



# Choosing your magnifier

A guide to finding the most suitable magnifier for your needs

**RNIB**

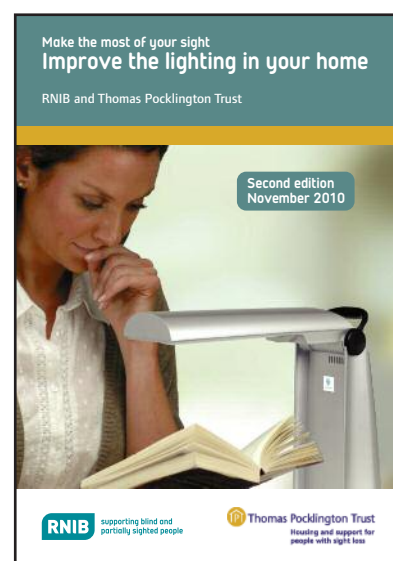
supporting blind and  
partially sighted people

# The importance of good lighting

Everyone needs good levels of light and as we get older we all need more. Good level, well-positioned task lighting is one of the most important aids to seeing well.

Throughout this brochure we recommend using good lighting when reading in general and when using a magnifier. When using a task light always position the light directly onto the task, however, when using a magnifier ensure the light is not directly on the magnifier as it can cause reflections and shadows.

RNIB and Thomas Pocklington's booklet **Make the most of your sight, improve the lighting in your home** demonstrates good practice by giving ideas, hints and tips. It explains how to light your home more effectively, as well as explaining different types of lighting and their benefits. The lighting booklet is available in large print, audio and braille from RNIB's Helpline on **0303 123 9999** or can be downloaded from **rnib.org.uk**



**We would like to thank the following for their help in producing this guide:**

- Optima Low Vision Services Ltd
- Louise Stalker, Low Vision Service, Action for Blind People
- Andy Fisher, Focal Point UK

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Before you buy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Choosing your magnifier</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>General advice on using magnifiers</b>	<b>7</b>
The power and strength of magnifiers	8
Predicting the required power of a magnifier	9
Prediction chart	10
<b>Types of magnifiers and their benefits</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Magnifiers available from RNIB</b>	<b>16</b>
Non-illuminated handheld magnifiers	18
Illuminated handheld magnifiers	19
Stand magnifiers	21
Dome magnifiers	24
Bar magnifiers	24
Pocket magnifiers	25
<b>RNIB reading accessories</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Tips to help with reading</b>	<b>27</b>



# Introduction

This guide aims to help you identify the most appropriate type of magnifier for your particular requirements, as well as understand the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of magnifier to be used for specific tasks. You'll also find descriptions of the range of magnifiers available to buy from RNIB.

To get the most out of this guide, start with "Before you buy". Then go on to look at the different types of magnifiers available.

## The importance of getting a low vision assessment

RNIB and Action for Blind People strongly advise anyone with a visual impairment to have a low vision assessment. This is an NHS funded service, accessed through your local hospital eye clinic and is based at the hospital or run by a local organisation or optometrist. You can be referred to the clinic by your General Practitioner (GP or doctor), optometrist or ophthalmologist. The assessment is free of charge and available to anyone with low vision. In some parts of the UK, such as Wales, you can self-refer through your local accredited low vision scheme optometrist.

Low vision means that you will be finding it hard to see things as clearly as you would like to, even after you have had your eyes tested and are wearing the correct glasses or contact lenses. You do not have to be registered as sight impaired to access a low vision service.

At the assessment a qualified low vision practitioner will check your vision and assess your suitability for low vision aids such as magnifiers. Any recommended magnifiers are then issued free of charge on the NHS. As magnifiers can be difficult to use initially, low vision rehabilitation professionals will help you learn how to get the best out of the equipment they prescribe. If you have been discharged by your eye specialist, you can ask your GP or optometrist to refer you to the nearest clinic.

## Before you buy

Before you purchase a magnifier it is important that you consider the following advice:

- You have had a sight test at the opticians by an optometrist and been issued with a prescription for glasses. Your optometrist will be able to advise if glasses are appropriate.
- You have been examined by an ophthalmologist or discussed your sight with your GP, and have been advised that your vision cannot be improved by medical or surgical treatment. This is important because the health of your eyes is the first priority. If you are having difficulty with your sight the cause should be investigated. Many eye conditions can now be treated and this should be done as soon as possible. If you are housebound there are home visiting optometrists that can visit you. Your local authority will be able to give you details of appropriate services.
- You have asked your eye specialist for referral to a Low Vision Clinic.

