NLS Reference Circulars

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

Issued 2004

Introduction

This reference circular lists instructional materials, supplies, and equipment currently available for learning braille, and cites sources about braille literacy. The resources given are intended to assist sighted individuals who are interested in learning braille or want to transcribe print materials into braille; instructors who teach braille; persons with visual impairments who are interested in learning to read and write braille; and family members, friends, and professionals who desire information about braille literacy.

Unless otherwise indicated, items listed in this circular are not part of the National Library Service for the Blind program, and their listing does not imply endorsement. Prices are subject to frequent change and should be verified with the supplier before ordering. Complete addresses of sources are listed in Section VI: Addresses of Sources.

Contents

I. Resources for Braille Instruction
   A. Braille Code Books
   B. Instruction for Transcribers and Teachers
      - Manuals, Guidebooks, and Teaching Materials
      - NLS Correspondence Courses and the National Braille Competency Test
      - University Courses and Local Volunteer Classes
      - Links to Courses on the Internet
   C. Instruction for Braille Readers (Adults and Children)
      - Resources for Reading Readiness
      - Tools and Games for Learning to Read and Write Braille
      - Manuals and Guidebooks for Learning to Read and Write Braille
      - Correspondence Courses for Learning to Read and Write Braille
      - Local Training Resources and Links to Online Courses

II. Books, Articles, and Videos Related to Braille Literacy and Braille Instruction

III. Awareness Resources

IV. Sources of Equipment and Accessories for Reading and Writing Braille
   A. Manual Equipment
   - Braillewriters and Accessories

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html

I. Resources for Braille Instruction

Code books are the official documents that set forth rules of usage for, or the transcription of, the various types of braille (literary, mathematics, computer, and music) in the United States. The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) provides current information about all braille codes www.brailleauthority.org.

### A. Braille Code Books

#### Literary braille code


**Chart of contractions, selected symbols, and simplified rules.** Compiled by the Illinois Braille and Sight Saving School, Jacksonville, IL, 1959. Available from the American Printing House for the Blind, $2.72 braille.

**Guidelines for linear braille format.** Compiled by the Braille Authority of North America. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1987. $2.50 print or braille. Braille transcribers certified by the Library of Congress may obtain braille or print copies free on request from the Braille Development Section (BDS), National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

#### Mathematics braille code


**Addendum 1 to the Nemeth braille code for mathematics and science notation, 1972 revision: Ancient Numeration Systems.** Adopted by the Braille Authority of North America; transcribed by Von E. Eulert, American Red Cross Braille Service. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1991. $5 print or braille.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Reference sheet. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind. $2.50 print or braille.


Computer braille code


Step-by-step guide on the computer code. Includes tips on how to read e-mail and web addresses.


Music braille code


B. Instruction for Transcribers and Teachers

Manuals, guidebooks, and teaching materials

Literary braille

Alphabetical index of braille signs. Arranged for brailletwriter and slate work. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind. $2.50 print.


Braille codes and calculations. By Mary Ellen Pesavento. Berkeley, CA: Pesavento Press. Revised 1997. Although sold separately, Braille Codes and Calculations and Dot Writing are designed to be used together. Available from Exceptional Teaching Aids, $72; with Dot Writing $86.95.


http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html


Dot writing. Available from Exceptional Teaching Aids. $16.95. Includes a systematic introduction to standard English braille plus practice words and sentences.

The computerized braille tutor. By Gaylen Kapperman, and others. Alexandria, VA: Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER). $11 for AER members; $21 for non members (Canadian orders, add $2.50/tutor; overseas orders, add $5/tutor).

Instruction and practice for the basic literary braille code. (Requires DOS computer with a hard drive that can allocate five megabytes of memory.)

English braille grade 2 contractions: word signs, short form words, punctuation, and composition signs. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1960. 63¢ print; 27¢ braille, up to five copies free. The print version of this guide is also known as the alphabetical index of braille signs.


NBA literary braille refresher course for teachers and transcribers. Rochester, NY: National Braille Association, revised 2002. $50 print; $158.40 braille for individuals; $391.50 braille for all others. Assists teachers preparing for state or national competency tests, and transcribers and proofreaders wishing to sharpen their braille skills.


Quick reference list of braille signs. Compiled by the Louis Braille Center. Edmonds, WA: Louis Braille Center. $5 braille and print, $4 braille only. Includes reference lists of the braille alphabet, numbers, contractions, and composition and punctuation signs.


Mathematics braille

Braille transcribers' kit: math. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind. $12. Raised-line graphics of commonly occurring figures for transcribing of elementary math books. Master sheets contain five each of rulers, number lines, protractors, unlabeled thermometers, clock faces, as well as three sizes of low-relief graph paper. Master sheets can be thermoformed to provide multiple copies of figures.


http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Music braille


Foreign language braille

**Contracted German: the reformed German braille contractions.** By Adam Heinz. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1972. $10.80 braille.

**Interim manual for foreign language braille transcribing.** By Barbara H. Tate and others. Rochester, NY: National Braille Association, 2002. $16 print for NBA members, $32 print non members; $100 braille for NBA members, $248 braille non members.

NLS Correspondence Courses and the National Braille Competency Test

The Braille Development Section of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, offers free correspondence courses leading to certification in braille transcribing or proofreading, provides certification for those who successfully complete training through other programs, and administers the National Literary Braille Competency Test to applicants who wish to demonstrate competence in the application of literary braille. Interested persons are encouraged to enroll in a locally sponsored braille class, if possible; however, correspondence instruction is available for persons who do not have local options or who prefer to study through correspondence. Instructional materials for each course are provided free. Individuals must purchase equipment and paper; sources for these items are listed in Sections III and IV. To enroll in one of the courses, request an application form from Braille Development Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, braille@loc.gov.

Literary braille transcribing

Instruction in the formation and rules for the use of braille letters, numbers, contractions (braille abbreviations for letter groups), and other braille signs used in transcribing general, nonscientific literature from print into braille. Consists of nineteen lessons and a final examination. Completion of the course earns the Library of Congress literary braille transcribing certificate. This course is a prerequisite to all other transcribing courses.

