

A guide to talking mobile phones and mobile phone software

Summer 2009

Summary: This guide contains information about talking mobile phones and the software that is available to adapt other mainstream mobile phones to make them accessible for blind and partially sighted people.

If you are looking for a simple and easy-to-use mobile phone then please read our guide to accessible mobile phones (product code TC21118) available in print braille and audio.

If you have any further questions, or would like more information about the products highlighted in this guide, contact our dedicated **Technology Information and Support Team** on **0845 900 0015** or **020 7391 2280**, by email ict@rnib.org.uk

Please note: Prices are correct at time of publishing, please call for latest pricing and availability. Standard rate VAT is 15% on all VAT inclusive prices. The images in this document are for illustration purposes only and are not actual size.

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Talking phones

Owasys 22C mobile phone

The Owasys 22C is a talking mobile phone designed specifically for blind and partially sighted people. All the functions are spoken using a synthetic female voice built into the phone, so there is no additional software to load. It has no visual display, and has well spaced, easy to find and raised buttons.

- make calls, find and edit contacts information in your phonebook, access call lists and caller identification, read and edit text messages, check signal coverage and battery level
- dedicated key to access the phonebook
- hands free mode
- information mode which announces your position within the phone's menu system
- store up to 250 contacts with fields for name, address, home number, mobile number, office number and email address
- write and send text messages and read received messages
- choice of 56 ring tones and vibrating alarm option
- standby time of 200 hours and talk time of up to 480 minutes.



Dimensions: Width 4.9cm (1.9 inches), Length: 11.8cm (4.6 inches), Depth: 2.7cm (1.1 inches). Weight: 125 grams

Owasys 22C mobile phone, product code HM02X

Price £299.00 ex VAT, £343.85 inc VAT

Optional extras for the Owasys 22C

Black leather case, product code HM02E, priced £13.23 inc VAT

Headphones, product code HM02H, priced £4.89 inc VAT

Spare rechargeable battery, product code HM02Y, priced £22.82 inc VAT

Spare mains charger, product code, HM02C, priced £8.50 ex VAT, £9.78 inc VAT

Apple iPhone 3GS

The latest iPhone from Apple has their VoiceOver screen reader software built-in. The iPhone is a touchscreen phone and nearly all aspects of the phone are controlled with buttons and icons on the screen. With VoiceOver enabled, you can control the iPhone using a simple set of gestures. A simple press or tap on the screen will give you a description of the button you pressed. A double tap will activate the button and sliders are controlled by sliding your finger up or down the screen. In addition to gesture based controls there is also a voice control feature to control it using your voice.

The iPhone 3GS is available from O2. For more information please visit an O2 store and ask for a VoiceOver demonstration. Prices start at £440.40 inc VAT on pay-as-you-go or £34.26 per month on a 24 month contract plus an initial charge of £87.11. Prices correct at time of publishing.

Nuance software

Nuance TALKS™ Premium edition

TALKS™ Premium is a screen reader for mobile phones, which runs on Symbian-based mobile phones. It converts the contents of the display into speech, allowing you to use all the features of the phone. It will read out call lists, allow you to create entries in your contacts, read received messages, echo your key presses when you write a text message or email, change profiles and even browse the internet.

- easy to learn with simple keystrokes, allowing you to get the most out of your phone handset
- simple keystrokes to hear caller ID, time and date, network and battery information, signal strength and other phone status indicators.
- adjust the speed and volume, verbosity options
- the training mode talks you through the phone's keys and their functions
- choose from the Eloquence voice (familiar to JAWS users), or alternatively from the range of RealSpeak voices for a more natural-sounding human voice
- read by line or word and spell individual words at a slower rate when reading or writing text messages, emails and notes
- numbers longer than four digits can be read as single digits, pairs or whole numbers
- Symbian series 60 phone only - supports other applications such as IM+ (Instant Messenger), Loadstone and Wayfinder GPS
- bonus applications including Mini 'GPS' World Clock Pro, Extended Profiles, Extended Recorder and Multimedia Player. Third edition handsets also include Dasiy2Go

- TALKS™ Premium edition includes ZOOMS™ screen magnification software to give low vision users magnification and speech together
- support for braille displays via Bluetooth (wireless) connection, allowing you to read the screen contents in braille, and control many of the phone's functions from the braille keyboard, making it accessible to blind and deafblind users.

