

# AT FOCUS

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Lending Library  
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University  
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## Amplified Telephones

Some of the more requested items from the **Lending Library** are amplified telephones. This issue of *AT Focus* includes the most recent additions to the inventory and other popular amplified telephones. We hope that you will find this information useful in helping people select an amplified telephone. Please note that "TDDP" follows the description of any telephone that is available through the Pennsylvania Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP). With the exception of the CapTel phone, these phones are available from many places, so we have included a selection of vendors in the "Related Websites" section of this newsletter, rather than a vendor website for each.

### CapTel Telephone

Designed specifically to interact with the CapTel Captioning Service to display captions, the CapTel phone automatically connects to the service when someone makes a call. When the other party answers, the CapTel phone user hears everything that they say (up to 35 dB amplification), and also reads the written

transcriptions on the display window of the phone. Captioning (which can be turned off if it is not needed) appears almost simultaneously with the spoken words. For more information on the CapTel go to <http://www.captionedtelephone.com>, or call 888-269-7477. (TL-CAPEL, \$495) (TDDP)

### **Reizen Big Button Amplified Speaker Phone**

This basic, amplified phone has very large buttons (1-1/4") with bold, large (3/4") numbers for easy dialing. A large bright red flashing light signals incoming calls. Other features include: receiver volume control, flash and redial buttons. (TL-REIZEN, \$32) (TDDP)

### **Uniphone 1140**

Uniphone is a combination TTY (text telephone), telephone, and amplified handset. It can be used for VCO (voice carry over), HCO (hearing carry over), TTY, and regular phone calls. There is a two line LCD display with backlight, 10 speed dial numbers, and 3 emergency identification dial keys. Some features that make relay calls easier are a VCO request key, user programmable auto-answer message, and 8K of memory to review conversations. Other features include a ring flasher, auto-busy redial, and last number redial. (TL-UNI1140, \$260) (TDDP)

### **ClearSounds 40XLC Freedom Phone**

This amplified phone (shown here with optional Bed Shaker Ring Signaler) has a large LCD screen and Caller ID feature (can only be used if borrower subscribes) with storage for 99 incoming names and numbers and a date/time stamp for each call. The 1" buttons make dialing easier, and 11 (3 emergency, 8 standard) memory dial buttons allow the user to program important numbers into the phone for one-touch dialing. Standard volume control goes up to 30 dB; amplification button raises that to 40 dB, with a handset boost button for an extra 10 dB. Tone Control can shape the sound to match your hearing and speakerphone option offers up to 15 dB amplification. The 3-level Speech Output Control allows you to adjust the volume of your outgoing voice with an increase of up to 12 dB. This phone is hearing aid compatible, and features audio jacks to accommodate any handset, neckloop, T-Hook silhouette or patchcord. A built-in Strobe Ring Signaler and a loud 95 dB Ringer makes sure you know when the phone rings. (TL-40XLC, \$190)

### **ClearSounds CL600**

The CL600 is an emergency connect and amplified telephone all in one. It has three components: a small remote band transmitter (a help button worn by the user), the CL600 telephone (connected into the user's telephone line), and up to 6 emergency connect telephone numbers (family, friends or neighbors) that monitor calls.

After setting the emergency connect numbers and your message, to summon help in case of an emergency, you press the remote band's emergency button from anywhere in your house up to 80 feet away. It sends a radio signal to the CL600 which automatically dials one or more pre-programmed emergency numbers. If there

is no response in 30 seconds or if the line is busy, the phone will dial the second number. If someone on the other end lifts the handset, the phone will play the emergency message you recorded to ask for help. The person is required to press one of the keypad keys (0-9) to confirm that the emergency message has been received and to deactivate the CL600 from dialing the next number. Next, the CL600 will automatically turn ON the speakerphone allowing the person to speak and listen to the emergency user.

Other features of the CL600 include: Caller ID (requires subscription from local phone company), large LCD screen, large lighted keypad (1" buttons), amplification of volume and tone (up to 50 dB), hearing aid compatibility, speakerphone, outgoing speech amplification, strobe light ring indicator, and a loud ringer (up to 95 dB). (TL-CL600, \$179)

### **ClearSounds A50**

Amplified and cordless, the A50 has up to 50 dB amplification and Caller ID/Call Waiting with Caller ID (requires subscription from local phone company). There is an extra loud (95+ dB) ringer in the base and handset, and the handset also has a flashing ring indicator and vibrating alert. Tone control can be set for both high and low frequencies. This phone is hearing aid compatible, and there are jacks for an amplified headset and optional vibrating pad. (TL-A50, \$149)

### **Ameriphone Dialogue CL-40**

This cordless phone makes incoming sounds louder (up to 40+ dB), clearer and easier to understand. The adjustable tone control lets the user customize the amplifier so similar sounding words can be easily understood. A noise reduction feature filters out background noise and static. Other features include a large, lighted keypad, speed-dial memory for 10 phone numbers, extra loud ringer, redial, and more. The handset is also hearing aid and T-coil compatible. (TL-CL40, \$150) (TDDP)

### **Ameriphone Dialogue JV35**

Designed to help people with vision and hearing impairments, this phone features big buttons for easy dialing, and amplification up to 37dB. Other features are: high-contrast, jumbo-size buttons with Braille characters and an electronic voice that calls out each number as it is dialed. JV35 also has an adjustable ringer (up to 95+ dB), 10 programmable memory buttons that can announce the number being called, 3 one-touch programmable emergency buttons with Braille characters, the ability to record your own announcements for the number buttons, memory buttons and emergency buttons (so you can use your own voice and language), tone control, extra bright ring flasher, and headset jack. (TL-JV35, \$140) (TDDP)