Only after you have pursued the above should you consider using the information included in this guide to purchase magnifiers.

**If you are in any doubt, please discuss with your GP, ophthalmologist or optometrist as soon as possible.**

Magnifiers can be expensive and you are entitled to have these prescribed for you by a trained professional. It is far better to use these services than to purchase magnifiers without this professional help.

# Choosing your magnifier

There is a great deal of confusion and mystery about what magnifiers can and cannot do.

There are many different types of magnifiers. They all have advantages and disadvantages. It is important that anyone using them understands and appreciates the potential as well as the limitations of the range available.

## What is a magnifier?

A magnifier is a specially designed lens, which may be mounted in a frame or stand. The lens bends rays of light onto the retina at the back of the eye making the image look bigger. Magnifiers are also known as low vision aids, or LVAs for short.

## What do you use a magnifier for?

Most people use magnifiers for reading, but you can use them for many activities and tasks around the home including needlework and DIY, as well as some outdoor tasks. Using magnifiers for long periods of time can be very tiring, especially when reading, and it can be frustrating. Magnifiers are most appropriate for 'spot' reading tasks at home, such as TV guides, washing machine controls, mail, food packaging or cooking instructions. They can also be useful when you are out and about to look at bus timetables, shop prices and menus.

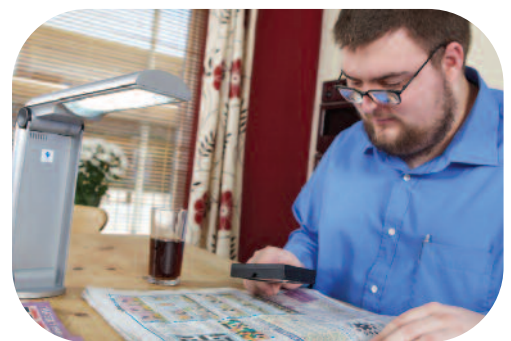


## Which magnifier is best for which eye condition?

In general there is no one type that is more suited to a particular eye condition than another. The activity that a magnifier will be used for is usually more important than the eye condition. There are one or two exceptions to this rule, which are covered in later sections.

# General advice on using magnifiers

- Your choice of magnifier will depend on your level of vision, what you want to do, where you're going to use it and what you feel comfortable in using.
- **Wear your glasses** if appropriate (ask your optician for further guidance). These may be distance or reading glasses. Varifocals and bifocals are not helpful when using your magnifier.
- Use **one eye**, your better working or preferred eye, with the clearest amount of vision.
- **Remember**, that the bigger a magnifier is – the weaker it will be. The smaller the magnifier – the stronger it will be.
- The stronger the magnifier is, the **closer** you'll have to put it to your eye in order to get a good clear image.
- To have longer reading and working distances (the distance between your eye and the page), you will have to use a weaker magnifier, which will not give you as much magnification.
- It is not possible to have a powerful magnifier that you can use at your normal reading distance, that also enables you to see lots of words at the same time.
- On most round magnifiers generally the strongest part of the lens is located in the centre. If you look through the outer edges of the lens it may appear distorted and wavy, and will not give you the best level of magnification.
- When using magnifiers that do not have built-in illumination, the use of a task light to improve light and contrast levels can help. Task lighting is designed for close up tasks. When using a task light it should be positioned in front of you, close to the activity you are carrying out.



- The use of a double ended clamp will give you a hands-free option. The clamp has a flexible arm with two large 'crocodile' clips at either end. One clip attaches to a table and the other can be used to hold a magnifier – no hands needed. See page 26 for accessories to help with reading.
- To keep reading material flat and steady you can use a clipboard. This is especially important with stand magnifiers. Good posture is also important. If you can sit correctly when reading, it will be more comfortable and you will be able to read for longer periods. Bending over tables and desks to read, may give you back and neck discomfort.



✗ Bad practice



✓ Good practice

RNIB and Action for Blind People sell magnifiers with a maximum magnification level of 6 times (6x). If, after using the prediction chart, you require magnification strengths higher than this, then you should see your low vision practitioner, who can provide you with the appropriate products, training and support.