Prerequisite: applicants must be citizens or residents of the United States and must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Application for certification as a literary braille transcriber

Mathematics braille transcribing

Instruction in the braille signs, rules, and concepts used to transcribe mathematics and scientific texts into braille. Consists of sixteen lessons and a final examination.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Completion of the course earns the Library of Congress mathematics braille transcribing certificate. 
Prerequisites: general eligibility for braille courses; Library of Congress certification in literary braille; minimum of six months transcribing experience as a certified braillist transcribing textbooks.

**Application for certification as a mathematics (Nemeth code) braille transcriber**

Music braille transcribing

Instruction in the braille signs, rules, and concepts used to transcribe conventional print music notation into braille. Course consists of thirty-four lessons, a preparatory exercise for the final examination, and the final examination. Completion of the course earns the Library of Congress braille music transcribing certificate. 
Prerequisites: general eligibility for Library of Congress braille courses; Library of Congress certification in literary braille transcribing; a minimum of six months transcribing experience as a Library of Congress certified literary braille transcriber; ability to read accurately moderate to complex conventional music notation.

**Application for certification as a music braille transcriber**

Literary braille proofreading

Prerequisites: general eligibility for Library of Congress braille courses; broad reading experience with braille books and materials; ability to read and write braille, using correct character formation and literary braille format; ability to type 25 words per minute without error.

**Application for certification in literary braille proofreading**

Mathematics braille proofreading

Instruction in the braille signs, rules, and concepts required to proofread mathematics braille transcriptions. The course consists of sixteen lessons and the final examination. Completion earns the Library of Congress mathematics braille proofreading certificate. 
Prerequisites: general eligibility for Library of Congress braille courses; Library of Congress certification in either literary braille proofreading or mathematics braille transcribing; ability to type 25 words per minute without error.

**Application for certification in mathematics (Nemeth code) braille proofreading**

National literary braille competency test

Examines general knowledge and use of the literary braille code; designed primarily for individuals who teach children and adults who are blind or visually handicapped. 
Prerequisites: United States citizenship or residency; either a passing grade on at least one college-level braille course, or successful completion of the Library of Congress literary braille transcribing course through Lesson 14, or five years of experience in reading and writing braille.

**University Courses and Local Volunteer Classes**

Colleges and universities that offer special education or rehabilitation training related to visual impairments often provide classes for learning braille. A listing of the colleges and universities offering courses in education of visually impaired and deaf-blind students and in orientation and mobility is available at www.aerbvi.org or contact the
Local volunteer groups that teach braille transcribing

The directory *Sources of custom-produced books: braille, audio recordings, and large print* lists organizations and volunteer groups that transcribe braille or teach transcribing classes. The directory is online at [www.loc.gov/nls/reference/directories/sources.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/directories/sources.html), in web-braille at [www.loc.gov/nls/reference/directories/sources1.brf](http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/directories/sources1.brf), or available in large print or hardcopy braille from the Reference Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Links to Courses on the Internet

This listing does not imply NLS endorsement or verification of accuracy.

BRL -- Braille through remote learning [www.brl.org](http://www.brl.org)
- A series of three integrated online courses in braille and braille transcribing: Introduction to braille: transcribers course, and specialized codes course. BRL is a project of the Shodor Education Foundation, Inc. [www.shodor.org](http://www.shodor.org).

Braille review [www.vhighline.net/braille](http://www.vhighline.net/braille)
- Created for transcribers or instructors to review basic braille codes and contractions.

- Also known as BRL (Blindness Related Learning). Provides web-based communication learning tools for the visually impaired, their friends, and family; offers the ability to learn blindness-related subjects such as braille at one’s own pace; all services are free.

The computerized braille tutor [www.tsbvi.edu/Education/index.htm#Braille](http://www.tsbvi.edu/Education/index.htm#Braille)
- Self-study literary code materials for transcribers or instructors to download.

The Nemeth code tutor [www.tsbvi.edu/math/math-resources.htm](http://www.tsbvi.edu/math/math-resources.htm)
- Self-study Nemeth code materials for transcribers or instructors to download.

C. Instruction for Braille Readers (Adults and Children)

Resources for reading readiness

- Provides activities for promoting literacy at the early stages of braille instruction, includes strategies for designing and delivering braille instruction, and offers suggestions for tasks such as reading aloud to young children, selecting and making early tactile books, and teaching tactile and hand movement skills. Also provides tips for designing worksheets, introducing braille contractions, teaching the use of the brailletutor, and facilitating the writing process in braille.

- Designed for teachers and diagnosticians working with visually impaired students of all ages, including students with additional disabilities, to assess and evaluate appropriate learning and literary media for them. Featured topics: use of sensory channels and determining types of general learning media.
A raised-line coloring book designed to facilitate braille character recognition through repetitive activities. Each page consists of a jumbo braille cell, upper and lowercase letters shown with their braille equivalents, and a tactile graphic depiction of an easy-to-find object that begins with that letter.

Consists of a print handbook for parents and teachers and ten storybooks in braille and in print that feature tactile and visual illustrations and provide practice in refining finger and hand skills. The handbook and storybooks can be purchased separately or as a complete package.

A sequential readiness program designed for use generally at the preschool or kindergarten level, before students begin a basic braille reading program.

A three-volume set and a booklet of teacher instructions. Embossed illustrations of simple objects helps a child learn concepts such as left and right shapes, size, number, and tracking across the page. For ages five to six.

### Tools and Games for Learning to Read and Write Braille

**BrailleMaster™ talking braille tutor.** Jericho, NY: Independent Living Aids, Inc. $295.  
Introduces students to groups of braille characters or words with similar characteristics. As the buttons representing the characters are pressed, a voice identifies the character. Nineteen lessons provide a logical progression covering the alphabet, numbers, punctuation, single cell-letter combination contractions, single-cell whole word contractions, dot-preceded contractions, and seventy-three standard abbreviated words.

