
Symbol Communicator for the Blind #4040

USER'S GUIDE



For Technical Support:

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Perfect for the totally blind or dual sensory impaired!

This portable symbol communicator can store 6 messages on 6 levels for a total of 36 6-second messages. Touch one of the six removable tactile symbols to activate a message and at the same time you will feel a vibration, which can be turned off if not desired. Tactile symbols are a graphic language system using concrete or abstract representations that are manipulatable and can be tactually discriminated by an individual who is totally blind or dual sensory impaired. Included is a recommended starting kit of 6 tactile symbols: Bathroom; Something wrong; Drink; I want; Finished; Eat. Size: 14"L x 10½"W x 2"H. Requires 4 AA Batteries. Weight: 3½ lbs.

Operation:

1. Carefully turn over unit to reveal battery compartment. Remove the cover then, observing polarity, install four AA size batteries into the holder. Alkaline batteries are recommended because they last longer. Do not use rechargeable batteries because they supply lower voltage and the unit may not perform as well.
2. Move the **LEVEL SELECTOR** Switch located under the unit to Level 1.
3. To record, depress and hold the red **RECORD** button located under the unit. While still holding the **RECORD** button, depress one of the six square plates on the front of the unit and speak into the microphone located on the back panel of the unit.

Operation (continued):

4. Release both the plate and the recording button when the recording is over. Play back your message by pressing and releasing the same square used to record. Each of the remaining squares can be programmed in the same manner. The unit will retain recorded information indefinitely, even if the battery is disconnected. Previously stored information will be erased only when a new recording is performed.
5. Move the **LEVEL SELECTOR** Switch to Level 2 and repeat Step 3. Continue programming additional levels, if needed.
6. To playback, select the level and then touch the appropriate window.
7. Playback volume can be adjusted by turning the **VOLUME CONTROL** knob located under the unit.
8. Turn the unit off by rotating the **VOLUME CONTROL** knob counterclockwise until you hear an audible "click".

Important Notes:

The vibration can be turned off if so desired, by turning the Vibration ON/OFF toggle switch to the OFF position. This control is located on the back of the unit.

The **Symbol Communicator** will automatically go into a standby mode after playback, to preserve battery life. However, the device still drains a very small current in this "standby" mode. Therefore, if the unit is not going to be used for a prolonged amount of time (more than a few days), it is recommended that the unit be turned off, to extend overall battery life. This can be done by turning the **VOLUME CONTROL** knob counterclockwise, until you hear an audible "click".

Troubleshooting:

Problem: The unit fails to operate, or operates incorrectly.

Action #1: Disconnect the power by turning OFF the unit for 20 seconds to reset the unit. If the unit still does not work correctly after the power is reconnected, check and replace the batteries observing proper polarity.

Action #2: If the unit still does not work, make sure there is no dirt or obstacles between the square plates and the housing of the unit.

Care of Unit:

The **Symbol Communicator** can be wiped clean with any household multi-purpose cleaner and disinfectant. We recommend Simple Green, which is a non toxic biodegradable all-purpose cleaner.

Do not submerge the unit, as it will damage the electrical components.

Do not use abrasive cleaners, as they will scratch the surface of the unit.

Suggested by Director of Outreach, Blind Children's Fund. Symbols by Tactile Talk.

"Tactile Symbols...offer another important communication option for individuals with complex sensory and communicative needs. Clinical applications have demonstrated the importance of tactile symbols as a communication option for this population." Lynn S. Sweeney, M.A., CCC-SLP.

"Wonderful!..tactile symbols are well thought out, durable and fill a void for a population that is underserved. There is very little in the way of communication options for the non-verbal individual. Tactile Talk fills this void." Pati King Debaum, CCC-SLP