

TOOLS for Independence™

MAKING YOUR LIFE AT HOME EASIER AND SAFER



May 2013

Brought to you by:

THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

On the web at:
www.ILPconnect.com

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, community resources, funding and service providers throughout California. Call 1-800-390-2699, TTY: 1-800-900-0706 or visit www.atnet.org.

Now You Can Hear What Time it is...

...with the **Curve Talking Clock**. This talking clock features ½" black numbers on a easy to read LCD display, an audio time report, on demand hourly time announcement, adjustable volume, and easy to set alarm. It is available with a male or female voice. It measures 4" long x 1-½" high x 2-½" wide and requires two AA batteries (not included). It costs less than \$15.00 from various vendors. Search the words "curve talking clock" for your wake up call.



Spatula Makes Cooking Easier

The **Easi-Grip Spatula** features a large built-up handle for a comfortable grip that is angled to keep your hand and wrist in

a stress-free natural position. The stainless steel spatula is 8" long and 2-½" wide and very lightweight.

The vendors says all the Easi-Grip kitchen tools are extremely comfortable for everyone to use, but will be particularly beneficial for those with Arthritis, Repetitive Strain Injury, Carpel Tunnel Syndrome or other conditions which weaken the hand and



wrist. This item and others are available online from various vendors that sell AT products for between \$8.50 and \$13.50. To find kitchen tools that may make cooking easier for you, search the word "Easi grip kitchen tools."

This Lamp Simulates Natural Sunlight For A Better View

The **Sunlight Low Vision Table Lamp** produces Natural sunlight indoors. The vendor says you will be able to read comfortably for longer periods of time without suffering glare or eyestrain. The **Sunlight Low Vision Table Lamp** provides natural light that is clear and bright. The desk lamp is perfect for reading, engaging in your favorite hobbies or working at the office. With this lamp you can enjoy true, accurate, more vivid colors in your art and needlework. These and similar products are available from various online vendors for less than \$39.99. Search the words "low vision lamps" to find the lamp that best suits your needs.



May Is:

- ▶ National Older American Month
- ▶ National Foster Care Month
- ▶ National Blood Pressure Month

Special Days in May

- ▶ May Day, May 1st
- ▶ Cinco de Mayo, May 5th
- ▶ Mother's Day, May 12th
- ▶ Memorial Day, May 27th

Bob Hope
5/29/1903-7/27/2003

Bob Hope, born Leslie Townes Hope, was an English-born American comedian, vaudevillian, actor, singer, dancer, author, and athlete who appeared on Broadway, in vaudeville, movies, television, and on the radio.

"When we recall the past, we usually find that it is the simplest things - not the great occasions - that in retrospect give off the greatest glow of happiness"

Bob Hope

VENDOR RESOURCE LIST

- Active Forever: www.activeforever.com
1-800-377-8033
- Active Medical: www.activemedical.com
1-866-866-2700
- Amazon: www.amazon.com
- Arthritis Supplies: www.ArthritisSupplies.com
1-800-750-0376
- Body Back Buddy: www.bodybackbuddy.com
1-877-601-9118
- Bright Life Directs: www.brightlifedirect.com
1-8977-545-8585
- Bruce Medical: www.brucemedical.com
1-800-225-8446
- Dynamic-Living: www.dynamic-living.com
1-888-940-0605
- Elder Depot: www.elderdepot.com
1-800-910-7790
- Gold Violin: www.goldviolin.com
1-877-648-8400
- LS & S: www.Lssproducts.com
1-800-468-4789
- Make Life Easier: www.make-life-easier.com
- Maxi Aids: www.maxiaids.com
1-800-522-6294
- Overstock.com: www.overstock.com
- Sight Connection: www.sightconnection.com
1-800-458-4888
- Silverts: www.silverts.com
- Simple Comforts: www.simplecomforts.com
1-800-361-1440
- Solutions: www.solutions.com
1-877-718-7901
- Support Plus: www.supportplus.com
1-800-229-2910
- The Alzheimer's Store: www.alzstore.com
1-800-752-3238
- Walgreens: www.walgreens.com
- Walmart: www.walmart.com

All of the products mentioned in this newsletter are available at some of the vendors mentioned above and may be available for different prices from different vendors. We encourage you to check with various vendors, merchants and Web search before making your final choice.

Mention of specific products is not an endorsement of these products. Product vendors provide no compensation or other benefit to Tools.

Best 10 Android Apps for the Visually Impaired

Original source of this article,

www.thedroidlibrary.com/best-10-andriods-apps-for-the-visually-impaired/ Android is a resourceful invention of technology that also includes certain applications that help visually impaired and blind people in functioning.