Nuance TALKS™ Premium edition, product code HM03

Price £150.00 ex VAT, £172.50 inc VAT

Available direct from RNIB. Also available pre-installed on a handset with a monthly contract or Pay As You Go tariff from an RNIB distributor; **Communic8**, **Computer Room Services** and **TalkNav**. Please note: there may be a handling charge for the software installation.

Nuance ZOOMS™

ZOOMS™ is an easy-to-use magnification software package for low vision users with a Symbian based mobile phone. Using ZOOMS™, the mobile handset display can be magnified up to 16 times its original size. The display can be switched into black and white or greyscale for easier viewing, and text can be set to scroll automatically across the screen.

- ability to keep all-important areas of the display in view with the distributed views mode, or keep focus on what you are writing with the full screen mode
- improve the legibility of text and graphics by inverting colours or reduce to black and white or greyscale
- simple keystrokes to alter the magnification levels, switch between full screen and distributed views, and magnify network, battery level, signal strength and other phone status indicators
- set the delay for automatic scrolling text and the scrolling speed.

Price: £125.00 ex VAT, £143.75 inc VAT

Please note: Nuance ZOOMS is included when purchasing TALKS Premium. If you already have a compatible handset then you can download a **trial version of TALKS and ZOOMS** from the Nuance website. RNIB distributors **Computer Room Services** and **TalkNav** can provide the software as a stand alone product. There may be a handling charge for the software installation.

Compatible handsets

Nuance software is compatible with many, but not all, Symbian based mobile phones. The following list of compatible handsets is correct at the time of writing, but may be subject to change. It is not definitive, and some models may be more readily available than others. As the mobile phone market is constantly evolving we recommend you contact our **Technology Information and Support Team** or your current mobile phone supplier for up-to-date information on existing and new models, before purchasing the software.

Current Nokia phones compatible with TALKS™ and ZOOMS™

3600, 5700, 6120C, 6600, 6650, 7610, E51, E65, E71, N73, N81/ N81 8GB, N82, N95, N95 8GB, N96

Older phones compatible with TALKS™ and ZOOMS™

Nokia 3230, 3250, 3620, 3650, 3660, 5500, 6110 Navigator, 6121C, 6260, 6290, 6620, 6630, 6670, 6680, 6681, 6682, 7650, 9210 / 9210i, 9290, 9300, 9500, E50, E60, E61, E61i, E62, E70, N70, N71, N72, N75, N76, N80, N90, N91, N-Gage, N-Gage QD, Samsung SGH-D720 and SGH-D730.

If you have access to the internet, the [Nuance website](http://nuance.com) (nuance.com) maintains a list of all the [handsets that support TALKS and ZOOMS](#) including technical specifications.

Vodafone speaking phones

Vodafone sell three mobile phones with TALKS standard speech software pre-installed. This version of Talks does not include Zooms and it does not have a user dictionary to add new words and improve pronunciation. This software is only available from Vodafone and is not available to purchase separately. Currently they offer TALKS installed on Nokia models 6680, 9300 and N70. Prices vary depending on your choice of airtime contract. For more information please contact [Vodafone](#) on **08700 733 222**.

Code factory software

Mobile Speak

Mobile Speak is a screen reader application for use on Symbian mobile phones or Windows Mobile Smartphones. It is easy to use and enables you to take advantage of most of the functionality of modern handsets. Mobile Speak allows you to: make calls, write and read text messages and emails, browse the internet, view the list of dialled, received and missed calls, manage your contacts lists, add and view appointments in your calendar, and alter the phone's settings. There are three verbosity options available depending on how much information you wish to be spoken.

Mobile Speak supports most major European languages as well as Chinese and Arabic, and is available with a choice of speech synthesizers.

Price: £125.00 ex VAT, £143.75 inc VAT

For more information please visit the [Rammland](http://rammland.net) website (rammland.net) or [Computer Room Services](http://comproom.co.uk) (comproom.co.uk).

Mobile Magnifier

Mobile Magnifier provides the opportunity for low vision mobile users to access their Symbian based mobile phone more easily. Mobile Magnifier automatically detects and magnifies the area of interest as you navigate through the user interface of your mobile handset. With a range of high contrast colour reading schemes for those who find particular colour combinations beneficial. Hot Keys provide access to the most common features of the magnifier and different areas of display can be zoomed.

Price: £90.00 ex VAT, £103.50 inc VAT

For more information please visit the [Rammland](http://rammland.net) website (rammland.net) or [Computer Room Services](http://comproom.co.uk) (comproom.co.uk).