## The power and strength of magnifiers

The way the power and strength is marked on magnifiers may vary, depending on the make and brand. Usually we describe the power of a magnifier in terms of 'x' (times), but you may also notice that magnifiers are given a dioptr rating 'd or D'. A dioptr is the technical description measuring the power of a lens and may differ across different manufacturers.

## Predicting the required power of a magnifier

It is essential to use the minimum level of magnification necessary when using low vision aids (LVAs). This is because the power of a lens directly governs the size of the magnifier. In other words the stronger the power of a lens the smaller the diameter will be. There is no such thing as a large powerful magnifier.

As magnifiers get stronger, their working distance gets shorter. This means that the stronger the power of a lens, the closer you have to hold the magnifier to your eye, and the closer you have to hold the print to the magnifier.

The prediction chart overleaf will help you predict the level of magnification that you are likely to require in order to read newspaper size print. Obviously this prediction can only be used as a rough guide since many other factors – including the level of lighting or the strength of your current reading glasses, can affect the level of magnification needed.

To get the most out of the **prediction chart** overleaf:

- Always wear your reading glasses, even if you have found them of little benefit in the past.
- Use a task light to add additional light onto the page. For best results direct the light in front of you onto the prediction chart.
- Hold the chart at 25 centimetres (10 inches) from your eyes or at your preferred distance where you feel most comfortable and can see the chart easily.
- Starting with the largest print, read down the various print sizes until you find it too difficult. The smallest print size that you can comfortably read should then be used for your prediction.
- Look at the recommended lens power written on the right hand side below the last print size that you can read. For example if the smallest print size you can read at 25cm is N32, then you require approximately +16d (5x) magnification in order to read newsprint. These technical definitions will be explained later.

## Prediction chart

BLUE SKY

N104 = +52d (14x)

Golden Sand

N80 = +40d (11x)

Jack leaned on

N72 = +36d (10x)

the stone wall as he  
gazed out to sea.

N56 = +28d (8x)

He could just see a small  
yellow sailing boat in the

N40 = +20d (6x)

distance. It was close hauled because of the fresh sea breeze.

N32 = +16d (5x)

The sun warmed his back as he watched from his vantage point on top of the tower.

N24 = +12d (4x)

Over the years Jack has spent many happy hours up on top of this sturdy old watchtower observing wild life.

N20 = +10d (3.5x)

Jack could sense the enjoyment of the yachtsmen as they battled to sail around the headland and reach the calmer waters of the bay.

N16 = +8d (3x)

He imagined that he could hear the sound of their cheers carried to him on the summer breeze now that they had won the race. Jack smiled as he turned to walk down to the

N12 = +6d (2.5x)

harbour with thoughts of the cosy village inn, a roaring fire and some liquid refreshment to go with a tasty lunch. As he entered the inn the landlord greeted him by name and reached for Jack's favourite tankard

N10 = +5d (2.25x)

without being asked to fill it with strong local cider. Jack joined old Ben the retired lighthouse keeper who was sitting in his usual place by the fire. After a lonely life working in an isolated lighthouse Ben enjoyed the friendship of the locals he has spent a lifetime

N8 Normal Newspaper Print

safeguarding and the comfort of his familiar surroundings. Ben's large old hands were stretched out towards the glowing flames of the open log fire. Neither Ben or Jack were the most talkative of people, the two men just sat in contented silence enjoying each others company in the manner of old friends without needing to make unnecessary conversation,

N6

both staring into the embers of the huge log smouldering at the base of the open fire. It was the cheerful landlord who broke the silence and brought their thoughts back from bygone days by reminding them that it was time they ordered their lunch and he then read out from the varied menu whilst pulling two fresh pints of their favourite golden cider. Ben chose his usual Fisherman's Pie whilst Jack ordered a freshly caught Sea Bass.

N5

## Built-in LED lighting in magnifiers – illuminated

Some types of magnifiers have used small battery powered ‘traditional’ type light bulbs for many years. The disadvantages with these traditional bulbs were: they could be unreliable; they could be difficult to replace; they gave out a yellowish light; and were not energy efficient.

