

Screen magnification software

Last complete revision: November 2006

Here you find information about braille embossers available in Germany. Those individual products are sorted in alphabetical order. The product descriptions are based on manufacturer data (folder material and internet presentations). We strive for completeness, however, we cannot guarantee these. We receive additions gladly: info@incobs.de¹.

■ Which criteria did we raise - and why?²

Here we implement, why the data raised from us are important criteria for the product selection.

- Blindows Vision 4.11
- Galileo 4.6
- GTX 32
- Lunar Plus 7.01
- Magic 10.0
- Supernova
- Zoomtext 9.0

■ **Blindows Vision 4.11**

- **Data documented on:**
27.10.2006
- **Supplier:**
Audiodata GmbH
- **Operating System:**
Windows 2000, XP, Windows-Server 2003. **Advice:** Blindows hardware from generation 2000 cannot be used for Windows NT.
- **Minimum standard of computer:**
Processor achievement from 1,8 GHz (better 2,4 GHz) and 512 MB RAM, 512 MB free hard disc storage
- **Sound card:**
unproblematic, recommended Soundblaster life
- **Graphics card:**
unproblematic

- **Integrated speech output:**
integrated is ETI-Eloquence, supported are all MS SAPI 4 and 5 compatible speech output systems
- **Combineable with screen reader:**
Yes, System is based on a screen reader. Additionally Blindows can be head for a braille display as expenditure medium. In addition it is possible to install it with others parallel.
- **Individual customisation possible:**
Partially, cursor routing can be customised, but no customisation by scripts possible.
- **Magnification range:**
1 to 48-fold
- **Interstages by smaller magnification**
none
- **Free colour choice (miscolour):**
no

■ Galileo 4.6

- **Data documented on:**
17.10.2006
- **Supplier:**
Baum Retec GmbH
- **Operating System:**
For Windows NT: min. service-pack 6a, for Windows 2000: min. SP3 (SP4 or more recommended), for Windows XP: SP1 or SP2, NOT: Windows 98 or Windows ME
- **Minimum standard of computer:**
1 GHz (higher recommended), 256 MB RAM for Windows NT/2000 and 512 MB RAM for Windows XP (higher recommended)
- **Sound card:**
unproblematic
- **Graphics card:**
Super VGA-graphics card, graphics card driver should be current
- **Integrated speech output:**

integrated is ViaVoice (german, english), supported are all MS SAPI 4 and 5 compatible speech output systems, miscellaneous foreign languages optionally available

- **Combineable with screen reader:**

Yes, bases on a screen reader. As Virgo it can be used additionally with a braille display as expenditure medium.

- **Individual customisation possible:**

Yes, supplier often customises individual workstation requests (by scripts).

- **Magnification range:**

1 to 48-fold

- **Interstages by smaller magnification**

none

- **Free colour choice (miscolour):**

no

■ GTX 32

- **Data documented on:**

17.08.2006

- **Supplier:**

B&M Ingenieurbüro

- **Operating System:**

Windows 95/98, ME - or current

- **Minimum standard of computer:**

1 GHz (higher recommended), 1,4 MB RAM

- **Sound card:**

for GTX 32 alone not necessary, only in combination with speech output

- **Graphics card:**

unproblematic, no cheap-chips, but e.g. all ATI-cards

- **Integrated speech output:**

no speech output integrated, but combineable with all MS SAPI 4 and 5 compatible speech output systems

- **System bases on a screen reader:**

no.

- **Combineable with screen reader:**

GTX 32 itself is no screen reader, but can be combined with e.g. JAWS or Hal.