GPS software for mobile phones

Wayfinder Access GPS software with TALKS™

Wayfinder Access offers full GPS navigation capabilities on a mobile phone. Based on the leading Wayfinder Navigator program, it has been designed to be fully accessible with TALKS™ software.

- either navigate to a specific postcode or select from your list of favourites.
- alternatively browse the directory of over 20 million points of interest, including hotels, banks, restaurants, theatres, bars, shops, nightlife, hospitals and much more. Points of interest (POIs) are given in order of proximity, so you can search for your nearest hotel or restaurant
- the online travel planning tool MyWayfinder.com allows Wayfinder Access users to plan trips online, calculate routes and distances and create Favourites (landmarks) that are sent to the mobile phone
- developed with the help of blind and partially sighted users to ensure the best functionality and accessibility, Wayfinder Access provides all the benefits of the award-winning Wayfinder Navigator program. It also includes some new features specifically designed for blind and partially sighted users, including:
 - the vicinity view enables you to know what is around you, including your nearest favourites, points of interest (POIs) and crossings, and in what direction they are. The information is listed in order of proximity, so the

restaurant or crossing closest to you appears at the top of the list. The “where am I?” function tells you what street you are on with a simple key combination, useful for exploring new places

- Wayfinder Access supports 15 European languages, and Wayfinder Navigator subscriptions include unlimited updates of TeleAtlas maps. Wayfinder and TeleAtlas provide full or partial map coverage for the following countries: UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Canada, USA, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary
- System requirements: TALKS version 3.1 or higher installed on a Symbian S60 version 2 or version 3 handset, Bluetooth GPS receiver, data subscription (GPRS, EDGE or 3G/UMTS) from your mobile operator/wireless carrier.

For more information please visit the [Computer Room Services](#) website (comproom.co.uk) or [TalkNav](#) (talknav.com).

Price: £270.00 ex VAT, £310.50 inc VAT

Loadstone GPS

This free GPS satellite navigation software for Symbian based mobile phones has been developed with support from RNIB. This software has been designed with blind and partially sighted people in mind and works in conjunction with TALKS and Mobile Speak. This software is "open source" meaning the program is constantly evolving with developers adding new features based on user feedback. Loadstone GPS is totally free to use, however it will use the data connection on your phone which you may be charged for by your mobile phone operator.

- mapping information is from public sources. Users can add way points and additional information to the mapping information database on their phone. Users can also share the information they have stored with other Loadstone users via an online share point resource
- there is no direct technical support from the developers, although there is a full set of instructions to help you get the most out of the software. There is also an active mailing list, where you can find support direct from other users by joining posting your questions
- System requirements: TALKS version 3.1 or above installed on a Symbian S60 version 2 or version 3 handset (Please consult the list of compatible handsets at the end of this factsheet), Bluetooth GPS receiver, data subscription (GPRS, EDGE or 3G/UMTS) from your mobile operator/wireless carrier.

For more information please visit the [loadstone website](#) (loadstone-gps.com).

Useful links

- [Symbian operating system](http://symbian.com) (symbian.com)
- [Nuance](http://nuance.co.uk) (nuance.co.uk)
- [Loadstone free GPS](http://loadstone-gps.com) (loadstone-gps.com)
- [Wayfinder GPS](http://wayfinder.co.uk) (wayfinder.co.uk)
- [Vodafone](http://vodafone.co.uk) (vodafone.co.uk)
- [O2 UK](http://o2.co.uk) (o2.co.uk)
- [Orange](http://orange.co.uk) (orange.co.uk)
- [T-Mobile](http://T-Mobile.co.uk) (T-Mobile.co.uk)

Contact details

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Email: ict@rnib.org.uk

RNIB (rnib.org.uk/shop)

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Telephone: 0303 123 9999

Email: shop@rnib.org.uk

Rammland (rammland.net)

Telephone: 07801 73 47 22

Email: enquiries@rammland.net

Computer Room Services (comproom.co.uk)

Telephone: 01438 74 22 86

Mobile: 07956 33 49 38

Fax: 01438 75 95 89

Email: steve@comproom.co.uk

TalkNav (talknav.com)

Distributor for TALKS, ZOOMS, Navigator and Access.

Telephone: 0161 277 7997

Email: service@talknav.com

Communic8 (comm8.com)

Telephone: 08701 60 06 00

Email: info@comm8.com

RNIB

If you or someone you know has a sight problem telephone 0303 123 9999 or email: Helpline@rnib.org.uk

The Helpline can:

- provide you with information, advice, free leaflets and factsheets
- put you in touch with specialist advice services
- give you details of support groups and services in your area.

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