A braille instruction method using speech-assisted learning on an interactive braille instruction station. Consists of a pressure-sensitive platform, electronic braille keyboard, stereo speakers, compact flash, standard disk drive, earphone jack, volume control, speech-rate control, microphone, foot pedal, and rechargeable battery. The station recognizes braille from worksheets and speaks appropriate directions.

**Tack-Tiles® braille systems.** Plaistow, NH: Tack-Tiles® Braille Systems, LLC. $695.  
Consists of 320 TACK-TILES®, four slates that hold eight rows of twenty tiles, two slates that hold four rows of ten tiles, and a carrying case. Literary braille sets in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Sets are also available for nonliterary braille codes: Nemeth, music, and computer notation. TACK-TILES® may be used with or as a supplement to most standard and established braille-instruction techniques.

**The Braille game board.** St-Lambert, Quebec, Canada: Rudbecom Inc., $79.99 US.  
A learning tool for braille readers to invent and play games while sharpening their braille skills. Consists of a pegboard grid with which to create words.

Additional tools and games for learning to read and write braille are available from American Printing House for the Blind, Braille Institute of America, and Exceptional Teaching Aids.


http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Literary braille code


**Braille beginnings: a phonics based braille reading series.** By Karen Condie. Published in cooperation with Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Available from Karen Condie.

Designed to make learning to read braille fun. Consists of a series of eighty phonics-based lessons in three levels that teach braille contractions. Provides story or prose work pages for independent work and word search or braille art activities. Each level includes a separately priced workbook, student text, and teacher's manual.

**Braille by touch: a home-study course in uncontracted braille.** By the Louis Braille Center. Edmonds, WA: Louis Braille Center. $10-40.

Consists of three braille books and three corresponding large-print books on basic braille concepts, practice readings in uncontracted braille, and instructions on using various types of numbers. Books may be purchased separately or in combinations. Designed as a self-teaching course for individual study or for small groups and classes for blind and sighted persons who wish to learn braille together.


Designed to teach former adult and teenage print readers how to read braille. Guides students through tactual discrimination to uncontracted braille and then through contracted braille. For use under the supervision of a qualified braille teacher.

**Braille FUNdamentals: a braille curriculum for students from primary to high school levels.** By Jeri Cleveland, Nancy Levack, Debra Sewell, and Renée Toy. Austin: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 2002. Prices range from $20 for the assessment to $400.

A comprehensive program for teaching the braille code to beginning braille readers or to those readers who need to learn braille when they are older. Four volumes cover primary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school levels with age-appropriate activities included at each level. Includes pre braille assessment, braille checklists, and ideas for games. Can order individual volumes or the complete set.


interpoint. (Print editions of books I-III are printed parallel to the braille line-for-line and page-for-page). Practice materials. $2.70 print, $16.28 braille.

Stories progress from uncontracted to slightly contracted braille and from much enlarged to standard braille. The practice materials are sold separately (fifteen stories) and relate to specific pages of the three books in the series.

Braille too! Cedar Rapids, IA: Grant Wood Area Education Agency. $215 complete instructional program.

An instructional braille reading and writing program for secondary students. It includes six hundred pages of reading material and almost two hundred pages of writing practice. Sample packets are available free of charge.

Braille writing dot by dot kit. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind. Contains: Teacher's manual (ten basic lessons in each writing method, three beyond the basics lessons); exercise cassette with dictation exercises; alphabet; braille reference sheet; peg slate and big cell (teaching device for the slate). $42 print kit; $47 braille kit.

Comprehensive instruction in writing braille with either a braillewriter or a slate and stylus. Appropriate for blind children or adults who want to learn to write braille.


Designed for beginning braille readers.


Advocates the use of the slate and stylus as a means of taking braille notes before learning electronic methods. Provides suggestions and exercises to assist in becoming proficient in this skill, which is equivalent to writing with a pen or pencil.


A self-paced workbook that teaches just enough braille for one to learn to identify the braille alphabet, numbers, contractions, and even a few exceptions to the rules.

Kester braille. By Louise Johnson. Orem, UT: Louise Johnson. The Level 1 and Level 2 teacher’s guide and student workbooks are $25 each, print.

An introductory braille instruction manual written to teach braille reading and writing for children ages four to eight can be adapted for older children who have difficulty learning.


The McDuffy reader: braille primer for adults. By Sharon Duffy. Baltimore: National Federation of the Blind. $15 braille or print (pictures of the dot formations); teacher’s guide, $10 braille, print, or cassette.

Patterns: the primary braille reading program. By Hilda Caton. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1980, 1982. Has six levels, from readiness to the third reader level. Each level consists of pupil and teacher texts, worksheets, and post tests. $64.95- $206.95 price range for kits for each level.

Patterns library series. By Eleanor Pester and others. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1980. Practice books designed to follow each level of the Patterns program. Each kit contains twenty-two to twenty-seven books. $49.95-$85.95 braille kits.

Print and braille literacy: selecting appropriate learning media. Edited by Hilda Caton. Louisville: American Printing House for the Blind, 1991. $5.50 print, $14.50 large print, $10.50 braille.


Music braille code


An introduction to music for the blind student: a course in braille music reading, Parts I and II. By Richard Taesch. Valley Forge, PA: Dancing Dots. The full set includes three print volumes and four braille volumes. $249 part I, $179 part II.

Part I is an instructional course-curriculum in music fundamentals, music reading, sight singing, theory, and ear-training using the braille music code as the medium. Part II includes a detailed set of “theory examinations” and a separate volume of exercises in the form of single-line melodies, duets, and canons.


