



# Tech Info Library

## Apple Disability Solutions: MAP and Third-Party Products (7/96)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the Mac Access Passport (MAP) and provides examples of the third-party companies and products contained in it.

DISCUSSION -----

Mac Access Passport Database

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Mac Access Passport (MAP) is a database that includes descriptive information about more than 100 Macintosh solutions for individuals with disabilities. Each record in MAP contains a product description and developer contact information.

MAP includes information on tools for individuals with physical motor impairments, blindness, hearing and speech difficulties, and learning disabilities. The database can be searched by keywords, product name, developer name, disability type, and description text. MAP is based on the Macintosh FileMaker Pro search engine by Claris Corporation.

You can view the Mac Access Passport on the WWW at <http://www2.apple.com/disability/welcome.html>. You can download the Mac Access Passport database from [ftp.info.apple.com](ftp://info.apple.com) or [ftp.apple.com](ftp://apple.com). Or you can request a copy by calling Apple's Worldwide Disability Solutions Group at 800-600-7808 (voice), or 800-755-0601 (TTY).

The following information is distributed by Apple Computer's Worldwide Disability Solutions Group. Mention of a particular product does not represent an endorsement, either expressed or implied, by Apple Computer, Inc.

Learning and Speaking Disability Solutions

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Special Education Software

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There are over 1,300 educational software programs available for the Macintosh, ranging from those that teach adverbial clauses to ones that help students explore the anatomy of a whale. Some software comes alive with dazzling color,

animation, and stereo sound; other programs are more basic by comparison, incorporating traditional teaching strategies such as drill-and-practice and memorization.

Without knowing more about a particular student (What are his reading skills? spelling skills? comprehension skills? What are her academic and personal goals? interests? abilities?) it's difficult to recommend specific software.

But it is possible for teachers and parents to make that decision once they have enough information about what software is available. Below are four companies that offer a wide selection of educational software for the Macintosh. We encourage you to contact them to find out about their various Macintosh education software solutions.

Broderbund Software  
500 Redwood Blvd.  
P.O. Box 6121  
Novato, CA 94948  
800-521-6263

Don Johnston, Inc.  
P.O. Box 639  
1000 N. Rand  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
800-999-4660

Edmark Corp.  
P.O. Box 3218  
Redmond, WA 98073  
800-426-0856

Wings for Learning/Sunburst  
101 Castleton Street  
Pleasantville, NY 10570  
800-321-7511

Dyslexia

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The Macintosh is favored by many people with learning disabilities because the software is so easy to use- all Macintosh software works essentially the same way. So once you learn one program, the next one will seem very familiar. This fundamental consistency eliminates frustration for a lot of people.

In addition to the Macintosh's ease-of-use, there is software that can help you structure and organize your ideas, check your spelling as you type (using your own list of frequently misspelled words), and analyze your written documents for grammatical errors. There is even some software that can anticipate the word you're about to type, and type it for you!

When it comes to managing your daily activities, personal information management software can help manage different areas of your life: keeping an updated TO DO list, maintaining your address book, and scheduling and reminding you of upcoming appointments.

Aldus Consumer Div.  
5120 Shoreham Place  
San Diego, CA 92122  
800-888-6293  
TouchBase Pro and DateBook Pro

Baseline Publishing  
1760 Moriah Woods, Ste. 5  
Memphis, TN 38117-7118  
901-682-9676  
Thunder 7

Don Johnston, Inc.  
P.O. Box 639  
1000 N. Rand  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
800-999-4660  
Co: Writer

#### Speech Communication

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Every Macintosh has speech capability built-in, which means a Macintosh PowerBook-in addition to doing everything that a Macintosh regularly does- can travel with you, helping you communicate with others. A PowerBook is small and lightweight, so it can be carried around in a backpack or easily attached to a wheelchair, making it a versatile communication tool.

Using "text-to-speech" software, the Macintosh can create synthetic speech from typed-in words, allowing your PowerBook to speak out loud any word or phrase. The Macintosh also has the ability to record and playback a person's own voice (somewhat like a tape recorder), which results in a very high-quality sound.

Special software can help you manage computerized speech so that you can access the appropriate words on demand. Libraries of pictures, symbols, and graphics are often used to build "picture communication boards," enabling speech samples to be selected quickly and easily.

Don Johnston, Inc.  
P.O. Box 639  
1000 N. Rand  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
800-999-4660  
Talk:About and Write:OutLoud

Mayer-Johnson Co.  
P.O. Box 1579  
Solana Beach, CA 92075  
619-481-2489  
Speaking Dynamically

Physical Disability Solutions

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## Keyboards

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There are dozens of different kinds of keyboards for the Macintosh. Depending on your personal abilities and preferences, any of a number of them may be appropriate.

The right keyboard for you may be the kind that looks like a traditional keyboard, but has large, touch-sensitive keys to help make typing easier. Or maybe your keyboard is the kind that has only seven keys and uses a typing technique called "chording," originally designed for one-handed typists. The Apple Adjustable Keyboard, another possibility, splits into two sections and conforms to the natural position of your arms to make typing comfortable.

Other products include switch-operated, on-screen keyboards that let you type with almost any part of your body, and "smart" keyboards that allow you to customize each key's position, size, and function. We suggest you contact the following companies to learn about, and perhaps sample, their keyboard products.

