&S, \$395, \$595, \$795

Maxi-Aids, \$395, \$595

Optelec, \$395, \$595

Pulse Data HumanWare, \$395, \$595, \$795

Sighted Electronics, \$595

Technologies for the Visually Impaired, \$390, \$585, \$785

Closed-Circuit Television and Enhanced Vision Systems

Closed-circuit television systems or video magnifiers enlarge print and graphic materials electronically onto a monitor screen. The major components are a camera with zoom lens and a light source, a monitor or television screen, and a viewing table. The camera, which is either color or black and white, can vary the amount of magnification, be adjusted for brightness and contrast, and reverse the image from black text on a white background (positive image or polarity) to white text on a black background (negative image or polarity). The camera may be mounted on a fixed stand or, in a portable system, held in the hand. The stand-mounted camera requires placing the object to be magnified under the camera and moving it in a horizontal or vertical direction. It is also effective for handwriting. The monitor screen varies in size from 4" to 24"; larger monitor screens provide higher magnification.

Aladdin Black-and-White CCTV (Telesensory)

Comes in different models: **Aladdin Companion** magnifies from 2.8x to 17.5x on a 9" screen, **Aladdin Classic** magnifies from 4x to 25x on a 14" screen, **Aladdin Pro 75** from 4.5x to 50x on a 14" screen, and **Aladdin Ultra** and **Ultra Pro 75** from 5.4x to 60x on a 17" screen. Displays images in black on white background or white on black background. Can connect the **Aladdin Companion** to a larger monitor for greater magnification.

Beyond Sight, \$1,395; \$1,795; \$1,895; \$2,095

Disability Specialties, \$1,745; \$1,895

Envision Technology, \$1,395-\$2,595

Independent Living Aids, \$1,297; \$1,795

Spalding, \$1,395; \$1,795; \$1,895; \$2,095

Telesensory, \$1,395; \$1,795; \$2,095; \$2,395

Aladdin Color CCTV (Telesensory)

Comes in different models: **Aladdin Rainbow** and **Rainbow Pro** magnify from 4.5x to 50x on a 14" color screen and **Aladdin Genie Pro** magnifies from 5.5x to 50x on a 17" color screen. Can select several background and foreground color combinations, including black text on white or white text on black.

Beyond Sight, \$2,995

Disability Specialties, \$2,995

Envision Technology, \$2,995-\$3,295

Independent Living Aids, \$2,995
Spalding, \$2,995; \$3,295
Telesensory, \$2,995, \$3,195; \$3,295

Andromeda (Freedom Vision)

Magnifies from 3x to 30x in color, black and white, white on black, or foreground-background color displays. Is a 15" portable-desktop-video magnifier with flat screen and auto focus.

Freedom Vision, \$3,995

Atlas Series (Telesensory)

Comes in different models: **Atlas 600** magnifies from 6.5x to 58x on a 20" monitor, **Atlas 610** magnifies from 4x to 40x on a 20" monitor, and **Atlas 700** magnifies from 5.5x to 50x on a 17" monitor and connects to any size SVGA or VGA computer monitor.

Telesensory, call for pricing

Clarity_{AF} Discovery (Clarity)

Magnifies from 4x to 60x and has autofocus. Comes in two models: **Discovery** is for video monitors and has color and black-and-white options; **Discovery Plus**, in color, is for computer monitors and has a foot pedal to switch between a computer and a video magnifier.

Bartimaeus, \$1,695; \$2,195; \$2,495

Clarity, \$1,695; \$2,195; \$2,495

Keyboard Alternatives, \$1,695; \$2,195; \$2,515

LS&S, \$2,495

Mons, \$1,995; \$2,495

Clarity_{AF} Flex (Clarity)

Magnifies from 4x to 60x on a 20" monitor for desktop viewing. Has autofocus and a movable arm. Comes in **Classmate** and **Travelmate** models that offer desktop viewing and 24x magnification for distance or blackboard viewing.