- **Individual customisation possible:**
Yes, easily customizable, e.g. to special terminal programs without response.
- **Magnification range:**
1,5 to 32-fold
- **Interstages by smaller magnification**
only 1,5-fold
- **Free colour choice (miscolour):**
no, intended for following version

■ Lunar Plus 7.01

- **Data documented on:**
21.07.2006
- **Supplier:**
Deininger, fluSoft Hard- und Software Vertriebsgesellschaft, KTS Kompetenz in Technischer Sehhilfe, Low Vision GmbH Darmstadt, F.H. Papenmeier GmbH & Co. KG, Reha-Net GmbH, Reinecker Reha-Technik GmbH, Tieman GmbH
- **Operating System:**
Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT 4.0 (service-pack 6), Windows 2000, Windows XP home, Windows XP professional
- **Minimum standard of computer:**
Pentium II, 400 MHz (higher recommended), 125 MB RAM
- **Sound card:**
Sound Blaster or compatible
- **Graphics card:**
PCI oder AGP (no "on-board" - this is possible only if the 2. instance is switched off)
- **Integrated speech output:**
Integrated: Orpheus 2.0, IBM ViaVoice 6.01, supported are all MS SAPI 4 and 5 compatible speech output systems
- **Combineable with screen reader:**
System bases on screen reader Hal. As "Supernova" it can be used additionally with a braille display as expenditure medium. It is compatible to screen reader running by other DCM-drivers (e.g. YesWS).

- **Individual customisation possible:**
no, possible for Supernova Professional (by map-files).
- **Magnification range:**
1,2 to 60-fold
- **Interstages by smaller magnification**
Yes, 1,2 / 1,33 / 1,5 / 1,66 / 1,8 / 2 / 2,25 / 2,5 / 2,7 / 3 / 3,5 / 4
- **Free colour choice (miscolour):**
Yes

■ **Magic 10.0**

- **Data documented on:**
10.10.2006
- **Supplier:**
B&M Ingenieurbüro GmbH, BeTa Hilfen für Sehgeschädigte GmbH, Freedom Scientific GmbH, Handy Tech Elektronik GmbH, IPD Infosystem Produktion & Distribution GmbH, Low Vision GmbH Darmstadt, ODISSA e.K., F.H. Papenmeier GmbH & Co. KG, ProTak - Adaptive Lösungen für Sehgeschädigte, Reinecker Reha-Technik GmbH
- **Operating System:**
Windows 95/98, also ME (- with these versions some features are not possible)
- or current
- **Minimum standard of computer:**
Pentium II, 400 MHz
- **Sound card:**
has to be compatible with Windows
- **Graphics card:**
unproblematic
- **Integrated speech output:**
integrated is ETI-Eloquence, supported are all MS SAPI 4 and 5 compatible speech output systems
- **Combineable with screen reader:**
Yes, can be combined with YesWS.
- **Individual customisation possible:**
Yes, supplier can make any necessary adjustments (by scripts).

- **Magnification range:**
1 to 16-fold
- **Interstages by smaller magnification**
From 1 to 2-fold in in fine graduations of 0,1
- **Free colour choice (miscolour):**
Yes

■ **Supernova**

- **Data documented on:**
21.07.2006
- **Supplier:**
Deininger, fluSoft Hard- and Software Vertriebsgesellschaft, Low Vision GmbH
Darmstadt, Marland GmbH, Reha-Net GmbH, Reinecker Reha-Technik GmbH,
Tieman GmbH
- **Operating System:**
Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT 4.0 (service-pack 6), Windows 2000,
Windows XP home, Windows XP professional
- **Minimum standard of computer:**
Pentium II, 400 MHz (higher recommended), 125 MB RAM
- **Sound card:**
Sound Blaster or compatible
- **Graphics card:**
PCI or AGP (no "on-board" - this is possible only if the 2. instance is switched
off)
- **Integrated speech output:**
Integrated: Orpheus 2.0, IBM ViaVoice 6.01, supports all MS SAPI 4 and 5
compatible speech output systems
- **Combineable with screen reader:**
System bases on screen reader Hal. As "Supernova" it can be used additionally
with a braille display as expenditure medium. It is compatible to screen reader
running by other DCM-drivers (e.g. YesWS).
- **Individual customisation possible:**
no, only possible by Supernova Professional (by map-files).
- **Magnification range:**