### **Ameriphone Dialogue VCO**

Voice Carry Over (VCO) phones are for people with severe hearing loss or deafness who still want to use their voice. They speak into the handset and read responses on a display screen. Voice carry over calls must be placed through the toll-free relay

service, or 711. This phone has a convenient programmable relay service speed dial button, and a programmable emergency button that transmits the user's name, address and phone number in text for quick response by emergency services. Other features include: volume control up to 26 dB, hearing aid compatible handset, 12 programmable memory dial buttons, adjustable super loud ringer, bright visual ring flasher, oversized keypad buttons, redial, hold and flash buttons, and audio output jack for assistive listening devices (such as headphones).(TL-AMVCO, \$160) (TDDP)

### **Clarity C2210 Professional**

This corded phone uses special technology that amplifies (up to 40 dB) only the human voice and suppresses other unimportant sounds. It has two tone settings that can be customized, an adjustable loud ringer (95+ dB), and is hearing aid compatible. The large lighted dial pad flashes when the phone rings. Other features include: two one-touch emergency speed dial keys; call waiting caller ID (requires subscription from local phone company); redial and flash buttons; and several different jacks (for lamp flasher, bed shaker, neckloop, and headset). (TL-CLARITYPRO, \$240)

### **Crystal Tone Plus**

With amplification of up to 50 dB, plus a convenient speakerphone (with maximum amplification of 18 dB), the Crystal Tone Plus includes a conversation and speakerphone volume slide control on the front of the phone so you can adjust volume levels as needed. A convenient volume button temporarily turns amplification on or off, so that others may use the phone. Your settings are restored by pressing it again. Outgoing voice amplification (up to 12 dB) increases the volume of your voice to the benefit of the person on the other end of the conversation, and a super loud ringer (adjustable up to 100 dB) notifies you when the phone is ringing. Ringer pitch can be set to the sound frequency range that you hear best, and a bright visual ring light also lets you know there is a call. This phone also features: 10 memory dial buttons, 3 emergency speed-dial keys, audio jack to use with certain assistive listening devices (such as headsets), a hearing aid compatible handset, extra large high contrast dial pad, hold, hook flash, and redial buttons. (TL-CRYSTL+, \$170) (TDDP)

### **Related Websites**

<http://www.harriscomm.com/catalog/hcfaq/FAQphonechart.php>-

This telephone comparison chart by Harris Communications contains several of the phones in the Lending Library. PDF versions of the charts are also available from this site.

<http://www.hearinglossweb.com/Technology/Telephone/hooded.htm>-

Excellent article from the Hearing Loss Web with basic information about selecting an amplified telephone.

<http://www.consumer.att.com/relay->

Home page for AT&T Relay Services. Go here to find out what type of relay call may be the right one for someone, how to make the call, and print out the instructions for future reference. There are also links to other resources.

Some sources for amplified telephones:

- Harris Communications: <http://www.harriscomm.com>; (800) 825-6758
- Hal-Hen: <http://www.halhen.com>
- Maxi-Aids: <http://www.maxiaids.com>; 1-800-522-6294
- Phone Merchants: <http://www.phonemerchants.com>; 877-291-1076
- Learning, Sight & Sound: <http://www.lssproducts.com>; 800-468-4789
- Sound Clarity: <http://www.soundclarity.com>; 888-477-2995
- The Phone Resource: <http://www.thephoneresource.com>; 866-222-9344
- EnableMart: <http://www.enablemart.com>; 888-640-1999

These are just a few of the many places to purchase amplified telephones. We also suggest that you put the name or model number of a telephone into the search window of Amazon.com, Yahoo.com, Shopping.com, or your favorite shopping website.

## What is the TDDP?

The Pennsylvania Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP) provides specialized telephone equipment free of charge to eligible Pennsylvanians with disabilities that impede independent access to telephone services. Originally created as a result of ACT 34-1995, the TDDP is implemented by the Hiram G. Andrews Center of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

For more information, contact

**R.D. Robinson, TDDP Program Manager**

**Hiram G. Andrews Center**

**727 Goucher St.,**

**Johnstown, PA 15905**

**tel. 866-227-6810, ext. 8728**

**TTY 814-255-5873**

**fax 814-255-3406**

Applications are available from your ATRC.

## AAC Corner (new feature)

### TELEPHONE ACCESS AND AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

*by Priscilla M. Danielson, MA, CCC SLP*

Telephone access for users of AAC (voice output communication devices) currently can be achieved through a variety of means. These include:

- The AAC device acts like a mobile telephone, using SIM card technology from a standard GSM cellular telephone. No cable connection between the telephone and communication device is needed.
- Use of a telephone module that connects to the telephone line and communication device. There is a direct hook-up between the AAC device,

telephone module and physical phone line.

- Use of infrared (IR) signal to communicate with IR-ready speakerphone. The AAC device wirelessly interfaces with the IR-ready telephone. No direct physical connect between the AAC device and telephone is needed.
  - Use of internal speaker phone that is built into the AAC device. A direct connection between the AAC device and telephone is utilized to permit direct communication between the AAC device and telephone.
  - Use of traditional speaker telephone, using voice activation and direct dial.
- (Editor's Note: An expanded version of this topic will be in a future edition of AT Focus.

For more information contact Priscilla at [pmdaniel@temple.edu](mailto:pmdaniel@temple.edu))

## **Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library**

**Call toll-free:**

**877-PA AT LEND (voice/tty)**

**Email: [atlend@temple.edu](mailto:atlend@temple.edu)**

**Web: <http://disabilities.temple.edu/atlend>**

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**tel. 215-204-3370**

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available in alternate formats, by request

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