

TOOLS for Independence™

MAKING YOUR LIFE AT HOME EASIER AND SAFER



May 2009

Brought to you by:

THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

On the web at:
www.toolsforindependence.org

Help Finding Assistive Technology—

Assistive Technology Network offers free information and referrals for assistive technology supplies, daily living devices, funding and community resources, and service providers throughout California. Call 1-800-390-2699, TTY: 1-800-900-0706 or visit www.atnet.org.

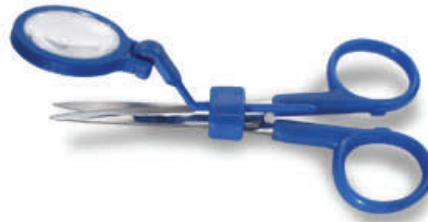
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The nonprofit Independent Living Partnership (ILP) - working for the rights of all to live independently in their own homes and communities.

Visit us at:
www.livingpartnership.org

If You Enjoy Sewing, Needlepoint or Other Craft Projects But Are Sight-Impaired, Take a Look at These Magnifying Scissors...

The four-inch scissors, offered by Miracle Point, have a removable magnifying attach-



ment. You can also order a range of tweezers, pliers, utility knives, seam rippers and other precision tools with magnifying attachments for your arts and crafts projects. Visit Miracle Point at www.miraclepoint.com/Crafts-Sewing.htm or call 1-800-682-4256.

Helpful Writing

Tool—For those with weakened hand grasp due to arthritis or limited hand use, there is the **Steady Write** pen for either left or right hand. It uses friction on the base of the device to smooth out the motion of your writing. The solid base balances and guides the hand as you write. The pen uses standard ballpoint pen refills and features a

retractable tip at the click of a button. It is lightweight and latex free. It is available for \$12.50 at www.activeforever.com. Item #A15134.



No More Reaching for the Seatbelt — Snap it onto your car's seatbelt and it makes it much easier for you to reach and pull the seatbelt toward you. The **Easy Reach Seat Belt Handle** is designed for anyone who suffers from shoulder pain or arthritis or has trouble reaching over or around to find the seatbelt. It gives you an added 6-1/2" to grab on to, and it glows in the dark so you don't have to fumble looking for the buckle at night. Cost: \$9.99. View and order at www.dynamic-living.com/seat-belt-aid.htm, or call Dynamic Living at 888-940-0605.

A READER IMPROVISES and Can Still Use the Seatbelt

Reader Nancy A. of Sacramento came up with a low-tech, no-cost alternative for reaching the seatbelt. She tied a piece of strong twine or cord to the seatbelt. It doesn't glow in the dark, but it does the same job as a Seat Belt Handle.



Tell Us What You Need — Or How You Improvised to Make Your Life Easier
E-Mail YOUR ideas to us at Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org or complete the Reader Survey at www.toolsforindependence.org

Prevent Falls From Slipping —

STOP It! from SlipCare is an anti-slipping coating that you apply to your bathroom or kitchen floor, your bathtub or shower, or to any tile or wood, even concrete flooring (but not stainless steel or glass). You need a primer if you use it outdoors, however. Just mix the ingredients and apply the

transparent coating. A kit for \$39.95 covers 18 square feet. It is \$32.95 if you are over age 50. Visit www.slipcare.biz or call toll-free at 1-888-401-1110.

No More Spills —

The **Tip 'N Grip Tray** is a non-slip tray designed for anyone with a balance, mobility or upper extremity disability. The non-slip surface ensures that glasses or dishes placed on

the tray will not slide under normal use. It comes in rectangular or oval styles, is dishwasher safe, and the non-slip surface is designed not to wear off. The rectangular tray measures 18-1/4" x 14-7/8", comes in cream color and costs \$9.97. The oval tray measures 22-1/4" x 14-3/4", comes in navy blue, cream, or red and costs \$11.97. Available from Gift Values at www.giftvalues.com or by calling 1-866-298-5648.

Reaching Your Back to Apply Lotion, Creams or Medications When You Have Limited Dexterity Can Be a Challenge...and sponge applicators can soak up too much of the liquid.