Designed for teacher or parent of a blind student who has an interest or need to learn to read braille music, or for a blind musician who wants to know more about how music looks in braille, and to learn to read, write, play, and sing music using braille.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Correspondence Courses for Learning to Read and Write Braille

The Hadley School for the Blind offers several tuition-free home-study courses to help newly blinded persons acquire skills in communication, with a special emphasis on braille. Academic credits are given for some courses. Courses are available in braille and on audio cassette:

- **Braille Placement.** One lesson. Assesses the competency of a student with previous braille experience.
- **Braille Reading I.** Twenty-four lessons.
- **Braille Reading II.** Twenty-eight lessons.
- **Braille Reading Review.** Five lessons.
- **Braille Writing.** Ten lessons.
- **Essentials of Nemeth.** Nine reading exercises, nine writing exercises.
- **Grade 3 Braille.** Thirty-five lessons. Highly contracted braille for note taking and speed writing.
- **Music Notation.** Twenty-eight lessons. Instruction in reading the braille music code.
- **Rapid Braille Reading.** Nine lessons. Techniques to increase speed and comprehension in reading braille. Good fully contracted braille-reading ability required.
- **Relevant Braille.** Five lessons. How to read and write uncontracted braille for taking personal notes and telephone numbers.

To enroll or for more information contact Hadley School for the Blind.

Local Training Resources and Links to Online Courses

Classes or personal assistance for learning to read and write braille are offered by most state commissions and lighthouses for the blind and other rehabilitation agencies. A local library or telephone operator can provide the telephone number of the nearest agency.

**The Nemeth Code Tutorial**

www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/notenemeth.asp

A free tutorial for braille readers and persons who may be interested in using braille note-taking devices to study the Nemeth Code.

**Braille school or blindness-related courses**

www.brailleschool.com/index.php

Do-it-yourself course in text format for those who use a screen reader to learn braille at their own pace.

II. Books, Articles, and Videos Related to Braille Literacy and Braille Instruction (Full addresses are in section VI.)


Anthology of articles by international braille experts.


Presents strategies for incorporating braille into the total curriculum for blind students. Includes resources, references, tips, and techniques for making braille come alive for the students.


**DOTS for braille literacy.** Atlanta: AFB National Literacy Center.

A free newsletter published three times a year that includes information about new braille-related products, strategies for teaching, and resources for teachers, family members, and others interested in braille literacy.


**Library of Congress certification in braille transcribing through distance learning.** Houston, TX: Region IV Education Service Center, 1994. Twenty-one videotapes. $630.


"Print...braille...literacy." *Journal of visual impairment and blindness*, v. 83, June 1989: 288-313.


**See/hear.** A quarterly newsletter of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) for families and professionals on visual impairments and deafblindness.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html


III. Awareness Resources

(Full addresses are in section VI)

For individuals who have family members or classmates who read braille, or for students who wish to gain awareness of communication avenues for blind persons.

The braille is beautiful curriculum. Baltimore: National Federation of the Blind. Available at www.nfb.org/bibsite/bibenter.htm. $250. Provides a basic knowledge of braille and an awareness of blindness for children in grades four through six. Includes instruction and student workbooks, two video presentations, sets of slates and styli, braille paper, books written by blind persons on the topic of braille, a teacher's guide, plastic sheets for creating braille labels, braille alphabet cards, quizzes, and interactive games.


Braille for the sighted. By S. Harold Collins. Eugene, OR: Garlic Press. $6.95 print. Also available from some local bookstores. A thirty-two-page book in a puzzle and game format that uses simulated braille to teach the alphabet and numbers.


Braille workbox. Edmonds, WA: Louis Braille Center. $38. A four-part unit consisting of print and simulated braille that contains the story of Louis Braille, an explanation of the fundamentals of braille, exercises for reading simple words and sentences, four pages of braille to provide the experience of reading by touch, a lesson in braille writing with a slate and stylus, a braille alphabet card, and a book in embossed braille with a print translation of either The Night Before Christmas, The Shoemaker and the Elves, or Aesop's Fables.

A pre-literate exposure to braille for parents of visually impaired preschoolers.


Oscar, a blind boy, explains to his classmates that his books are not written in secret code, but in braille. The braille alphabet is illustrated so that sighted children can learn to recognize the letters and decipher a note that Oscar sends to a friend. Reading level, ages 4-8, 32p.

Braille alphabet cards may be obtained from the following sources; contact the organizations regarding price:

- American Foundation for the Blind, AFB Press, Order Department
- American Printing House for the Blind
- National Braille Press
- National Federation of the Blind, Materials Center
- National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (free)

Links to online awareness resources

- The Braille alphabet: www.nbp.org/alph.html
- Braille bug: www.afb.org/braillebug/
- Braille on the Internet: www.nyise.org/braille.htm

IV. Sources of Equipment and Accessories for Reading and Writing Braille (Full addresses are in section VI)

A. Manual equipment

| Braillewriters and Accessories |

Perkins Brailler, standard manual $595, electric $855
Perkins Unimanual Brailler (for persons limited to the use of one hand), $645
Perkins large-cell brailer, manual, jumbo dot $685, $930 electric
Extension keys for Perkins brailer, $35.50
Narrow-paper adapter for Perkins brailler, $14.75
Dymo tape holder, $23.75
Line scale, $17.50

American Printing House for the Blind (quota funds only)
Slates and Styluses

A wide assortment of slates and styluses is produced for a variety of uses. Slates generally come in one-line, four-line, six-line, and eight-line models and vary in the number of cells per line. Styles include E-Z Read slate, pocket slate, desk slate, playing-card slate, correction slate (for transcribers), jiffy slate, cassette-labeling slate, loose-leaf pocket-notebook slate. Although the standard stylus accompanies all slates, various additional styluses are available. Examples include reversible stylus, regular stylus, pencil stylus, and flat stylus. Slates and styluses are also available for jumbo braille.

Braille displays and notetakers

Braille displays provide braille access to computers by converting the information on a computer screen into braille. In response to information from the computer, braille is produced on the display by pins that are raised and lowered (refreshed) in combinations to form braille characters. When used with screen access programs, braille displays allow users to access any portion of the screen information. They are commonly available in twenty-, forty-, or eighty-character braille-cell configurations of six or eight dots each. Some displays are portable and battery-powered.