Nowadays, most illuminated magnifiers use light emitting diodes (LEDs) instead of traditional light bulbs. These tiny lights provide a much brighter level of light, tend not to breakdown and do not use much power, meaning that batteries last longer. Modern LEDs can last for over 100,000 hours before they need replacing.



Some makes of magnifiers offer a choice of ‘colour temperature’ which relates to the colour of light emitted. Colour temperatures are measured and described in Kelvin or K. The lower the number (2,700K) will emit a ‘yellow’ light, and the higher the number (6,000K) will emit a bright ‘white’ light. Your choice can be based on ‘colour’ preference. However if you have problems with glare and contrast, the strength of the light needs careful consideration, as the brightest may not necessarily be the best for you.

## Our range of magnifiers

Listed in this guide are details of the range of magnifiers available from RNIB and Action for Blind People. Please note our range is only available up to 6 times (6x) magnification. For a full list of our complete magnifier range visit our online shop at [rnib.org.uk/shop](https://www.rnib.org.uk/shop)

Unless otherwise stated, all magnifiers sold by RNIB have a minimum one year guarantee.

# Types of magnifiers and their benefits

## Handheld magnifiers

Handheld magnifiers are the most commonly recognised. Easy to use, they are available in different types and powers. Some have built-in illumination whilst others rely on natural light or task lighting.

When using a handheld magnifier you will need to hold the device in the correct position and distance from the page so that it is in focus. You can do this by placing the magnifier flat on the page and slowly drawing it towards your eye until it becomes focused. By bringing the magnifier and print together nearer your eye you will be able to see more words in one view.

If the image appears upside down, the magnifier and print are too far away from your eye so you will need to draw them both closer to your eye. Another way of using a handheld magnifier is to hold the magnifier up to your viewing eye, then, looking through the centre of the lens, draw the reading material towards you until it becomes in focus.

The disadvantages of handheld magnifiers are that every time you use one you only have one hand free. It can be difficult, though not impossible, to write when using a hand magnifier. If you have a hand tremor it may be difficult to keep the lens in focus whilst reading or writing.

## Make the most of your handheld magnifier

It is often helpful to put reading material onto a clipboard or other firm surface to keep the print in focus. This is especially true when reading letters and newspapers. If you need to use a magnifier to help with writing, try using a double-ended clamp. This clamp has a flexible arm with large bulldog clips at each end. This allows the magnifier to be clamped in and then attached to the edge of a table at the appropriate angle, keeping both your hands free.



When using a magnifier, make sure you are sitting in a comfortable chair and have the right amount of light. If you need more light, use a desk or floor standing light and make sure the light is positioned quite close to the page or task to be viewed. If you are using a magnifier and a task lamp at the same time it is essential that the light falls directly onto the task and not onto the magnifier, as it may cause disturbing reflections of the light in the magnifier lens or shadows on the page.

The range of handheld magnifiers available from RNIB is listed on page 18.

## Stand magnifiers

Stand magnifiers are very popular. They are specially designed 'fixed focus' magnifiers that stand on a page allowing you to slide the magnifier across as you read the print. Stand magnifiers will in most cases 'automatically' focus when looking through the lens, however you may need to wear your reading glasses to get the clearest image.

Some stand magnifiers benefit from illumination which gives a good spread of even, bright light. The latest versions give a choice of light colour such as **daylight**, **natural light** and **yellow light**. Alternatively you can use a separate task light.



Always make sure the task light is shining onto the print and not directly onto the lens, as this can cause reflection. Using dedicated lighting can also reduce reflections from ceiling lights or windows. When using and holding stand magnifiers try not to block out any light, which can cause shadows.

This type of magnifier is generally for reading only; they are not suitable for trying to write. They also have the advantage of maintaining the correct focal distance due to the built-in stand. Whilst you can use a clip board or book stand to create a flat surface, you should never lift a stand magnifier away from the page. A few models such as Scribolux can be really useful for writing short notes or completing a puzzle.

If you already use a stand magnifier but in order to see better you need to lift it off the page, you may need to see your optician about your reading glasses or get a stronger stand magnifier.

### Make the most of your stand magnifier

Most people may need their reading glasses when using a stand magnifier. It is essential that the reading material is on a firm and flat surface such as a clipboard, table or adjustable reading stand. The more powerful the magnifier, the closer the working distance. If you are too far away from the lens the print may appear to be upside down or you will only see one or two letters at a time. Always remember the closer you get, the more you will see.