1. Ideal Accessibility Installer-This application is also called Platform Access Installer. It contains different packages such as KickBack, TalkBack, and SoundBack (TKS) applications for visually impaired and blind people. These applications add audible, vibration and spoken feedback to Android devices. After you have installed the application, go to Settings, Accessibility and check the applications that you want. **2. ScanLife Barcode and QR Reader**-Visually impaired people can also benefit from a miraculous application called ScanLife Barcode and QR Reader Integrated in this technology. The user only needs to click a picture and the application does the rest of the magic. The app can read QR and UPC codes. After the codes are scanned, the application starts reading the embedded string as QR codes. **3. Magnify** -This application helps visually impaired individuals read tiny prints. To get the best results, keep the phone at least four inches away from the material to be read. You can also turn the flashlight on or off manually to save the battery. The app also supports features such as double tap to zoom in and out, long press to turn lights on and off, and single tap to maintain focus. **4. Talk Back**-This application is a part of Google's Android Accessibility Service. It is developed to assist visually impaired people to use their cell phones easily. The application also reads out the texts loud, while the movements of the user are carefully evaluated and spoken by the app. In order enable this app, go to Settings, Accessibility, and enable TalkBack service. **5. Messagease Keyboard**- With this application, users can type messages quickly by using one finger or one hand only. There is no problem such as AutoCorrect. The key board has large size fonts so users can see them easily. You can change the colors, use Swype gesture, search through dictionaries, change keyboard layout, haptic feedback, shape, size, and many other features of the application. **6. Font Installer Root**- This application helps people install innumerable fonts into their cell phones for better reading. Make sure that your device has root access so the application works properly. Users can change the font any time they want as well as enlarge them, as they want. The chosen font works for all applications. **7. Ultra Magnifier +** - This application helps users get better vision of anything on your phone. To get best results, put the device at least 10 cm away from the object. This application works best with cell phones that do not have locked Camera API's. Users can also change scenes of objects and also select form sepia, solarized effects, negative color, aqua and mono Ciba Vision Air Optix Aqua. **8. Walky Talky**- This application in the Android phones is developed for visually impaired and blind people to walk easily. The application has a navigation aid to help people walk through the streets. Users receive instant updates on current location as the application includes a compass to point directions. If users go off track, the application will vibrate automatically to indicate about it. **9. Classic Text To Speech Engine** -The SVOX mobile Voices has developed an application called Classic Text to Speech Engine to help visually impaired people. This application is an integration of more than forty female and male voices to read out users' texts, translations, e-books and even navigation. It also reads PDF documents, e-books, as well as helps with pronunciation. **10. NoLED** -The application displays custom notification dots or icons over the screen so the user can know immediately that there's a notification. Users can receive notifications regarding voice messages, text messages, GoogleTalk notifications, missed calls, calendar events, emails, charging activities and third party applications Ciba Vision Air Optix Aqua.

A Grab Bar and Towel Rack All In One

The vendor says you no longer have to worry about grabbing the towel rack if you slip only to have it pull out of the wall.



With the correct installation, the properly secured grab bar/ towel rack will not only look great, it will also give you the support you may need. The suspended towel bar holds your towel, leaving the top bar free for support or grabbing in case you slip. Click on the following link to read [Guidelines for selecting an ADA Compliant grab bar](#). These and similar products are available from various online vendors for less than \$29.95. Search the words "grab towel bar" to find the product that best suits your needs.



If you are in California and haven't heard of the California Telephone Access Program, you could be missing out on a free and specialized landline phone

Funded by the small surcharge on every phone bill in CA, CTAP provides free phones for people who live in California, have telephone service, and are deaf or hard of hearing, low vision or blind, or have a mobility, speech or cognitive disability. There is no income or age requirement and the specialized equipment they provide includes: Amplifiers, Ring Signal Devices, Switches, Specialized Telephones, Mobile Telephones, Braille TTYs, Headsets, TTYs, and a fax machine. To apply, all you need is a professional certifying agent to sign your application form. Open the above link to get more information about the CTAP Phone.



Another exciting and new program that the AT Network recently learned about...



...is a free cell phone program for qualified individuals in CA. Assurance Wireless is a federal Lifeline Assistance program that is run through the company Virgin Mobile. California residents who receive Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, Medicaid/Medi-Cal or other public assistance (see complete list here) or who earn less than \$15,000 per year can get a basic cell phone with 250 minutes and 250 text messages per month. You must provide proof of program participation or proof of income to qualify. Each household qualifies for one line, but separate households that live at the same address are eligible, including residents of shelters or nursing homes. To apply for this program, please visit assurancewireless.com or call Assurance Wireless at **1-800-395-2171**.

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

ILP works to insure 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.



TOOLS for Independence™

A Trademark of the Independent Living Partnership

TOOLS for Independence™, is published monthly by the Independent Living Partnership. The Partnership is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. The educational programs of the Partnership are supported by sponsorships, grants, and the charitable contributions of individuals and organizations.

NOTICE

TOOLS for Independence™, the Independent Living Partnership, and the distributor do not endorse, recommend or assume responsibility for any products referenced in this publication and are responsible only for the information presented. Product performance claims are those of the manufacturers. Prices quoted are subject to change without notice. Check with the merchant you select for current pricing.

TOOLS for Independence.

Volume 5 Issue 5

Editor: Michael Carbine

Associate Editor: Karen Long

Managing Editor: Richard Smith

E-Mail: Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org

951-653-0740 Ext. 21

6235 River Crest Drive, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92507-0758