Don Johnston, Inc.  
P.O. Box 639  
1000 N. Rand  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
800-999-4660  
Ke:nx and Ke:nx On:Board

IntelliTools  
5221 Central Avenue. Suite 205  
Richmond, CA 94804  
800-899-6687  
IntelliKeys

TASH, Inc.  
Unit 1-91 Station St.  
Ajax, ON L1S 3H2  
CANADA  
905-686-4129  
MacMini Keyboard

## Pointing Devices

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You can fine tune your mouse's sensitivity to a degree by using software that comes with your Macintosh. But this kind of refinement may not adequately address your needs. You may need an altogether different kind of pointing device.

If so, there are many from which to choose: head-controlled mice, trackballs (in effect a mouse turned upside down), joysticks, mice of different sizes and speeds, writing pads that function as mice, touch-sensitive screens that act as mice, and even remote-controlled mice.

Another solution is Easy Access, a software program that comes with every Macintosh. The Mouse Keys feature of Easy Access lets you manipulate the screen cursor with the numeric keypad part of the keyboard instead of using the regular mouse. Mouse Keys also makes it easier to make fine adjustments of the cursor position, a feat that is often difficult using a regular mouse. Because the PowerBook does not have a built-in numeric keypad, PowerBook users need an additional extension, MouseKeys for PowerBook, to emulate the numeric keyboard on the standard PowerBook keyboard.

How do you determine which pointing device is the most appropriate for your needs? First you need to find out what's available (beyond the contacts listed below). Try visiting your local newsstand and browsing through a computer magazine devoted to Macintosh technology; there you'll find new and different pointing devices being advertised regularly.

Edmark  
P.O. Box 3218  
Redmond, WA 98073  
800-426-0856  
Mac TouchWindow

Kensington Microware  
2855 Campus Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
800-535-4242  
TurboMouse

Logitech, Inc.  
6565 Kaiser Drive  
Fremont, CA 94555  
800-231-7717  
MouseMan

#### Input Systems

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With the right hardware and software, a Macintosh can become a powerful system for learning, working, and playing. But that won't matter to you until you're able to find a way to control the computer... your way.

Keyboards and mice are traditionally used to control personal computers. Although you may not be able to use these devices, you can choose between a number of alternatives, including: a voice recognition system that allows a person to control the computer by talking to it; an on-screen keyboard that facilitates typing without physically touching the keys; and a head-controlled keyboard/mouse that lets a person type using head movements.

There are, in fact, a number of possibilities that will allow people to use a Macintosh for whatever they want. Contact the following companies to learn more about their access products.

Articulate Systems, Inc.  
600 West Cummings Park

Suite 4500  
Woburn, MA 01801  
800-443-7077  
PowerSecretary

Madenta Communications  
9411A 20 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T6N 1E5  
Canada  
800-661-8406  
Doors

Origin Instruments  
854 Greenview Drive  
Grand Prairie, TX 75050  
214-606-8740  
HeadMouse

Visual Disability Solutions  
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Speech and Braille  
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The Macintosh was the first truly graphics-based personal computer, which helps account for a common misconception that it's inaccessible to people who cannot see. In fact, when used with innovative software programs the Macintosh is fully accessible to blind individuals.

When it comes to navigating the Macintosh's screen, software called outSPOKEN gives audio cues to on-screen visual images such as icons, windows, menus, and cursor location (the numeric keypad replaces the need for a mouse). outSPOKEN is compatible with virtually all Macintosh applications, so blind people can use a Macintosh just as sighted people do- in the office, at home, at school, anywhere. Another program called Duxbury Braille Translator converts text to Braille and formats printing on a Braille embosser.

For more information, contact the following companies:

Berkeley Systems  
2095 Rose Street  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
510-540-5535  
510-540-5115 - fax  
510-540-0709 - TTY  
e-mail: [access@berksys.com](mailto:access@berksys.com)  
outSPOKEN

Duxbury Systems, Inc.  
435 King Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
508-486-9766  
Duxbury Braille Translator

Telesensory  
455 North Bernardo Avenue  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
800-537-3961  
Braille Embossers

#### Magnification

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There are several things that can be done to enlarge the images on the Macintosh computer's screen. One solution, CloseView, is software that magnifies the screen image up to 16 times its regular size. CloseView works with virtually all Macintosh software, and is free- it's included as part of the Macintosh's system software. (An enhanced version of this software, called inLARGE, is also available as a separate product from Berkeley Systems.)

Other magnification solutions range from monitors that display images in multiple resolutions to magnification lenses that attach to the outside frame of the Macintosh's monitor. You may also want to consider using software that reads text aloud, so that instead of looking at the words on your computer, you can listen to them. Contact the companies below to learn more about their access products for people with vision impairments.

Berkeley Systems  
2095 Rose Street  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
510-540-5535  
510-540-5115 - fax  
510-540-0709 - TTY  
e-mail: [access@berksys.com](mailto:access@berksys.com)  
inLARGE

New Concepts Marketing  
P.O. Box 261  
Port Richey, FL 34673  
800-456-7097  
Magnification Lenses

Sigma Designs, Inc.  
47906 Bayside Parkway  
Fremont, CA 94538  
510-77000100  
Multiple Resolution Monitors

This article provides information about a non-Apple product. Apple Computer, Inc. is not responsible for its content. Please contact the vendor for additional information.

The Tech Info Library article titled "Locating Vendor Information" can help you search for a particular vendor's address and phone number.

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