Clarity, \$1,695-\$2,795

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$1,695-\$2,607

Keyboard Alternatives, \$1,695-\$2,795

LS&S, \$2,345 (Classmate)

Mons, \$2,445; \$2,795

ClearView Video Magnifier (Optelec)

Offers a variety of black-and-white and color models. Features may include instant focus, one-touch zoom, line markers and windowing to help guide reading, and alternate color selections.

Beyond Sight, \$1,895; \$3,195

Optelec, \$1,295-\$3,295

Spalding, \$1,295; \$1,895; \$3,295

Eezee Reader

Magnifies 1-5/8" on a 9" monitor to 2-7/8" on a 26" monitor. Connects to a black-and-white or color television set. Allows viewing black letters on a white background or white letters on a black background.

EZC, \$299

Explorer

See: **MagniSight Explorer**

Eye Quest CCTV

Comes in two models: 14" black-and-white screen magnifies from 4x to 45x and 20" black-and-white screen from 5x to 60x.

Carolyn's, \$1,640; \$1,995

Flipper (Enhanced Vision Systems)

Magnifies from 6x to 30x for near viewing and from 1x to 12x for distance viewing. Connects to a television or monitor. Has autofocus and color. Contact EVS at 800-440-9476 for a local distributor or a company below.

Adaptive Technology, \$1,395

Allied Technologies, \$1,495-\$1,995

Bartimaeus, \$1,395

Carolyn's, \$1,495

C Tech, \$1,395

Independent Living Aids, \$1,395

Keyboard Alternatives, \$1,395

LS&S, \$1,395

Mons, \$1,395

Phillips Magnification, \$1,395

Spalding, \$1,395

Flipperport (Enhanced Vision Systems)

Magnifies from 6x to 30x for near viewing and from 1x to 12x for distance viewing. Comes with a camera (**Flipper**) to be used with glasses equipped with built-in screens to display the magnified image. Contact EVS at 800-440-9476 for a local distributor or a company below.

Adaptive Technology, \$2,395

Allied Technologies, \$2,495

Carolyn's, \$2,495

C Tech, \$2,395

Independent Living Aids, \$2,395

Keyboard Alternatives, \$2,395

LS&S, \$2,395

Mons, \$2,395

Spalding, \$2,395

Freedom Machines (Vision Technology)

Magnify from 2x to 120x on a 14" screen and from 3x to 165x on a 20" screen. Come in black-and-white and color table-top models with autofocus and in black-and-white and color hand-held models. Can connect to a personal computer with the Link (\$1,695-\$2,795).

Allied Technologies, \$1,595-\$3,295

Bartimaeus, \$1,495-\$2,795

Spalding, \$2,100; \$2,895

Vision Technology, \$995; \$1,495 (hand-held); \$1,495-\$2,795

Jordy (Enhanced Vision Systems)

Magnifies up to 30x when worn like a pair of glasses and up to 50x when used as a desktop closed-circuit television, which has full color with autofocus and a battery-operated system. Contact EVS at 800-440-9476 for a local distributor or a company below.

Adaptive Technology, \$2,795

Allied Technologies, \$3,195

Beyond Sight, \$2,795

Carolyn's, \$2,995

C Tech, \$2,795

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$2,795

Mons, \$2,795, \$2,995

Liberty Color (Freedom Vision)

Magnifies from 7x to 14x on the 7" color flat screen that is included and connects to a larger monitor for higher magnification. Has a handheld camera on rollers.

C Tech, \$2,795

Freedom Vision, \$2,495

Independent Living Aids, \$2,495

Liberty Plus (Freedom Vision)

Magnifies from 8x to 16x using a continuous zoom lens or up to 64x using a digital magnification feature. Comes with a 10.4" monitor that displays black on white, white on black, and ten other background combinations. Can be connected to a 14", 17", or 21" VGA computer monitor.

Adaptive Technology, \$3,995

Freedom Vision, \$3,995

Independent Living Aids, \$3,995

Magni-Cam (Innoventions)

Magnifies up to 26x on a 13" screen and up to 70x on a 35" screen. Can vary the magnification by lowering or raising the handheld camera from the reading material. Comes in a black-and-white unit and in color (**Magni-Cam Triad**).