Braille notetakers are portable devices that allow a user to take notes by inputting standard braille characters using a braille-style or QWERTY keyboard. Some of these devices also allow users interaction with the text through synthesized speech, a braille display, or both. Some allow the text to be edited and translated from the braille characters to their print equivalents.
ALVA Braille Terminal (ABT)

Runs with MS-DOS, IBM OS/2, Windows 95/98, Windows NT, and UNIX. Comes in different models: a portable, battery-operated model with forty-three braille cells and a desktop version with either forty-five or eighty-five braille cells. Has extra status cells so one hand can monitor status information and attributes and the other hand can read the text on the display.

**Adaptive Technology**, $3,495; $4,795; $9,995
**PulseData HumanWare**, $4,695; $7,395; $9,995

ALVA Delphi series

Consists of three models: ALVA Delphi 440 is portable and has forty-three cells (three status cells); ALVA Delphi 440D desktop model has forty-five cells (five status cells); and ALVA Delphi 480 desktop model has eighty-five cells (five status cells).

**Adaptive Technology**, $5,295; $10,495
**Electronic Vision Access**, $5,030.25; $9,970.25
**Keyboard Alternatives**, $5,795; $10,995
**PulseData HumanWare**, $5,295; $10,495

ALVA Satellite series

Comes in two models: ALVA 544 Satellite is portable with forty-four braille cells, four navigation front keys, and ten replaceable and rechargeable penlight batteries; ALVA 570 Satellite Pro has seventy braille cells and six navigation front keys.

**Adaptive Technology**, $6,295; $9,995
**Electronic Vision Access**, $5,980.25; $9,495.25
**GW Micro**, $6,295; $9,995
**PulseData HumanWare**, $6,245; $9,995

Braille Lite

Comes in two models: M20 has a twenty-cell, refreshable eight-dot braille display and M40 has a forty-cell, refreshable eight-dot braille display. Both feature built-in 56K baud modem, internal speech synthesizer, and POP 3 e-mail capability. Stores up to eight hundred pages of braille in up to forty-one files and features parallel printer-port capability.

**Bartimaeus**, $3,495
**Enabling Technologies**, 70BSLITE, $3,395; 70BSBLT4, $5,495
**Freedom Scientific**, $3,495; $5,595
**Keyboard Alternatives**, $3,445; $5,495

BrailleNote

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
A personal data assistant that provides a choice of output options by combining a braille display and speech. Available with either eighteen or thirty-two cell refreshable braille display. Serves as a braille terminal for a PC. One-handed mode for people with limited manual mobility. Other features include cursor routing, key navigation by line, sentence, or paragraph, word processing and translation between braille and text formats including Microsoft Word, sending and receiving e-mail with attachments, reading e-books in standard braille or text formats, in any level of braille.

**PulseData HumanWare**

- BrailleNote 32 (Braille keyboard), $5,799
- BrailleNote PK $4995
- BrailleNote 18 Braille keyboard, $4,099
- BrailleNote QT32 $5,899 Windows-style keyboard
- BrailleNote QT18 $4,199 Windows-style keyboard

**Braille-n-Print**

Connects to a printer and produces a braille and print copy of documents created on a modified Perkins Brailler. Has 22K of memory allowing up to four files to be stored and printed at a later time. Available in two models: the Slimline snaps to the bottom of a Perkins and the Mark 2M allows multi-user settings.

**LS&S Group**, $995

**PulseData HumanWare**, $995

**Braille 'n Speak**

Converts data entered through a braille-style keyboard into speech. It features a braille-to-print "back translator." Can be connected to a computer or modem and can also be configured with an external disk drive. Available in eleven languages. Two models.

**Freedom Scientific**, $1,299, $1,399

**LS&S**, $995, $1,299

**Braille Voyager (HumanWare)**

Has a USB port and a macro program, called Tieman Express, to control the computer from the display regardless of the compatible screen reader being used. Gives the user eight command keys logically configured as braille writing keys.

**Adaptive Technology**, $4,999-$9,999

**Electronic Vision Access**, $5,034.05-$9,499.05

**PulseData HumanWare**, $5,299-$9,999

**Braille Wave (Handy Tech)**

Features include forty concave braille cells with routing keys, status cells that can be switched on according to requirements, serial port, and three-hour charging time. Can run twenty hours on a battery.

**Adaptive Technology**, $4,995

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Braille Window (HumanWare)
Has two models: a portable model with forty-five eight-dot cells and a desktop model with eighty-five eight-dot cells. Both models allow users to navigate Windows or DOS.

Adaptive Technology, $5,699; $10,899
Electronic Vision Access, $10,354.05
PulseData HumanWare, $10,899

BRAILLEX (Papenmeier)
Offers two-dimensional displays that show the structure of the computer screen for users who are visually impaired. Works with screen-reader programs. Available in different models: EL 40p has forty cells with integrated cursor routing keys; EL 2D-40 has forty cells and a thirteen-cell vertical display; EL 2D-66 has sixty-six cells and a thirteen-cell vertical display; EL 2D-80 has eighty cells and a twenty-cell vertical display; EL-80 offers eighty cells with two status cells; and Tiny has forty cells.

Electronic Vision Access, $4,275-$13,371.25
Sighted Electronics, $4,500-$14,075

BRAILLEX EL, BRAILLEX EL Braille Assistant (ELba)
A twenty or thirty-two cell, eight-dot braille notetaker, available with either a braille or a QWERTY-type keyboard for refreshable braille and easily understood speech in different languages. Features built-in modem, Ethernet port or 802.11b wireless internet support, 32 MB of flash memory, 32 MB RAM, a multi-tasking Linux operating system with a word processor, e-mail, Internet browser, day-planner, address book, and scientific calculator.

Sighted Electronics, Inc. Call for price.

DM 80 plus (Baum)
Display features eighty braille cells and four status elements, six pre-defined mode switches, and user-definable function keys for macros and overlays. Has optional speech output. Includes serial and parallel interfaces and the option of installing a special interface card.

Baum. Call for price.

