

TOOLS for Independence™

MAKING YOUR LIFE AT HOME EASIER AND SAFER



September 2009

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THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

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***Tell Us What
You Need.....
Or How You
Improvised to
Make Your Life
Easier***

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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.

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It's Fun and a Good Way to Exercise Your Noggin...



This **Large Format Jigsaw Puzzle** features vivid colors and a breathtaking image in a large format that makes it possible for anyone with difficulties handling smaller pieces to enjoy. "Beautiful Sunset" features 300 pieces that are easy to handle and

see and yet challenging enough to stimulate the brain. It is a puzzle the entire family can enjoy. The "Beautiful Sunset" Large Format 300-Piece Puzzle measures 18" x 24" and is available for \$13.99 from Simple Comforts. You can view this product at www.simplecomforts.com or call 1-800-361-1440 for details. Item #488. NOTE: A selection of other FX Schmid Large Format Puzzles are also available at Simple Comforts.

Save Your Knees and Back While Gardening

If getting up and down to garden is a strain on your back or knees, the **Garden Kneeler & Seat** may be the answer. The arms are positioned to assist in getting up and down without putting a strain on the knees and back. The kneeling platform can be turned over to make a seat or step. And it folds flat for easy storage. The manufacturer says it has a recommended weight capacity of 200 pounds. Use it for gardening, house cleaning and other activities. The Garden Kneeler & Seat is available for \$34.99. Find out more at Simple Comforts, www.simplecomforts.com or by calling 1-800-361-1440. Item #1124.



Problems Buttoning Your Clothes?

The **Good Grip Button Hook** makes buttoning clothes a snap. This handy button hook features a cushioned grip with flexible rigging that adapts to any grip and makes buttoning clothes easy for anyone with arthritis or other dexterity problems. The Good Grip Button



Hook handle measures 4-1/4" with a total length of 6-1/4". Aids for Arthritis offers it for \$9.95. A full description is available at www.aidsforarthritis.com or by calling 1-800-654-0707. Item #N37.

A Helping Hand When Sitting Down and Rising Up From the Toilet

The **Toilet Safety Support** features a sturdy steel frame with angled foam grips positioned to provide support and leverage for anyone who needs help when sitting and getting up. It has slip resistant feet and comes with a magazine holder. It measures 24" wide between handles, has an overall dimension of 30-3/4" x 26-1/2" and weighs 13 pounds. The vendor says it is easy to assemble and will support up to 300 pounds. It costs \$49.99 at Gold Violin. Learn more about this product at www.goldviolin.com or by calling 1-877-648-8400. Item #90343.



Staying In Touch Through A Wireless Pager

If you have a bedridden loved one or a family member who is at risk of falling, the **Wireless Personal Pager** will keep you in constant touch. It is a paging system that enables your loved one to contact you from up to 100 feet away by simply pushing a button and without having to raise their voice. A small transmitter on the pager sends an electronic signal to the receiver in the form of a discrete chime or in a vibration mode. It is completely wireless, requires no installation, and the vendor says it will send the signal through most walls and floors. The receiver has a clip for wearing on a belt. Or it can be converted to an easel format for table-top use. Cost: \$39.95. Find out more about this product at www.ActiveForever.com or by calling 1-800-377-8033. Item #A14003.



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. Our web site also hosts a blog written by TOOLS editor Michael Carbine with news, 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.

Hear Your Calculator

This desktop calculator says the numbers loud and clear—a clear female voice will tell you what the results are when you use this **Desktop Talking Calculator** to add, subtract, divide, multiply and calculate percentages. A volume control allows you to use it with or without the voice, and it comes



with earphones so you can use it anywhere. The calculator features a large 8-digit LCD readout with large numbers for easy viewing. It measures 7" x 5" x 1.12" and operates on two AA batteries (not included). Cost \$18.95. Item #276967. Get the details by calling 1-800-537-2118 or at www.independentliving.com.

Combo Dressing Stick Helps by Pushing and Pulling



This 24" long **Dressing Stick** is a combination hook and pusher for help with putting on shirts, jackets, slacks, skirts and other clothing. It is ideal for anyone who has difficulty bending or has a limited range of motion or the use of only one arm. It is available for \$19.99 and you can learn more about the Dressing Stick by calling 1-800-985-1353 at CareGiver Partnership, or at www.caregiverpartnership.com. Item #MDSD1100.

The Braille Bingo Board Lets Everyone Enjoy a Game of Bingo

Now everyone in the family can play bingo with this **Braille Bingo Board**. The board measures 8" x 9" x 1/2" and features a white background with raised black letters on the left side and raised black numbers on the right side. Braille symbols appear below each letter and number. Markers are included with each board. The board costs \$9.95. You can find out more by calling 1-800-537-2118 or at www.IndependentLiving.com. Item #126560.



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Three-Way Opener for Pop-Top and Twist-Off Containers

The **Multi-Mouse Three-Way Opener** features an ergonomic shape that fits the hand easily and comfortably when opening pop-top and plastic and metal twist-off caps. A sturdy built-in magnet allows for handy storage on the refrigerator or stove. And a quick-release button adjusts the opener to cap size for better leverage.



It is available at \$6.99 at Maxi-Aids. Visit www.maxiaids.com or call 1-800-522-6294 to find out more about this device. Item #MSRP.

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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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