Connects to a television or computer monitor.

Adaptive Technology, \$695, \$995 (color)

Disability Specialties, \$695, \$995 (color)

Independent Living Aids, \$695, \$995 (color)

Innoventions, \$695, \$995 (color)

Spalding, \$695, \$995 (color)

Magnilink Electronic Magnifier

Comes in different models: 14" black-and-white or color monitor and 17" color monitor. Features black on white and reverse imaging and may include autofocus.

Magnilink Colibri Split allows the viewing of both the camera image and computer on the same screen at the same time.

Independent Living Aids, \$1,895; \$3,100; \$3,200

Sighted Electronics, \$1,895-\$3,695

MagniSight Explorer (MagniSight)

Offers a variety of black-and-white and color video magnifiers with or without a

monitor. Magnifies up to 45x on a 14" screen, up to 60x on a 20" screen, and up to 85x on a 25" screen. Features may include instant focus, one-touch zoom, line markers and windowing to help guide reading, and alternate color selections. Comes in a PC model for alternating between CCTV and computer images.

Allied Technologies, \$1,895-\$3,695

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$1,515-\$3,225

LS&S, \$1,595-\$2,595

Keyboard Alternatives, \$1,595-\$3,095

MagniSight, \$1,595-\$3,095

Mons, \$1,595-\$2,995

Spalding, \$1,860-\$3,195

MagniSight Mini-Camera (MagniSight)

Magnifies up to 50x with a 19" screen. Includes a clamp arm and weighted base for hands-free viewing. Does not include monitor.

Beyond Sight, \$795

LS&S, \$795

MagniSight, \$795

MagniSight Mini-Reader (MagniSight)

Has a 6" monitor that magnifies up to 15x. Comes with accessories for television hookup to magnify up to 50x with a 19" screen. Includes a clamp arm and weighted base for hands-free viewing.

Beyond Sight, \$1,795

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$1,795

LS&S, \$1,795

MagniSight, \$1,795

Max (Enhanced Vision Systems)

Magnifies from 16x to 28x on one's own 20" black-and-white or color television screen or computer monitor. Works on flat and curved surfaces. Contact EVS at 800-440-9476 for a local distributor or a company below.

Adaptive Technology, \$349, \$449 (color)

Allied Technologies, \$399, \$499 (color)

Beyond Sight, \$349, \$449 (color)

Carolyn's, call for pricing

C Tech, \$349, \$449 (color)

Independent Living Aids, \$349, \$449 (color)
Keyboard Alternatives, \$349, \$449 (color)
LS&S, \$349, \$449 (color)
Mons, \$399, \$499 (color)
Spalding, \$369, \$469 (color)

Max-Eye

Has a camera in a handheld portable unit that reads the image beneath it and displays it on a 3-1/2" x 7" screen. Magnifies in 6x or 13x. Operates on 110v with a battery pack sold separately (\$495).

LS&S, \$1,849

MaxPort (Enhanced Vision Systems)

Magnifies up to 28x. Consists of a digital magnifier (**Max**), glasses to see the magnified image, and a control unit in a self-contained battery-operated system. Includes MaxTrak to guide reading straight across a page. Contact EVS at 800-440-9476 for a local distributor or a company below.

AccessAbility, \$1,495; \$1,595
Adaptive Technology, \$1,495; \$1,595
Allied Technologies, \$1,795; \$1,895
Beyond Sight, \$1,495; \$1,595
C Tech, \$1,495; \$1,595
Independent Living Aids, \$1,495; \$1,595
Keyboard Alternatives, \$1,495; \$1,595
LS&S, \$1,495; \$1,595
Mons, \$1,495; \$1,595
Spalding, \$1,495; \$1,595

Merlin (Enhanced Vision Systems)

Magnifies from 4x to 50x on a 14" color monitor. Has autofocus and can be voice activated. \$1,995. Contact EVS at 800-440-9476 for a local distributor.

MiniViewer

Magnifies 5x, 10x, and 15x in color or black and white in a handheld unit.