Liber Braille Display (VisuAide)
Gives access to a forty-character window on the computer screen. Offers a range of screen-review commands. Has modules for braille display with eighty-four, forty-four, or twenty-four braille elements; a braille keyboard; and a sixteen-key function pad or speech module that can be combined to create a personal system.

Adaptive Technology, $10,995
VisuAide, $4,195

PowerBraille
Versions include PowerBraille 40, a forty-character, eight-dot display for PB40 notebook or desktop computers; PowerBraille 65, a sixty-five-character, eight-dot braille display for desktop computers; and PowerBraille 80, an eighty-one-character, eight-dot braille display for desktop computers.
Adaptive Technology, $4,495; $8,565; $10,550

Electronic Vision Access, $4,270.25; $8,136.75; $10,022.50

Keyboard Alternatives, $5,950; $8,615

RBT40 Refreshable Braille Terminal
A forty-cell display with tactile function switches for movement of the cursor and six function keys for commands.

Electronic Vision Access, $5,125.25

Vario (Baum)
Can be used with a PC-laptop or -desktop system. Works with Windows-based software packages. Comes in a forty-cell and eighty-cell version.

Baum, call for pricing

GW Micro, $4,800; $9,800

Braille embossers

Braille embossers produce tactile braille output. They differ in such factors as embossing speed, line width, and type and weight of paper. Embossers may print on either one or two sides of the paper and may produce either six- or eight-dot braille.

Prices given are subject to change without notice and may not include shipping and handling and other charges that may be incurred. Please contact the companies directly (see address section) to verify current prices and product specifications.

Braille Blazer
Embasses at 15 characters per second in either six- or eight-dot braille. Has a built-in speech synthesizer. Can be used to configure the Blazer or as a stand alone speech device. The embosser is supported by most popular screen-reading packages. Handles paper up to 8-1/2 inches wide, in any length.

Freedom Scientific, $1,695

Braille BookMaker
An interpoint desktop embosser. Runs at 80 characters per second and can be used with various paper stock. Commands can be issued from its calculator-style keypad and confirmed by tones.

Enabling Technologies, $10,500

Braille Express 100 and 150
An upgraded version of the braille BookMaker embossing at 100 and 150 characters per second, respectively.

Enabling Technologies, $15,995
Braillo Comet

Emboses at 50 and 75 characters per second. Includes graphics access and serial and parallel ports.

**American Thermoform Corporation**, M4/0-0060, $3,795

Braillo 200 and 400

Emboses interpoint and single-sided braille. Produces 600 and 1200 pages an hour, respectively. Utilizes standard continuous fanfold paper.


Dot and Print

Produces braille and print on the same page simultaneously. Has braille-only or print-only options and a speed of 50 characters per second.

**American Thermoform Corporation**, $3,950

ET

Is similar to the Juliet Classic, but has a shorter 40-character line and more speed.

**Enabling Technologies**, $3,795

**PulseData HumanWare**, $3,795

Index Basic-D

Produces two-sided braille text or graphics at 100 characters per second using continuous tractor-feed paper.

**American Thermoform Corporation**, M7/E-0200, $3,695

**Sighted Electronics**, $3,695

Index Basic-S

Is similar to Index Basic-D, but embosses one-sided at 50 characters per second.

**Sighted Electronics**, $2,995

Index Everest-D

Acts as a two-sided printer using single-sheet paper, embossing 91 characters per second or 340 pages per hour.

**American Thermoform Corporation**, M7/E-0100, $4,295

**Sighted Electronics**, $4,295

Index 4x4 PRO

Emboses at 100 characters per second or 380 pages per hour to produce magazines, books, and newspapers in a saddle-stitch binding format.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleditritacy.html
**Sighted Electronics**, $8,140

Juliet Classic, Pro and Pro60

Has a speed ranging from 55 to 60 characters per second, two-sided embossing, and graphics capabilities. Can use standard and variable paper sizes and weights.

**Enabling Technologies**, $3,795; $4,095 for Pro or Pro60

**PulseData HumanWare**, $3,795

Marathon

Runs at 200 characters per second. Is equipped with both serial and parallel ports to allow interface with virtually any computer system or host device.

**Enabling Technologies**, $14,995

Mountbatten Brailler

Can be used as an embosser, a braille writer, or a notetaker. Can type braille directly into an electronic memory rather than on paper. Has a forward translation system that translates print into braille and a back translation system for the braillist who wants a print copy. Can be driven by an external keyboard for one-handed use.

**PulseData HumanWare**, $3,695-$3,945

Paragon

Has an operating speed of 40 characters per second or 120 pages per hour. Allows text embossing in either the vertical or horizontal axis.

**PulseData HumanWare**, $3,295

Porta-Thiel

Emboses two-sided six- and eight-dot braille on single sheets, continuous forms, plastic, and magazine sheets. Uses a built-in speech synthesizer to signal when paper is out and waits for more to be inserted. Has both serial and parallel interfaces.

**Sighted Electronics**, $1,995 single-sided, $2,835 double-sided

Romeo RB-25 and RB-40 (classic)

Emboses one-sided braille at 25 and 40 characters per second, respectively.

**Enabling Technologies**, $2,495-$2,995 and $3,795 respectively

**PulseData HumanWare**, $2,495

Thiel IMPACTO 600

Offers six- or eight-dots collating or continuous two-sided printing at a rate of 600 pages per hour.

**Sighted Electronics**, $37,000

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailliteracy.html
Thomas
Has a speed of 40 characters per second. Can combine graphics or tactile pictures with text and print them on a separate sheet without stopping.

**Enabling Technologies**, $3,295-$3,595

TIGER (Tactile Graphics Embosser)
Emboses text into braille and reproduces graphics in tactile form simultaneously. Uses a standard Windows graphics-capable printer driver that allows printing from any application running in the Windows 95, 98, or NT environment.

**ViewPlus Technologies**, $9,750

VersaPoint Duo
Emboses either six- or eight-dot braille and tactile graphics at 60 characters per second across its forty-character-line length in one- or two-sided mode.