See page 21 for RNIB's range of stand magnifiers.



## Pricing

Throughout the following pages two prices are listed for each of our magnifiers. The first listed price excludes VAT the second includes VAT. If you are blind or partially sighted you may not have to pay VAT. For a full explanation of our pricing visit [rnib.org.uk/shop](https://www.rnib.org.uk/shop) or call us on **0303 123 9999**.

# Magnifiers available from RNIB

## Illuminated magnifier on adjustable arms

This light with low magnification has been designed to be useful for performing fine detail tasks and hobbies (such as sewing, knitting, model making).



RNIB's magnifying lamp has a slim head design offering a clear viewing area and is fitted with a 22 watt full spectrum Naturalight™ tube.

**Magnifying lamp 1.75x (MAG58) £39.12 £46.95**

## Hands free magnifiers

These are generally large magnifiers, made from clear plastic and fitted with an adjustable cord to hang it around your neck.

Although they have low magnification at 2x, they offer a wide viewing area ideal for some reading and daily living tasks such as food preparation, hobbies, DIY, sewing and personal care. If you need high magnification for detailed work, this may not be the magnifier for you.



RNIB's hands free circular magnifier (110mm diameter) has a 2x bi-convex lens and an adjustable neck cord.

**Hands free magnifier 2x/4d (MAG42) £15.75 £18.90**

## Dome magnifiers

Dome magnifiers are half-spherical magnifiers (sometimes also called 'bright field' or 'paperweight magnifiers') which sit directly onto the reading material. They have the advantage of always being in focus and have the ability to "gather" light. This type of magnifier is particularly beneficial to those with myopia (short-sightedness) who often find normal magnifiers of little or no use.

## Bar magnifiers

Bar magnifiers are semi-cylindrical lenses, up to a maximum of 3x, which lie on top of a page and magnify just one line of print at a time. They are helpful to some people with relatively good vision who wish to read telephone directories or other reference material with columns or lists of information. The main advantage of a bar magnifier is it magnifies only one line of print at a time, making it easier to track along a line of text without losing your place.



See page 24 for RNIB's range of dome and bar magnifiers.

## Pocket magnifiers

Pocket magnifiers can be very useful at home, or when out shopping or in a restaurant. They are lightweight, easy to use and range in magnification from 2x to 15x. Disadvantages are that they tend to have a narrow field of view and a short working distance, so are ideal for spot reading only.



See page 25 for RNIB's range of pocket magnifiers.

## Pendant magnifier

A small gold-coloured pendant magnifier attached to a necklace chain. They are ideal for spot reading, while shopping or eating out.



**Pendant magnifier 6x/20d 40mm (MAG54)**  
**£40.32 £48.38**

## SeeTV glasses

These smart spectacle binoculars are ideal for watching TV, sporting events or at the movies. They are lightweight and have shatterproof double lenses. Available in one size and supplied with a carry case.

### SeeTV glasses 2.2x (MAG53)

**£34.88 £41.86**



It is very important that anyone who uses spectacle-mounted telescopes (glasses) does not attempt to walk around when wearing them. Telescopes have a very restricted field of view and objects will look much closer than they actually are. A flight of steps 10 or 15 metres away may be seen quite easily, but a step right in front of you will not be seen at all.

## Non-illuminated handheld magnifiers

### Ideal range

The 'ideal' magnifier to have in the kitchen or at the side of the bed, use it for spot reading, but not for reading big passages of text. These economically priced magnifiers have convex lenses, lightweight handles and transparent frames. Available in 2x to 4x magnification.

When using this magnifier you will need to hold the device with the flattest side facing towards the page and curved side facing towards you.

**2x/4d angled handle with 100 x 50mm rectangular lens (MAG01) £8.10 £9.72**

**2x/4d/100mm round lens (MAG02) £8.10 £9.72**

**2.5x/6d/80mm round lens (MAG03) £7.49 £8.99**

**3x/8d/60mm round lens (MAG04) £7.49 £8.99**

**4x/12d/50mm round lens (MAG05) £7.49 £8.99**



## LHP Confort handheld magnifiers

These round lens magnifiers are easier to hold than the 'Ideal' range due to the ergonomically designed rubber handle that provides a good grip. They also have a larger round lens diameter size (in both 3x and 4x magnification) which will give you a good field of view. The clear sides of the magnifier allows light to pass through the lens giving you the clearest image possible. The type of the lens used in this range, allows you to hold the magnifier either way up to use it, unlike other handheld models.