Envision Technology, \$1,995
Spalding, \$1,995
Telesensory, \$1,995

My Travel Mouse

Magnifies from 7x to 10x. Can plug into a larger monitor for higher magnification. Has batteries that last up to ten hours and the option of a rechargeable battery pack.

Allied Technologies, \$895

OVAC Color-Eye and Golden-Eye (OVAC)

Magnify from 4.9x to 17x on a 7" television screen, from 9x to 32x on a 13" screen, and from 14x to 49x on a 20" screen. Connect to a television or VCR. Can be used with OVAC Flexarm for hands-free operation.

Allied Technologies, \$295, \$395 (color)

Disability Specialties, \$295, \$395 (color)

Independent Living Aids, \$295, \$395 (color)

LS&S, \$395 (color)

OVAC, \$295, \$395 (color)

OVAC Flex-Eye, Zoom-Eye, and Zoom-Flex (OVAC)

Feature different ranges of magnification: **Flex-Eye** magnifies up to 10x on a 13" screen, up to 15x on a 20" screen, and up to 20x on a 26" screen; **Zoom-Eye** magnifies up to 12x on a 13" screen, up to 18x on a 20" screen, and up to 24x on a 26" screen; and **Zoom-Flex**, which allows both far and near viewing, magnifies up to 22x on a 13" screen, up to 34x on a 20" screen, and up to 44x on a 26" screen.

Allied Technologies, \$1,495-\$2,395

Bartimaeus, \$1,195-\$1,695

Disability Specialties, \$1,195; \$1,495

Independent Living Aids, \$1,195; \$1,495

LS&S, \$1,495

OVAC, \$1,195-\$1,695

OVAC Pro Zoomer (OVAC)

Magnifies from 2x to 40x on a 13" screen, from 3x to 60x on a 20" screen, and from 4x to 80x on a 26" screen. Offers positive and negative viewing.

OVAC, \$1,195; \$1,395

OVAC Zacc (OVAC)

Magnifies from 2.2x to 69x on a 20" television or monitor. Provides a desktop

unit in color or black and white with autofocus and zooming.

Allied Technologies, \$1,795-\$2,295

Bartimaeus, \$1,495-\$1,995

Disability Specialties, \$1,795

Independent Living Aids, \$1,495; \$1,795

LS&S, \$1,495; \$1,795

OVAC, \$1,495-\$1,995

Phillips Magnification, \$1,495-\$1,995

Portable CCTV

Magnifies up to 49x on a 20" screen. Requires a video-in jack of a television.

LS&S, \$249.95, \$299.95 (color)

PRIMER Electronic Magnifier (Innoventions)

Magnifies from 8x to 15x on one's own 20" television monitor. Displays images in black on white and white on black.

Independent Living Aids, \$295

Innoventions, \$295

National Association for Visually Handicapped, \$295

Spalding, \$295

Prisma (Freedom Vision)

Magnifies from 4x to 35x on a 14" monitor and from 6x to 53x on a 20" monitor in color, white on black, or black on white. Requires a television or computer monitor. Collapses for travel or storage.

Adaptive Technology, \$995

Carolyn's, call for pricing

C Tech, \$995

Envision Technology, \$995

Freedom Vision, \$995; \$1,245

Independent Living Aids, \$995

Spalding, \$995

Reizen Vision CCTV System

Offers a variety of black-and-white and color video magnifiers with or without a 14", 20", or 25" monitor.

MaxiAids, \$1,495-\$2,595

Scan and View (Premier Programming)

Allows a portable scanner to act like a closed-circuit television. Magnifies up to 24x and views images in color or black and white. Available to download in a trial version at < www.premier-programming.com > .

Premier Programming, \$79.95

ScreenLens™ Magnifier

Magnifies from 3x to 13x on a 6.4" internal screen or up to 40x on an external 19" monitor or television screen. Has clamp-on arm for hands-free viewing.

LS&S, \$3,495

See-More Simplicity CCTV

Offers a variety of black-and-white and color video magnifiers with a 14", 20", or 25" monitor.