**Freedom Scientific**, $3,795-$4,045

WinBraille
Supports Index embossers. Provides a software package that allows for braille translating, formatting, and embossing from the print icon in the Windows editor. Free for Index users; download at www.indexbraille.com/downloads/index.htm.

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**Braille translation and transcription software**

Software for braille transcription includes automated translators that convert letters, numbers, and other standard characters into contracted braille, and direct-input programs that require a knowledge of braille codes and a one-for-one input of each character to be output in braille.

**Braille2000**

**Computer Application Specialties Company**, monthly license subscriptions ranging from $11 for single users to $39 for five users; or one-time fees beginning at $269.

**Braille Board**
A translator designed for production of ADA-compliant signs. Compatible with graphic layout programs such as CASmate, CorelDraw, FlexiSign, Graphix Advantage, PageMaker, and SignLab. Language support is limited to English. Includes regular braille and SimBraille (with shadow dots) fonts, scaleable. System requirements: 386, 486, Pentium or better CPU 4Mb RAM, 1Mb available hard drive space and Microsoft Windows.

**Duxbury Systems**, $595

**BrlProof-2000**
A back-translation proofreading program for Windows; back-translates braille dots into the original print characters and also checks for missing contractions.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Duxbury Braille Translators (DBT)
   Each version contains such features as braille table of contents generator, capacity to produce textbook format braille, and translation tables in accordance with the Braille Authority of North America (BANA). Available for Windows or Macintosh.

Duxbury Systems, $595-$645

Freedom Scientific, $595

GW Micro, $595

MegaDots Version 2.2 on CD
   Produces BANA textbook format braille. Works under all versions of Microsoft Windows, including XP. Imports eBook, Daisy/NISO, XML, HTML, and SGML files. Provides tools for creating a variety of braille constructs, including tables, footnotes, line-numbered poetry or prose, and dictionary diacritics according to BANA textbook format requirements. It is a DOS application that works with all commercially available braille embossers. Speaks with screen readers that work with MS-DOS applications, including JAWS for Windows.

Duxbury Systems, $595

Micro Braille
   Direct input software that allows user to see a full screen of braille characters.

Micro Engineering, $155

NFBTRANS
   A text-to-braille software program that operates on an MS-DOS operating system, with a brailling device, and with word-processing software. The most recent version of contracted braille translation software program is NFBTRANS 7.70. It is a self-extracting executable file available for downloading.

National Federation of the Blind, free download

PerkyDuck
   Software that emulates the Perkins brailler. It allows Windows and Macintosh users to create electronic braille files on their computer through six-key input. Braille files can then be printed, embossed, or e-mailed to an instructor for examination and grading. Does not have translation capabilities and very little formatting.

Duxbury Systems, free download

Pokadot
   Software for transcribing and embossing braille files. Operates under Windows and DOS.

National Braille Association, free download; disk version is $5
TranSend
Software used with the Thomas braille embosser. Translates text into print or braille or both on the same page, line for line. Allows a user who does not know braille to produce a braille document by proofreading the accompanying print. Can provide proper braille spacing with 14-point print size.

**Enabling Technologies**, $4,600

Music translation software

Goodfeel; Goodfeel Lite
Converts music files to braille, the same files used to produce the score in print. Braille reading knowledge is not a requirement to use the program. Includes integrated literary braille translation for most western languages that allows translation of both words and the tune. GOODFEEL Lite has all the features of the full product but is limited to either instrumental music, vocal parts, or keyboard.

**Dancing Dots**, $795 and $295 respectively
, $795

Opus Braille Font Pack
Creates printed materials with braille characters. Displays and prints ASCII text files from Pokadot, MicroBraille, and MegaDots. The fonts allow preparation of print copies of braille materials, at varying point sizes and in any combination of braille and ASCII.

**Opus Technologies**, $99

OpusDots Lite
For transcribers, parents, teachers, or aides who know basic print music notation but may not know braille. Uses proprietary scan and click technology for transcribing printed sheet music into music braille. The user scans the printed sheet music, then enters the musical elements by clicking over them in the scanned image. The entered music is then translated automatically into music braille. Translates single-line music for band instruments, orchestral instruments, chorus, and sight-reading or music theory exercises.

**Opus Technologies**, $299

Toccata Braille Music Translator software program
Transcribes music of any complexity, including single-line instrumental music, songs with lyrics, piano music, and orchestral scores. Produced by Optek Systems of Australia and distributed in North America by Opus Technologies. Knowing the music braille code is not a requirement for using the program.

**Opus Technologies**, $795

Translation Software for Braille Mathematics
DBT American Math and Science Code (Nemeth) translation
Can be included as a feature of the standard DBT software package.
V. Supplies for Writing and Embossing Braille (Full addresses are in section VI.)

Braille Writing Paper

Braille writing paper is available in a variety of sizes to accommodate an array of braille writing and embossing equipment. Sizes include 3” x 5”, 3” x 6”, 5” x 8” for looseleaf binders, 5” x 11” for Mini Pitch Brailler, 8 1/2 ” x 11”, 9” x 12”, and 11” x 11”. Other sizes are also available. Braille writing paper is available in heavy and light grades. Heavy grade provides more durable dots; light grade is easier to emboss by slate and stylus. Braille paper is available in buff, white, manila, or brown-glazed finish and may be ordered unpunched or punched for three, six, or nineteen holes. Paper is packaged in different quantities. (Not all sources stock all sizes.)

American Printing House for the Blind
Braille Institute of America
Howe Press of Perkins School for the Blind
Independent Living Aids
LS&S Group
Maxi-Aids
Royal National Institute for the Blind

Braille (Ohtsuki) Paper

Heavy-grade manila paper specially developed for the Ohtsuki BT-5000 embosser that can also be used on vacuum-form machines.

American Printing House for the Blind
American Thermoform Corporation
Braille Institute of America
Maxi-Aids

Brailon

A plastic-like paper developed for use with the thermoform machine. Can be used in a braillewriter or with a slate and stylus. Available in heavy and light grades and in several sizes.