Available in 2.5x to 4x magnification and all have 80mm diameter lenses.

**2.5x/6d (MAG06) £42.74 £51.29**

**3x/8d (MAG07) £44.70 £53.64**

**3.5x/10d (MAG08) £45.68 £54.82**

**4x/12d (MAG09) £47.10 £56.52**



## Illuminated handheld magnifiers

The 'Okolux' and 'Powermag+' models have different features and prices and as the light source is built-in, you have the choice of using it with the light switched on or off.

The 'Okolux' complete range offers the choice of three colour temperatures. RNIB currently offers two colour temperatures 4,500K and 6,000K.

- 4,500K may be more suitable for people with macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and most other retinal problems, for example optic atrophy.
- 6,000K may be more suitable for people with retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, Marfans syndrome and those with severe retinal detachments.

As a general guide, you would use this model as a standard handheld magnifier. To check that you are holding the magnifier in the correct position, with the light switched on it should be shining onto the print (and words) that you want to read.

## Okolux Mobil Plus illuminated handheld magnifier

Fitted with an aspheric lightweight lens, these magnifiers can help with reading print, either at home or while you are out. They have built-in lighting and are available in two light temperatures 4,500K and 6,000K.

The handle has a new antimicrobial material to protect against germs throughout the normal lifespan of the product. They benefit from low energy consumption, longer battery life and have an easy closing battery compartment. Optional neck lanyard available separately (MAG25) priced £2.42 and £2.90. Ten year guarantee against faults caused through defective parts or labour and supplied with three 'AAA' batteries.

### Straight handle with round lens

- 4x/12d 4,500K (MAG14) £44.36 £53.23
- 4x/12d 6,000K (MAG15) £44.36 £53.23
- 5x/16d 4,500K (MAG16) £43.19 £51.83
- 5x/16d 6,000K (MAG17) £43.19 £51.83
- 6x/20d 4,500K (MAG18) £41.63 £49.96
- 6x/20d 6,000K (MAG19) £41.63 £49.96



### Angled handle with rectangular lens

- 3.5x/10d 4,500K (MAG10) £48.63 £58.36
- 3.5x/10d 6,000K (MAG11) £48.63 £58.36

### Straight handle with rectangular lens

- 3.5x/10d 4,500K (MAG12) £48.63 £58.36
- 3.5x/10d 6,000K (MAG13) £48.63 £58.36

## PowerMag+ illuminated handheld magnifier

Offering a lower cost alternative, these illuminated handheld magnifiers have a superior bright white LED and aspheric lens. Each PowerMag+ is small and light enough to carry around, making it ideal for those wishing to read around the home or on the go. Two year guarantee and supplied with three 'AAA' batteries.



3.5x/10d angled handle (MAG20) £39.50 £47.40  
3.5x/10d straight handle (MAG21) £39.50 £47.40  
4x/12d straight handle (MAG22) £36.25 £43.50  
5x/16d angled handle (MAG23) £35.25 £42.30  
6x/20d straight handle (MAG24) £33.75 £40.50

## Stand magnifiers

### Visoflex 2.5x/10d non-illuminated

Are you looking for a magnifier that you can use for hobbies or for manicures? The Visoflex offers three options in one, and can be used as a pocket magnifier, stand magnifier with angled viewing or as a stand magnifier with straight viewing. Fitted with a lightweight 60mm diameter bi-convex lens. Two year guarantee.

**Visoflex (MAG56) £19.95 £23.94**



### Scribolux 2.8x/7d illuminated

A perfect solution for doing puzzles or filling out forms as the design allows space for writing below the lens. This stand magnifier with built-in LEDs, offers a very clear image and large field of view, and integral battery compartment makes it slimline and lightweight. Two year guarantee and supplied with three 'AA' batteries.

Aspherical PXM lightweight, rectangular lens (100mm x 75mm) with anti-scratch coating.