MaxiAids, \$1,595-\$2,595

Seewell Reading Enhancer (S. Walters)

Magnifies from 6x to 50x on a 19" monitor. Can be used with any size television, black and white or color, and with flat or curved surfaces.

LS&S, \$950

S. Walters, \$895

SmartView Electronic Magnifier (Pulse Data)

Offers a variety of black-and-white and color video magnifiers. Features may include instant focus, one-touch zoom, line markers and windowing to help guide reading, and alternate color selections.

AccessAbility, \$1,795-\$3,395

Adaptive Technology, \$1,795-\$3,395

Electronic Vision Access Solutions, \$1,705-\$3,249

Pulse Data HumanWare, \$1,795-\$3,395

Tagarno Gemini and School-Gemini (Tagarno)

Magnify from 2x to 30x on a 17" monitor in black and white and color. Have autofocus. Can switch between working on a computer and the reading machine. **School-Gemini** has a split-screen function using a two-camera system to allow reading text under the reading unit and on the blackboard at the same time.

Adaptive Technology, \$2,995

Tagarno, \$2,895; \$5,295

Tagarno Mini-CCD and Color-CCD (Tagarno)

Magnify from 3x to 30x on a 15" black-and-white monitor and up to 35x on a 17" color monitor.

Adaptive Technology, \$1,795; \$1,995; \$3,295

Tagarno, \$1,795; \$2,995

VideoEye

Magnifies up to 25x on a 27" monitor with the standard system, up to 50x on a 27" monitor with the **Millennium** and **Power Zoom VideoEye**, and up to 100x with the **Millennium II VideoEye**. Comes in black and white and color and with automatic focus.

VideoEye, \$2,195; \$2,595; \$2,795; \$2,995

VisAble Video Telescope (Betacom)

Magnifies up to 40x. Is a handheld unit to use as a telescope for distance and mid-range tasks such as recognizing faces and as a magnifier for close reading. Has color, autofocus, and low-light compensation.

Adaptive Technology, \$1,995

Arctic, \$1,995

Betacom, \$1,995

C Tech, \$1,995

Keyboard Alternatives, \$1,995

Visionary Reader (Beyond Sight)

Comes with a 14", 20", or 25" screen in color or black and white. Has options such as line marking, selectable screen colors, and autofocus.

Beyond Sight, \$1,795-\$2,795

Zoom Color (Freedom Vision)

Magnifies from 10x to 20x on a 14" monitor and from 15x to 30x on a 20" monitor. Connects to any standard television or VCR.

Freedom Vision, \$499

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AccessAbility, Inc.

175 Mason Circle
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(925) 681-4636
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Adaptive Technology Consulting, Inc.

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Allied Technologies, Inc.

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Enhanced Vision Systems (EVS)

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Selective Bibliography

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Usan, Mark M., and Joseph C. Su. Evaluating and selecting a Windows-based screen magnifier. Closing the Gap, v. 18, April-May 1999: 1, 8-9, 31. Also on the Internet at < www.closingthegap.com/cgi-bin/lib/libDsply.pl?a=1161&b=1&c=1 > .

Usan, Mark M., and Joseph C. Su. A review of CLARITY_{AF} video magnifiers. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 93, May 1999: 325-326, 328.

Usan, Mark M., Chen-Yung Hsu, and Gary Chan. Is technology improving? Revisiting four video magnifiers. AccessWorld, v. 1, Nov. 2000: 14-21. Abridged in Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 95, Feb. 2001: 119-120.

Usan, Mark M., Joseph C. Su, and Chen-Yung Hsu. Henter-Joyce's MAGIC for Windows NT. AccessWorld, preview issue: 6-11.

Selective Internet Resources

All about Vision

www.allaboutvision.com/

Has information on low vision, eyeglasses, LASIK and laser eye surgery, contact lenses, and eye health.

American Optometric Association: Eye Conditions and Concerns

www.aoanet.org/conditions/

Provides information on eye conditions and diseases, children's vision, low vision, and contact lenses.

Ask NOAH (NY Online Access to Health) About: The Eye

www.noah-health.org/english/illness/eye/eye.html

Has links to eye health and eye problems, eye doctors and hospitals, vision correction, living with low vision, and eye organizations.

