

TOOLS for Independence™

MAKING YOUR LIFE AT HOME EASIER AND SAFER



January 2011

Brought to you by:

THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

On the web at:
www.LivingPartnership.org

Published by:

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

***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.

Create a Safe Walkway This Winter Over Snow and Ice

The **No-Slip Ice/Snow Carpet** is a natural sisal fiber mat treated with rubber. According to the vendor, it adheres to moisture, creating a non-slip surface that makes walking or wheelchair use safe whenever there is ice or snow. It can be used on porch steps, entryways, sidewalks or driveways. The carpet can be rolled up and stored for use again and again. It's 10' long x 18" wide, and is available for \$9.95 (item # 91930).



A 30"-wide roll (also 10' long) accommodates wheelchairs and walkers, and cost \$14.95 (item # 92781). Both sizes are available at Gold Violin. Visit www.goldviolin.com or call 1-877-648-8400.

No More Straining Your Eyes to Tell the Time

This oversized **Largest and Easy-to-Read Watch** lets you see the time without straining your eyes or using your reading glasses. The gold-tone face measures over 2 inches in diameter and features bold black numbers. The black stretch strap closes with Velcro, so you don't have to struggle with clasps or buckles. It's available at Youcan Toocan for \$28.95.



Visit www.youcantooacan.com or call 1-888-663-9396. Item # 11615.

To Our Valued Readers:

While we provide links to stores offering the products we feature in each issue of *TOOLS for Independence*, these products and products like them may be available from other outlets. So it's always a good idea to shop around for a product that catches your eye. You may find that it's available somewhere else at a lower cost or in a slightly different design that better meets your needs.

Here's an Easy and Gentle Way to Prevent a Loved One From Driving the Car

Convincing a loved one with Alzheimer's that it is unsafe to drive can be challenging. The **No Start Car Battery Switch** attaches to the car's battery and allows you to disable the car with the turn of a knob. And according to the vendor, it's easy to install. The device's disconnect switch attaches to the car battery, and the battery cables attach to the device. To disable the car, simply turn the green knob one-quarter turn. To start the car, turn the knob the other way to tighten it. The Switch is fused so you will not lose the clock, radio and computer settings whenever you disable the car's battery. The vendor cautions that this device can be used only on standard gasoline-operated vehicles and cannot be used with electric or hybrid vehicles. It's available for \$19.95 at



The Alzheimer's Store. To learn more about the device, visit www.alzstore.com or call 1-800-752-3238. Item # 0060.

No More Painful Twisting or Turning to Open the Door

The **Leveron Doorknob Lever Adapter** is a universal doorknob lever adaptor that fits all interior and exterior door knobs regardless of the size or shape. The device is designed to make opening doors easy for anyone with weak or arthritic hands. With the adapter in place, the door can be opened easily by pushing down or up on the handle. According to the vendor, the adapter can be easily installed without removing the knob or adjusting any existing hardware. The adapter is available in Almond, Satin Silver, Antique Brass or a special Fluorescent glow-in-the-dark version for easy seeing. The lever allows full key entry, and measures 2-5/8" in diameter. The handle is 4" long. A package of two levers costs \$29.95 at Arthritis Supplies. To learn more about the device, visit www.ArthritisSupplies.com or call 1-877-750-0376. Item # All010



Reading Your Measurement Cup Has Never Been Easier

...with the **Good Grip 2-Angled Measuring Cup**. What sets this cup apart from traditional measuring cups are the measurement markings printed on a ledge inside the cup so you can see the measurement lines as you pour. The 1/8 markings (both in cups and in ounces) are printed in red on a white background for improved contrast. Because they can be easily read from above as you pour, there's no need to bend, lean over or lift the cup to see if you have poured the correct amount. The angled measuring cup also has marking on the side for cups, ounces and milliliter to supplement the angled indicators. Other features include a spout for neat and easy pouring and a soft non-slip handle. It's made of high-impact clear plastic and

dishwasher safe. You can get it at Maxiaids for \$6.95. Visit www.maxiaids.com or call 1-800-522-6294. Item # 557981.



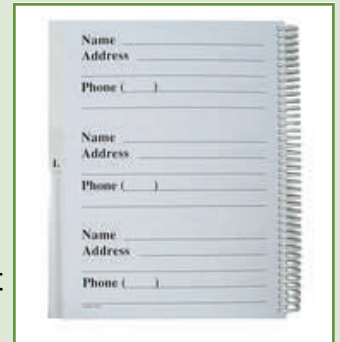
These Clothing Tags Will Help You Identify Colors and Patterns

The **Aluminum Braille Clothing Labels** are perfect for stitching or pinning on clothes so anyone who is visually impaired can identify them by color and pattern. The tags can also be reused again and again. A package of 100 white Braille tags with black print comes labeled with 21 different colors (red, dark green, blue, etc.) and patterns (striped, plaid, solid, etc). They cost \$32.95 a package (item # 2028914). Another option is **Color Mates**. Simply pin the identifiers to your clothing and you're ready to mix and match your wardrobe. They come in 16 colors and in different shapes. Each kit contains 160 machine washable tags and costs \$39.95 (item # 5062847). Both products are available from MaxiAids. Visit www.maxiaids.com or call 1-800-522-6294.



Keep Tabs on Your Contacts in This Easy-to-Read Address Book

This **Large Print Address Book** is practical and useful for anyone with low vision. The words "Name", "Address" and "Phone" all appear in large print, making them easy to see. The address book comes with alphabetic tabs that make it easy to search for entries.



There is room for three entries per page, allowing you to enter up to 500 addresses total. The book itself measures 7" wide x 9-1/2" high, and the front cover comes in a forest green color with leaves print. A black fine-point marker is included. The **Large Print Address Book** is available for \$19.95 at Senior Store. Visit www.seniorstore.com or call 1-800-704-5913. Item # off-0017.

Check Out The TOOLS Resource Center

Our new TOOLS Resource Center features links to organizations, other Web sites and groups that can provide you with useful information and help with your questions about assistive technology, caregiving and independent living. The site also hosts updates and notes of interest, and a collection of back issues of the *TOOLS for Independence* newsletter. You can also take a survey and tell us how we can make TOOLS more helpful and useful for you.

Visit us at www.TOOLSforIndependence.org.



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This newsletter is published by the INDEPENDENT LIVING PARTNERSHIP (ILP)

ILP works to ensure the independence and dignity of older adults and people 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.

Stay Warm With the Microwaveable Fleece Warming Scarf

The **Microwaveable Fleece Warming Scarf with Pockets** is designed to help you stay warm, relaxed and happy whether you are on the go or relaxing at home. When heated in the microwave, the unique grain filled inserts naturally retains the heat to keep you warmer longer. The scarf is made of durable and soft 100% polyester fleece and it features pockets on both ends plus one zipper pocket. It's available for \$24.99 at Simple Comforts. Visit www.simplecomforts.com

or call 1-800-361-1440.
Item # 574.



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