**Scribolux (MAG55) £64.95 £77.94**



## Powerlux 5x/20d illuminated

Want to read longer pieces of text or from your favourite book? The Powerlux stand magnifier has a modern, less bulky design and a reading distance of 14cm, which offers an excellent image quality. With a bright built-in LED, don't worry if you forget to turn it off, the automatic switch will do it for you, saving your batteries. Aspheric cera-tec® anti-scratch coating. Two year guarantee and supplied with three 'AA' batteries.



**Powerlux (MAG57) £66.95 £80.34**

## Illuminated Twin Lux LED stand magnifier

With two lightweight aspheric lenses, this magnifier gives a large field of view and a good level of magnification. It should be placed flat onto the page, then by holding the plastic frame, move it across the print. The built-in illumination from the large number of LEDs, gives a bright light and high level of contrast. This is one of the larger, heavier magnifiers, so is not really suitable for putting in a pocket or bag.



Available with a rectangular lens size of 100mm x 75mm and in two colour temperatures, 4,500K or 6,000K. Supplied with three 'AA' batteries.

**4.5x/14d (total) 4,500K (MAG40) £107.76 £129.31**

**4.5x/14d (total) 6,000K (MAG41) £107.76 £129.31**

## Okolux Plus illuminated stand magnifier

The Okolux Plus LED magnifier is available in 4,500K or 6,000K light temperatures and rectangular or circular lens.

The handle has a new antimicrobial material to protect against germs throughout the normal lifespan of the product. Ten year guarantee for defective parts and labour and supplied with three 'AA' batteries.

## Rectangular lens 3x/8d 100x75mm

4,500K (MAG26) £69.12 £82.94

6,000K (MAG27) £69.12 £82.94

## Circular lens

4x/12d 70mm 4,500K (MAG28) £50.90 £61.08

4x/12d 70mm 6,000K (MAG29) £50.90 £61.08

5x/16d 60mm 4,500K (MAG30) £49.06 £58.87

5x/16d 60mm 6,000K (MAG31) £49.06 £58.87

6x/20d 55mm 4,500K (MAG32) £48.32 £57.98

6x/20d 55mm 6,000K (MAG33) £48.32 £57.98



## PowerMag+ illuminated stand magnifiers

Each PowerMag+ is small and lightweight making them ideal for people having difficulty in holding a magnifier away from the page. Fitted with a superior 'Bright White' LED for consistent high-contrast lighting and a wide field of view. Two year guarantee and supplied with three 'AA' batteries.

3x/8d (MAG34) £57.00 £68.40

4x/12d (MAG35) £40.50 £48.60

5x/16d (MAG36) £39.25 £47.10

6x/20d (MAG37) £38.50 £46.20



## Hand/stand magnifiers

These non-illuminating magnifiers are known as 'hand/stand' magnifiers as they offer the choice of a hand magnifier and stand magnifier in one by using the fold out handle or wire legs.

2.5x/6d 100 x 50mm (MAG38) £34.25 £41.10

3x/8d 75 x 50mm (MAG39) £40.86 £49.03



## Dome magnifiers 1.8x

High quality optical plastic domes of 50mm, 65mm, 80mm and 95mm diameter which either have a plain lens, or include a red guide line to help with reading.

- 50mm (MAG43) £23.81 £28.57
- 50mm with red line (MAG43R) £28.13 £33.76
- 65mm (MAG44) £34.56 £41.47
- 65mm with red line (MAG44R) £39.02 £46.82
- 80mm (MAG45) £47.94 £57.53
- 80mm with red line (MAG45R) £52.40 £62.88
- 95mm (MAG46) £68.74 £82.49
- 95mm with red line (MAG46R) £73.56 £88.27



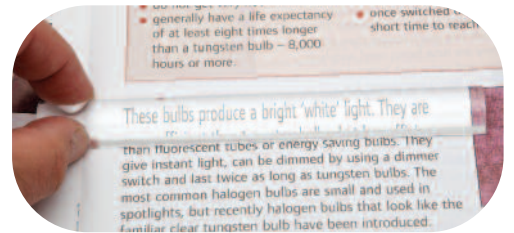
## Bar magnifiers

High quality acrylic bar magnifier that enables you to read a line at a time. Available in two lengths: 250mm or 165mm.