1,2 to 60-fold

- **Interstages by smaller magnification**

Yes, 1,2 / 1,33 / 1,5 / 1,66 / 1,8 / 2 / 2,25 / 2,5 / 2,7 / 3 / 3,5 / 4

- **Free colour choice (miscolour):**

Yes

■ Zoomtext 9.0

- **Data documented on:**

22.08.06

- **Supplier:**

AASB - Arbeitsplatz-Ausstattung für Sehbehinderte and Blinde, fluSoft Hard- and Software Vertriebsgesellschaft, Handy Tech Elektronik GmbH, hedo Reha-Technik GmbH, IPD Infosystem Produktion & Distribution GmbH, Low Vision GmbH Darmstadt, Marland GmbH, Novotech GmbH, F.H. Papenmeier GmbH & Co. KG, Reha-Net GmbH, Reinecker Reha-Technik GmbH, steller-Technology

- **Operating System:**

from Windows 98, Windows NT 4 (service-pack 6) - or current

- **Minimum standard of computer:**

450 MHz, 25 MB RAM

- **Sound card:**

onBoard

- **Graphics card:**

onBoard

- **Integrated speech output:**

integrated is NeoSpeech in US english version, supported are all MS SAPI 4 and 5 compatible speech output systems

- **Combineable with screen reader:**

System can be combined with YesWS (not: Virgo).

- **Individual customisation possible:**

no

- **Magnification range:**

1 to 36-fold

- **Interstages by smaller magnification**

Yes, steps: 1 / 1,25 / 1,5 / 1,75 / 2 / 2,5 / 3

- Free colour choice (miscolour):

Yes

■ Criteria for the product selection

Offerer of the product

Most products are sold by several offerers. You have to inquire, which support the individual dealers offer. In particular individual adjustments (e.g. to company-owned software) can be carried out by not all dealers .

Operating systems, with which the product can be operated

Screen magnification systems usually are aligned on Microsoft Windows. This item concerns the versions, with which the product is compatible.

Minimum standard of the computer

The screen magnification systems make differently high demands against the Processor achievement and the RAM, which in particular is interesting if the software is to be installed on an already existing computer.

Sound card

Here we wanted to know whether the products with more integrated acoustic output place special requirements. Who not also wants to work with acoustic output, can neglect this point. With higher enlargement stages however working with acoustic output is recommended.

Graphics card

For the enterprise of a screen magnification system the graphics card is of central importance. Here the products make different demands.

Does the product possess an internal acoustic output? If yes, which?

Not all products offer an integrated acoustic output. Particular in higher enlargement stages however working with acoustic output is recommended. More experienced users prefer usually determined speech outputs systems.

Which separate acoustic output can be installed by the offerer?

If the selected product does not offer the preferential acoustic output it is interesting to know, which can be installed still additionally.

Is the system based on a screen reader?

Some products are based on a screen reader. They can be adjusted and/or bought in such a way, that apart from enlargement and acoustic output also a braille display can be used as expenditure medium.

It is combinable with other screen readers?

Each screen reader works differently and has different advantages. Therefore it can be interesting to combine the screen magnification system still with other screen readers so that e.g. when operating certain application programs more is announced over the acoustic output.

Individual adjustments for the workstation possible?

This question is particularly interesting, when on the working place others than the most usual Office products is are used. Some products permit better possibilities of adaptation as others. The adjustment to the specific job is a support achievement, which is not offered by all dealers. Therefore you should inform yourself before the purchase about the possibilities.

minimum/maximum enlargement

The representation 1:1, thus without enlargement, can help, to receive overview of the document structure. It is also interesting for users, who need no enlargement, because they need e.g. only the possibility of other colour settings. A very high maximum enlargement is important only for few users, because the efficiency of working with a high enlargement diminishes. (It is heavy to call an exact value here. However, higher enlargement stages as 16-fold are used only extremely rarely.)

Intermediate stages when small enlargements available?

Many users use an enlargement, which is smaller than 4-fold. In this range from enlargements a fine graduation can bring advantages, since thereby more information fits on the monitor.

Free colour choice (miscolour) available?

Not all products offer the possibility of being able to stop the screen colors freely so that e.g. texts in yellow on blue are indicated. Depending upon visual impairment, however not only the increased representation, but also the color design are importantly, e.g. with dazzling sensitivity for many users.

■ Links

1. <mailto:info@incobs.de>
2. http://www.incobs.info/en/single_products/screen_magnification_software.php#kriterien