



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR LOW VISION

MAGNIFIERS



IMAGINE

Do you have difficulty reading the newspaper or reading a menu at a restaurant?

Do you have difficulty reading your mail or completing documents and forms?

Living with low vision can often prevent us from everyday reading tasks or exclude people from engaging in recreational activities that rely a good level of vision. There is however a range of low vision magnification aids on the market to make everyday living easier for people with low vision.

Low vision magnification aids are available in a range of options. These include optical magnifiers, portable electronic magnifiers, computer connected magnifiers, and desktop magnifiers.



SEEK

To find out more, you can...

Phone **LifeTec on 1300 543 383** to discuss options and suitability with a health professional

Visit a **LifeTec display centre** to view and trial a selection of products, and obtain professional advice in person

Speak to your Occupational Therapist

Search the National Equipment Database at **www.ilcaustralia.org.au** for further information on a wide range of low vision aids.



Optical Magnifier



Portable Electronic Magnifier



Computer Connected Magnifier



Desktop Electronic Magnifier

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LifeTecTM
Live your Potential

www.lifetec.org.au



CHOOSE

What can I choose from?

There are number of low vision magnification devices on the market to choose from. Some key features to consider in the decision-making process are as follows:

Magnification Level Consider the level of magnification you will need. The level of magnification differs between types of magnifiers. For example, optical magnifiers usually have a magnification level of between 2 and 4 times, whereas large desktop magnifiers may have a magnification level up to 50 times.

Portability If you need a magnification device which you can take with you on the go, consider how portable it will be. The weight of low vision magnification aids can vary greatly. For example, portable electronic magnifiers may weigh around 200 grams which are easily transported. Desktop magnifiers on the other hand, may weigh as much as 15kg and are best not transported.

Size of screen How much text will you need to read? The size of the screen will influence how much text can be displayed at one time when reading a document. If the magnifier will be used for 'spot' reading only, then a small optical or portable electronic magnifier may be sufficient.

Text to Voice Output Some electronic magnifiers offer text-to-voice output once the text has been captured using the in-built camera magnifier. This is referred to as optical character recognition (OCR). This is particularly useful when having to read large amounts of text, and can reduce levels of fatigue or help users with very low vision. It is important to know that handwritten text cannot be read using this type of technology.



LIVE

SET UP

- Does purchase of the device include set up and customization for your individual needs?

TRAINING

- Training in more complex devices is highly recommended.
- You may need practice to develop your proficiency.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

- Does the supplier offer ongoing service if you have difficulty using the device?

MAINTENANCE

- Some devices may require replacement of parts over time (e.g. batteries, bulbs).

POSSIBLE UPGRADES

- Can the device operating software be upgraded in the future?

CHANGING NEEDS

- Will the device meet your future needs if vision changes or deteriorates?

COST

- From under \$50 for optical magnifiers to several thousand dollars for large desktop magnifiers

Contact details

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