- 1.5x 250mm x 32mm rectangular lens (MAG48) £10.44 £12.53
- 2x 165mm x 20mm rectangular lens (MAG47) £17.11 £20.53

Protective bags available separately:

- MAG48BAG £6.07 £7.28
- MAG47BAG £9.80 £11.76



## Pocket magnifiers

### ERGO-pocket magnifier

Aspheric lightweight lens with a protective cover in a choice of two colours – dark blue or red. Either 4x or 5x magnification, with comfortable ergonomic design and optional lanyard. Sold separately (MAG25) priced £2.42 and £2.90.

**Blue 4x/12d (MAG49BLUE) £15.47 £18.56**

**Red 4x/12d (MAG49RED) £15.47 £18.56**

**Blue 5x/16d (MAG50BLUE) £15.86 £19.03**

**Red 5x/16d (MAG50RED) £15.86 £19.03**



### Folding magnifier

These folding magnifiers have a leatherette protective cover in a choice of two colours – black or red. Also supplied with a case.

**3.5x/10d (MAG51BLACK) £14.01 £16.81**

**6x/20d (MAG51RED) £10.44 £12.53**



# RNIB reading accessories

As well as lighting, RNIB provides a choice of accessories to use with your magnifier including:

- A **clipboard** will keep your document flat and allows you to adjust the angle, helping with your posture.
- As with the clipboard, a **reading stand** will help keep your document flat but can also increase the height nearer to your eye. Reading stands come in a variety of materials and some have built-in lighting.
- A **double ended clamp** is ideal for holding handheld magnifiers allowing both your hands to be free to concentrate on writing or the task.
- **Reading guides** (typoscopes) are black cards with cut out slots which can help with reading by reducing both glare and the amount of the page that can be seen.
- **Bold pens** and **thick lined paper** can also make your notes easier to write and read.

## Video magnifier range

This type of low vision aid uses similar technology to a digital camera and can be directed at text or an object so that the magnified image is produced on a screen. The main advantage of this type of magnifier is that the working distance is not governed by the power of an optical lens.

RNIB sell a wide range of different video magnifiers ranging from small, portable ones with an integral screen that fit in your pocket to desktop models, and low cost ones that work with your TV. To find out more about our full range of video magnifiers visit our online shop at [rnib.org.uk/shop](http://rnib.org.uk/shop) or call our Helpline on 0303 123 9999.



## Useful products to help with reading

All the products mentioned in this guide can be purchased from RNIB. To find out more information or to order visit our online shop [rnib.org.uk/shop](http://rnib.org.uk/shop) or contact our Helpline on 0303 123 9999.

# Tips to help with reading

## Macular degeneration and other eye conditions which affect central vision

It is likely that people with a central vision loss (often associated with macular degeneration) will need to develop an eccentric viewing technique in order to continue reading, even when using a magnifier.

This means that if some of the letters in long words seem to be missing, or the letters appear to run into each other, then you need to look slightly away from that particular word to find where the clearest area of vision is. You'll then need to learn to control your eye movement. Your low vision practitioner may be able to help you learn this technique or refer you to a support group that can help.

## For people who are myopic (short sighted) and also have a significant visual impairment

People who are myopic often experience problems when using magnifiers. Before buying one, firstly try taking off your glasses altogether and hold the print close to the eye. If this does not help then often the most effective type of low vision aid will be a flat field magnifier (dome or bar). Whilst these appear to be quite weak they can be suitable for people who are myopic where low magnification is not usually a problem.

People who are myopic should avoid using stand magnifiers because the fixed focus of these aids may cause problems. If dome or bar magnifiers prove unsuccessful, then handheld or spectacle-mounted aids will usually prove more helpful than stand magnifiers.

## Where to go for help?

Contact RNIB Helpline on **0303 123 9999** for more advice or information regarding the products mentioned in this booklet.

Visit **[rnib.org.uk/shop](http://rnib.org.uk/shop)** to browse our full range.

Our website also has further information on magnifiers at **[rnib.org.uk/magnifiers](http://rnib.org.uk/magnifiers)**

Your local society may offer support and advice on magnifiers or put you in contact with your local Low Vision Service. You can find your local branch by contacting Visionary on **01777 70 52 99** or visit **[www.visionary.org.uk](http://www.visionary.org.uk)**

RNIB and Action for Blind People have resource centres throughout the UK. Contact RNIB Helpline on **0303 123 9999** to find your nearest centre.