

Advanced Features on Desktop Video Magnifiers

XY Table

An XY Table is a movable table beneath the camera on a desktop video magnifier.

The surface of this table slides in any direction. You put reading material on the tabletop, and it slides smoothly beneath the camera as you

read it. This is much easier than having to push reading material beneath the camera or having to pick it up and move it. The XY table is a great feature for anyone who regularly reads books, magazines, or newspapers with a video magnifier.



Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

On video magnifiers with optical character recognition (OCR), a picture is taken of any printed text in a book, newspaper, or document.

Software then converts the text into digital text that is shown on the screen. You can change this digital text in a number of ways to make it easier to see.



You can change the colors of the text and background, and you can change the font to a style that's easier to see. The text is formatted on the screen so that it fits within the width of the screen, so there's no need to move the reading material left and right beneath the camera to read it. On some models, you can save the text in a file and reopen it later to read it again.

Text-to-Speech (TTS)

When print is changed to digital text, text-to-speech (TTS) software can read it out loud. Video magnifiers with built-in TTS software also have speakers and a headphone jack for private listening. When TTS is available, there may be several settings in addition to volume for speech. You may have the option to increase or decrease the speaking rate, and you may be able to choose a male or female speaking voice. The text displayed on the screen often moves as the text is read, and the word being read is highlighted, in case you want to follow along visually.

Flexible Cameras

Video magnifiers have different options for cameras. Some cameras are on a flexible stand and turn in different directions. See the picture on the right. You might use the camera to see something across the room, or you can point it at your own face and use it as a magnifying



mirror. Other cameras are mounted inside what looks like a computer mouse. See the picture on the right. Move this camera over printed text in a book or newspaper, and the magnified image will be shown on a computer screen or a TV.



Portable Hybrids

Tablet computers are replacing the larger, heavier computer or TV screens used on desktop video magnifiers. Tablets are mounted into stands, and they may come with an external camera or use the camera that comes with the tablet.



This makes the video magnifier more portable, and it gives you all the other features of the tablet, like email and web browsing. But it's not necessary, in most cases, to know how to use a tablet computer to use the video magnifier. For example, the MATT Connect portable video magnifier turns on an easy-to-use screen with large icons and speech, and it handles all the functions of a desktop video magnifier. You can use the other apps available on the tablet, or you can simply use it as a video magnifier.