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Computer Braille Paper

Tractor feed, available in sizes 8-1/2" x 11", 11" x 11-1/2", 14" x 11", and 6" x 6" continuous cards. Comes in heavy and light grades.

Other Supplies

Binders

An assortment of notebooks and binders suitable for storing various sizes of braille paper and cards: three-ring pocket notebook, six-ring pocket notebook, and three-ring notebook for 8-1/2" x 11" and 11" x 11-1/2"; nineteen-ring looseleaf binder and nineteen-ring Krebs binders for 11" x 11-1/2" paper in three paper capacities; spiral-bound pocket notebook, plastic and cardboard covers cut to size and punched for plastic comb binding.

Impresser
An embosser for making braille business cards. A handheld device that allows one to emboss up to four lines of braille, thirteen cells each on a business card by squeezing the handle. The die for each Impresser must be custom made.

American Printing House for the Blind

Labeling Tape

Labeling materials include Dymo braille tape, Teflon-skied tape, aluminum tape, clear cassette labels, braillables (8-1/2” x 11” adhesive-back sheets that can be cut to size), perma clear adhesive-back labels, embossables (for use with braille embossers, tractor fed, 8-1/2” x 11”, adhesive back), and 2” x 5” clear plastic labels.

American Printing House for the Blind
American Thermoform Corporation
Braille Institute of America
Howe Press of Perkins School for the Blind
Independent Living Aids
Label Specialties

Lighthouse Store

LS&S Group
Maxi-Aids

3M Braille Labeler

Emboses braille on vinyl or magnetic tape. Dial includes complete braille alphabet, some contractions, and punctuation. Holds 1/2” width tape.

Braille Institute of America
Independent Living Aids

Lighthouse Store

LS&S Group
Maxi-Aids

VI. Addresses of Sources and Suppliers

Adaptive Technology Consulting, Inc.
American Printing House for the Blind

1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 895-2405
800-223-1839
(502) 895-1509 fax
info@aph.org
www.aph.org

American Red Cross Metropolitan Chapter

209 Fairfield Road
Fairfield, NJ 07004
(973) 797-3336
(973) 575-8548 fax
jbente@rcmetronj.org

American Thermoform Corporation

1758 Brackett Street
La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 593-6711
800-331-3676
(909) 593-8001 fax
sales@americanthermoform.com
www.atcbrleqp.com

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

1703 North Beauregard Street

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Dancing Dots
1754 Quarry Lane
P.O. Box 927
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0927
(610) 783-6692
(610) 783-6732 fax
info@dancingdots.com
www.dancingdots.com

Duxbury Systems, Inc.
270 Littleton Road, Unit 6
Westford, MA 01886
(978) 692-3000
(978) 692-7912 fax
orders@duxsys.com
www.duxburysystems.com

Electronic Vision Access Solutions
39 Canal Street
P.O. Box 371
Westerly, RI 02891
(401) 596-3155
800-872-3827
(401) 596-3979 fax
contact@evas.com
www.evas.com

Enabling Technologies
1601 Northeast Braille Place

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Exceptional Teaching Aids

20102 Woodbine Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 582-4859
800-549-6999
(510) 582-5911 fax
ExTeachings@aol.com
www.exceptionalteaching.com

Freedom Scientific
Blind/Low Vision Group

11800 31st Court North
St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1805
(727) 803-8000
800-444-4443
(727) 803-8001 fax
Info@freedomscientific.com
www.freedomscientific.com

Garlic Press

1312 Jeppesen Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 345-0063

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
General Binding Corporation

One GBC Plaza
Northbrook, IL 60062
800-723-4000
www.gbcconnect.com

Grant Wood Area Education Agency

4401 Sixth Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-4499
(319) 399-6415
(319) 399-6457 fax
info@medten.aea10.k12.ia.us
www.aea10.k12.ia.us/divlearn/brailletoo.html

GW Micro, Inc.

725 Airport North Office Park
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
(260) 489-3671
(260) 489-2608 fax
support@gwmicro.com
www.gwmicro.com

Hadley School for the Blind

700 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 446-8111

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Howe Press
Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 924-3490
(617) 926-2027 fax
Info@Perkins.org
www.perkins.org

Independent Living Aids, Inc.
200 Robbins Lane
Jericho, NY 11753-2341
(516) 937-1848
800-537-2118
(516) 937-3906 fax
can-do@independentliving.com
www.independentliving.com

Karen Condie
7859 South 280 East
Sandy, UT 84070
(801) 569-9061
leekarencondie@msn.com

Keyboard Alternatives
http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Label Specialties

2501 Technology Drive
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 261-9000
(502) 261-9001 fax

The Lighthouse Store (retail)

111 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022
(212) 821-9384
(212) 821-9707 fax

For mail order:
Low Vision Products
36-20 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11101
800-453-4923

The Louis Braille Center

320 Dayton Street, Suite 125
Edmonds, WA 98020-3590
(425) 776-4042
(425) 778-2384 fax

http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailleliteracy.html
Opus Technologies
13333 Thunderhead Street
San Diego, CA 92129-2329
(858) 538-9401 phone and fax
866-678-7832
opus@opustec.com
www.opustec.com

Overbrook School for the Blind
Towers Press
6333 Malvern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151
(215) 877-0313
(215) 877-2709 fax
www.obs.org

Pulse Data HumanWare
North American Sales Office
175 Mason Circle
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 680-7100
800-722-3393
(925) 681-4630 fax
usa@pulsedata.com
Stipes Publishing L.L.C.

204 West University Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 356-8391
stipes@soltec.net
www.stipes.com

Tack-Tiles® Braille Systems, L.L.C.

P.O. Box 475
Plaistow, NH 03865
800-822-5845
braille@tack-tiles.com
www.tack-tiles.com

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

TSBVI Outreach
1100 West 45th Street
Austin, TX 78756
(512) 206-9103
800-872-5273
www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear

ViewPlus Technologies

1853 Southwest Airport Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 754-4002
(541) 738-6505 fax
info@viewplus.com