

Electronic Video Magnifiers

Electronic video magnifiers (also known as CCTVs) have radically changed low vision rehabilitation and maximized what people with a visual impairment can do. For anyone with a moderate to severe vision loss, electronic video magnifiers allow a more comfortable reading posture and allow a greater working distance from the reading material. For people with a mild visual impairment, they offer a wider visual field for viewing reading material as compared to a magnifier. Electronic low vision products are available in a variety of portable and desktop models. A video magnifier uses a video camera to project a magnified image onto a LCD Monitor or a computer monitor. Cameras with zoom lenses provide variable magnification. All systems use an auto-focus camera and some new models are incorporating a microprocessor to enable the unit to scan and read the text out loud.

Below is a list of some desktop and portable electronic video magnifiers. This is not an all inclusive list, but does provide an example of some of the most popular products.

Desktop Units

Merlin Ultra (\$2,895 to \$3,095 depending on screen size in February, 2014)

The Merlin Ultra desktop video magnifiers feature a widescreen 20, 22 or a 24 inch flat panel monitor with a high definition auto-focus camera and easy to use built-in controls that move with the monitor screen. Designed to be set up in a designated location, it is primarily used for reading and writing. The user can pivot and adjust the height of the screen to a comfortable viewing position. It has seven standard viewing modes with three color select modes and 1x to 85x magnification (varies with display size). The Merlin HD Feature Pack (add lines, windowing & focus lock) Manufacturer: Enhanced Vision www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-product-line

Merlin Elite HD/OCR (\$3,295 in February, 2014)

The Merlin Ultra desktop video magnifiers feature a widescreen 20, 22 or a 24 inch flat panel monitor with a high definition auto-focus camera and easy to use built-in controls that move with the monitor screen. Designed to be set up in a designated location, it is primarily used for reading and writing. The user can pivot and adjust the height of the screen to a comfortable viewing position. It has seven standard viewing modes with three color select modes and 1x to 85x magnification. The scan to read feature allows

the unit to scan in text and read it out load. It is controlled by a separate remote controller attached by cables. The Merlin Elite Feature Pack (add lines, windowing & focus lock) Manufacturer: Enhanced Vision
www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-product-line

ClearView+ HD (\$2,795 to \$3,295 depending on screen size in February, 2014)

The ClearView+ HD desktop video magnifiers feature a widescreen 18.5, 22 or a 24 inch flat panel monitor with a high definition auto-focus camera and easy to use built-in controls that built in to the base. Designed to be set up in a designated location, it is primarily used for reading and writing. The user can pivot and adjust the height of the screen to a comfortable viewing position. It has three standard viewing modes with three color select modes and 1x to 85x magnification (varies with display size). The Basic Feature Pack offer 16 color combinations & position indicator while the Advanced Feature Pack offers those plus reading lines and windows. Manufacturer: <http://us.optelec.com/products>

ClearView+ with Speech 24" HD (\$3,895 in February, 2014)

The ClearView+ with Speech HD desktop video magnifier feature a widescreen 24 inch flat panel monitor with a high definition auto-focus camera and easy to use built-in controls that built in to the base. Designed to be set up in a designated location, it is primarily used for reading and writing. The user can pivot and adjust the height of the screen to a comfortable viewing position. It has three standard viewing modes with three color select modes and 1x to 85x magnification. The scan to read feature allows the unit to scan in text and read it out load. It is controlled by a touch window. The Basic Feature Pack offer 16 color combinations & position indicator while the Advanced Feature Pack offers those plus reading lines and windows. Manufacturer: <http://us.optelec.com/products>

Transportable Units

Acrobat HD (\$2,295 to \$2,995 depending on screen size in February, 2014)

The Acrobat HD video magnifiers are transportable 3-in-1 video magnifiers and are ideal for near, distance and self viewing. By rotating the Acrobat's high definition camera, the user can write, read, groom, do hobbies and magnify images at any distance. The camera arm slides and pivots for a full inline position offering an optimal viewing experience. The detachable camera rotates 340 degrees. The unit is connected to a high resolution 20, 22, 24 or 27 inch LCD monitor. The Acrobat video magnifiers offers 28

viewing modes and up to 95x adjustable digital magnification on a 20 display. The line markers increase functionality for the user. The rolling carrying case allows for easy transport (sold separately). Manufacturer: Enhanced Vision www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-product-line

DaVinci (\$2,995 in February, 2014)