The **Easy Reach Lotion Applicator** features a non-absorbent soft applicator pad on a 19" long handle to help you reach those hard-to-get-at places. As you use it, the pad conforms to the contours of your body. And it's oversized (5.5" x 3") so it covers a large area. You can also use it to easily reach your feet. The applicator pad features a washable plastic covering. Item #A13058 for \$11.95 at www.ActiveForever.com.



Mouse Control Problems?



If a computer mouse requires too much fine motor control, the **Big-Track 3-inch Trackball** may be the solution. The large ball has both right and left mouse click buttons located behind the trackball to avoid unwanted mouse clicks. You can use a second mouse connection for simultaneous participation. The oversized buttons help make the mouse clicks easy and accurate. It works on any Windows or Mac computer that has a USB or PS/2 port, so it's plug and play. Also available in a switch-adapted version. Price: \$69 at www.enablemart.com.

Easy to Use Crochet Hooks

— For those with arthritis who love to crochet, Susan Bates Luxite crochet hooks offer a warm, lightweight alternative to standard aluminum hooks. The are made of plastic materials that are durable and totally functional. You can find them at most local Wal-Marts and Michael's craft stores. Or order them online at www.coatsandclark.com or by calling 1-800-648-1479.

Be Alerted When Doorbell or Smoke Detector Goes Off—

Now anyone with a hearing problem can be alerted by a flashing light and icon display when the doorbell or telephone rings or a smoke detector goes off. The **Sidekick II** by Silent

Call monitors doorbells, telephones, smoke detectors and fire alarms up to a radius of 2,000 feet and flashes an alert when the bell or alarm goes off. The table-top device features strobe and LED lights that go off for 15 seconds when a doorbell or telephone rings. For added security, the unit flashes an alert for as long as a smoke detector or alarm sounds. A digital icon also displays which bell or alarm is sounding. An optional bed vibrator also is available. The unit works with all Silent Call transmitters (sold separately). Cost is \$199.95. Visit www.silentcall.com or call 1-800-572-5227.



Get E-Mails Without A Computer

— No need for a parent or grandparent who does not use a computer or cell phone to miss out on e-mails and digital photos from the family. Presto offers an **HP Printing Mailbox** that receives e-mails sent through Presto E-Mail Service. Family members send e-mails, including digital photos, from their regular e-mail accounts and Presto picks up and sends the e-mail to the Printing Mailbox, which prints out the message or photo. The HP Printing Mailbox (with one free ink cartridge) costs \$159.00. Presto Service runs \$9.99 per month. View an online demo at www.presto.com. It is also available on Amazon.com, Wal-Mart.com, and Buy.com. Or call Presto at 1-800-592-7413.

Automatic Jar Opener Great, But Can You Use It? — A reader shared their experience with the Black & Decker “**Lids Off**” automatic jar opener. “Since it worked great for me, we bought one for my 93 year old mother who suffers from debilitating arthritis and has a difficult time opening jars. She discovered she could not use it since she lacks the strength to lift the top mechanism to insert the jar.” A good idea that didn't work!

Magnify Your Reading Materials Directly Onto Your Television —

Now you can magnify a book, magazine or newspaper page and other reading materials directly onto your television for easy reading. The **ezRead 200** from Colligo is a mouse-like device that you place on top of whatever you want to read and it displays the materials on your television screen. It also has built-in LED lighting for full-color reading. It attaches to your TV through video cables (included) and can be powered by batteries or a power adapter. Sold at \$129, Colligo is offering a special "Stimulus Package" of only \$99. Visit www.colligo.us or call 1-509-239-9815.



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NOTICE

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This newsletter is published by the **Independent Living Partnership (ILP)**. ILP works to ensure the independence and dignity of the elderly and persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers through education and access to empowering services and resources. This is accomplished through collaborative and cooperative partnering with public and private organizations, agencies and businesses. The goal is to help people lead more satisfying and rewarding lives, often in spite of significant health and mobility challenges.

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