CCTV Information Page

www.tsbvi.edu/technology/cctv.htm

Compiled by the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Presents basic and advanced features and types of CCTVs, links to manufacturers, information links, and questions for choosing CCTVs.

Directory of Low Vision Services

www.eyesearch.com/low.vision.services.htm

Maintains a database of low-vision specialists that can be searched by city and state and lists selective organizations that provide general information, braille and audio materials, and employment information.

Eye Resources on the Internet

webeye.opthth.uiowa.edu/dept/websites/eyeres.htm

Compiled for the Association of Vision Science Librarians. Has links to eye organizations and diseases, university ophthalmology centers, organizations with products and services, online journals, and chat rooms.

Large Print and Low Vision Resource Network

www.large-print.net/

Provides links to low-vision sites and a directory of products and services for people with low vision.

Low Vision Gateway

www.lowvision.org/

Includes links to low vision specialists and assistive devices, eye diseases and conditions, organizations assisting persons who are visually impaired, children and educational issues, and driving with low vision.

Low Vision Information Center

www.lowvisioninfo.org/

Located in Bethesda, Md. Offers information on lighting, optical aids, and causes of and living with low vision. Has an online newsletter.

Low Vision Resources

www.nyise.org/lowvision.htm

Has links to producers and distributors of CCTVs, electronic reading technology, magnification aids, and print-enhancing software. Includes information on living with low vision and Windows access.

LVRGNet, the Low-Vision Research Group Network

www.varrd.emory.edu/LVRGNET/index.html

Has links to recent and ongoing research in low vision and general information and resources on eye diseases and services.

Magnification Programs for the Computer Screen

www.afb.org/info_document_view.asp?documentid=1387

Compiled by the American Foundation for the Blind. Provides a description and sources of screen magnification programs.

National Association for Visually Handicapped

www.navh.org/

Has links to membership information, its large-print newsletter, organizations for persons with low vision, and low-vision aids store.

National Eye Institute. National Eye Health Education Program: Low Vision Education Program

www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/lowvis.htm

Has educational booklets available in English and Spanish, public service campaigns, and a low-vision traveling exhibit.

Prevent Blindness America

www.preventblindness.org/

Has information on low vision and specific eye problems, children's eye problems, eye safety, a newsletter, and Web forum.

Sources of Closed-Circuit Televisions

www.nfb.org/tech/cctvs1.htm

Compiled by the National Federation of the Blind. Lists companies that produce or distribute closed circuit televisions.

Video Magnifiers

www.afb.org/info_document_view.asp?documentid=221

Compiled by the American Foundation for the Blind. Provides a description and sources of video magnifiers or closed-circuit television systems.

Compiled by
Carol Strauss
Reference Section
February 2002

Reference Circulars

Assistive Devices for Use with Personal Computers, 2001

Bibles and Other Sacred Writings in Special Media, 1999

Blindness and Visual Impairments: Information and Advocacy Organizations, 2001

Braille Embossers, 2000

Braille Literacy: Resources for Instruction, Writing Equipment, and Supplies, 1994

Building a Library Collection on Visual and Physical Disabilities: Basic Materials and Resources, 1999

Deaf-Blindness: National Organizations and Resources, 1993

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Popular Literature, 1995

Learning Disabilities: Organizations and Resources, 1997

Magnifying Devices: A Resource Guide, 2002

Parents' Guide to the Development of Preschool Children with Disabilities: Resources and Services, 1992

Physical Disabilities: National Organizations and Resources, 1994

Reading Materials in Large Print: A Resource Guide, 1997

Sources of Audiovisual Materials on Disabilities, 1995

Sources of Braille Reading Materials, 1997

Bibliographies

A series of bibliographies is also published by the Reference Section. The following titles are available free on request:

Accessibility: A Selective Bibliography, 1994

Assistive Technology: A Selective Bibliography, 2000

Disability Awareness and Changing Attitudes, 1991

Library and Information Services to Individuals with Disabilities, 2002



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