The DaVinci video magnifier is another transportable 3-in-1 video magnifier and are ideal for near, distance and self-viewing. By rotating the DaVinci's high definition camera, the user can write, read, groom, do hobbies and magnify images at any distance. The detachable camera rotates 340 degrees and the arm it is connected to slides and pivots for near and distance experience. The DaVinci comes with an attached 24" HD LCD monitor. The DaVinci has 28 viewing modes and up to 77x adjustable digital magnification on the 24 display. The line markers increase functionality for the user. The rolling carrying case allows for easy transport (sold separately). Manufacturer: Enhanced Vision www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-product-line

MultiView HD (\$2,495 to \$2,695 depending on screen size in February, 2014)

The MultiView HD video magnifiers are transportable 3-in-1 video magnifiers and are ideal for near, distance and self viewing. By rotating the MultiView's high definition camera, the user can write, read, groom, do hobbies and magnify images at any distance. The camera arm slides and pivots for a full inline position offering an optimal viewing experience. The detachable camera rotates 340 degrees. The unit is connected to a high resolution 22 or 24 inch LCD monitor. The MultiView video magnifiers offers 8 viewing modes and up to 81x adjustable digital magnification on the 24" display. The line markers increase functionality for the user. The rolling carrying case allows for easy transport (sold separately). Manufacturer: Optelec <http://us.optelec.com/products>

Portable Units

Amigo (\$1,695 in February, 2014)

The Amigo is a portable handheld video magnifier, with digital magnification from 3.5 to 14x. The user places the Amigo directly on the reading material and adjusts the magnification. The viewing screen is 6.5 inches. A screen tilting function gives the user the flexibility to view images at a comfortable angle. The Freeze Frame feature allows the user to take a temporary picture for closer examination. There are six viewing modes. The Amigo

can connect with a TV for increased magnification. Manufacturer:
Enhanced Vision www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-products

Compact 5 & 7 HD (\$1295 in February, 2014)

The Compact 7 HD is a portable handheld video magnifier that is portable for traveling or at home. The user can easily read labels, prescriptions, price tags, menus, and much more. The Compact 7 has adjustable magnification of 2x to 24x, depending on model, with easy-to-use tactile controls, adjustable brightness, and a freeze image feature. Manufacturer:
Manufacturer: Optelec <http://us.optelec.com/products>

Computer/ Monitor Connected Portables

Transformer USB/VGA (\$2145 in February, 2014)

The Transformer is compatible with popular magnification software and the latest Windows/ Mac operating systems. Its camera rotates 350 degrees for reading, distance and self viewing modes. The unit weighs less than three pounds and offers magnification of 2.4x to 30x (based on a 17 inch monitor screen). There are 28 custom color select modes. Manufacturer:
Enhanced Vision www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-products

Handheld Units

Pebble HD (\$595 in February, 2014)

The Pebble HD is a portable handheld video magnifier with a small lightweight design that is helpful whether traveling or at home. The user can easily read labels, prescriptions, price tags, menus, and much more. The Pebble has adjustable magnification of 1.35x to 13x, with easy-to-use tactile controls, adjustable brightness, and a freeze image feature. Manufacturer: Enhanced Vision www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-product-line

Compact 4 & Compact Touch HD (\$695 & \$995 depending on model in February, 2014)

The Compact 4 HD is a portable handheld video magnifier that comes in 4 inch model that portable for traveling or at home. The user can easily read labels, prescriptions, price tags, menus, and much more. The Compact 4 has adjustable magnification of 1.7x to 12x using easy-to-use tactile controls, adjustable brightness, and a freeze image feature. The Compact HD touch is a 5 inch portable unit with a touch screen. Manufacturer:
Manufacturer: Optelec <http://us.optelec.com/products>

Ruby HD (\$645 in February 2014)

This 4.3 inch handheld video magnifier blends portability with advanced features, with a high-definition camera for crystal-clear images. 2x to 13x continuous zoom. Perfect for restaurant menus, photographs, prescription labels, items at the grocery store, and much more. Hold it as you would a magnifying glass using the folding handle, or lay the RUBY HD flat on a page for hands-free viewing. Manufacturer: Freedom Scientific

<http://sales.freedomscientific.com/ProductInfo.aspx?productid=900510-001>

Snow (\$495 in February, 2014)

The Snow is a 4.3" handheld video magnifier that has a smooth magnification adjustment feature and can adjust from 2X to 16X magnification. There are 10 color viewing modes: full color, grey, black on white, white on black, blue on white, white on blue, black on yellow, yellow on black, blue and yellow, and yellow on blue. It has a "kick stand" writing stand that folds up into the unit. This unit can be connected and used with a TV with included video cord. Manufacturer: Mattingly:

<http://www.mattinglylowvision.com/content.cfm?n=mvideo>