



# Choosing your magnifier

A guide to finding the most suitable magnifier for your needs

**RNIB**

supporting blind and partially sighted people

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# 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 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 sight loss 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, rehabilitation low vision 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.

# Choosing your magnifier

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, mounted in a variety of frames and stands. It bends rays of light entering the eye to make an image appear larger on the retina at the back of the eye. The effect is that the image looks bigger and easier to see. 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.



## Pricing

Throughout this guide, where there are two prices listed the first 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**.

# 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, below eye level, 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.
- To keep reading material flat and steady you can use a clipboard (available from RNIB). 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

## 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 diopetre rating “d or D”. A diopetre is the technical description measuring the power of a lens and may differ across different manufacturers. For a full list of our complete magnifier range visit our online shop at [rnib.org.uk/shop](https://www.rnib.org.uk/shop)

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.

## Predicting the required power of a magnifier

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 a **prediction chart**:

- Always wear your reading glasses, even if you have found them of little benefit in the past.
- Use a desk 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

# 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.**

## Importance of lighting

Before you purchase a magnifier, it is also important that you check to see if you have enough light in your home. Our free guide "Improve the lighting in your home" highlights the importance of good lighting and how it can help you make the most of your sight. It provides practical help, hints and tips that don't have to cost the earth or require an electrician. Order the Lighting guide through our Helpline on **0303 123 9999**.



# 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 magnification strengths. 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 (available from RNIB). This clamp has a flexible arm with large “crocodile” 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 your hands free.



## 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.



They also have the advantage of maintaining the correct focal distance due to the built-in stand. Whilst you can use a clipboard 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.

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.

## 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.

## 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. A low number (2,700K) emits a “yellow” light, a high number (6,000K) emits 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.



# Magnifiers available from RNIB up to 6x

## Hands free magnifiers

As well as stand magnifiers, these models offer you a hands free experience leaving you to get on with your activities with more independence. With a choice of two large designs each provides a wide viewing area ideal for some reading and daily living tasks such as food preparation, hobbies, DIY, sewing and personal care.

### Hands free magnifier

With 1.75x magnification it is fitted with an adjustable neck cord so that you can position the magnifier comfortably on your chest. The bi-convex lens (14cm x 11cm) also has an extra built in 4x magnifier in the frame for really detailed close up work.

**MAG42    £13.95    £16.74**



### Stand hands free magnifier

This 1.7x magnifier is fitted on a stand and allows you to keep your hands free while carrying out tasks. The lens can swivel so that you can position to the right angle that measures 14cm x 10cm.

**MAG62    £19.95    £23.94**



## SeeTV glasses and Max Detail glasses

Worn like glasses these telescopic glasses are ideal for either watching TV or carrying out hobbies and close up work.

It is very important that anyone who wears 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.

## SeeTV glasses 2.2x

Wear these whilst watching TV, sporting events or at the cinema. They are lightweight and have shatterproof double lenses. Available in one size and supplied with a carry case.

**MAG53    £37.89    £45.47**



## Max Detail glasses 2x/8d

These lightweight magnification glasses enable you to have both hands free for sewing, DIY, crafts and reading. They also include the ability to adjust each lens separately 3 + dioptrre. With a comfortable working distance of 40cm, and a large field of view, these glasses are another option for hands free working.

**MAG72    £47.50    £57.00**



## 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.



# Handheld magnifiers

There is a choice of non-illuminated or illuminated. Due to the style of lens fitted in the low cost non-illuminated range these are more suitable for spot reading. If you like to read for longer periods then the illuminated handheld or stand magnifiers are more suitable.

## Non-illuminated handheld magnifiers

These low cost magnifiers are ideal to have in the kitchen or at the side of a bed, for spot reading but not for reading big passages of text. They are economically priced magnifiers and are lightweight to hold.

### “Ideal” magnifiers

When using an Ideal magnifier you need to hold the magnifier with the flattest side facing toward the page and curved side facing towards you. These magnifiers have convex lenses which means they are ideal for reading short amount of text, and are available in 2x to 4x magnification.



### Angled handle with rectangular lens

2x/4d	MAG01	£8.71	£10.45
2x/4d	MAG02	£8.71	£10.45
2.5x/6d	MAG03	£8.06	£9.67
3x/8d	MAG04	£8.06	£9.67
4x/12d	MAG05	£8.06	£9.67

### Economy handheld magnifiers

These high quality magnifiers offer great value and have an additional 5x lens in the handle which is ideal when a higher magnification may be needed. The lens is biconvex and ideal if you require a large visual field and a medium level of magnification. They provide excellent orientation on the reading material due to the transparency of the magnifiers frame.



1.5x	rectangular lens	MAG73	£12.95	£15.54
2.5x	circular lens	MAG74	£7.95	£9.54
3.25x	circular lens	MAG75	£6.20	£7.44



## LHP Confort handheld magnifiers

Whilst these magnifiers are more expensive than other handheld magnifiers they do offer more features. Their extra large rubber handle makes them easier to hold for longer periods of time. They have a larger round lens 8cm in diameter which will give you a better field of view. The clear sides of the magnifier allows light to pass through the lens giving you the clearest image possible. Due to the type of lens used in this magnifier, you can hold the magnifier either way up to use it, unlike the "Ideal" range.



2.5x/6d	MAG06	£45.28	£54.34
3x/8d	MAG07	£47.14	£56.57
3.5x/10d	MAG08	£48.41	£58.09
4x/12d	MAG09	£50.17	£60.20

## Illuminated handheld magnifiers

There are many styles to choose from when selecting an illuminated handheld magnifier. The main feature is that they have a built-in LED light which can be switched on or off. With the light on they offer excellent contrast as the light shines directly onto what you are doing. They are more suitable for reading longer passages of text and are small enough to carry with you. Supplied with batteries they benefit from low energy consumption, longer battery life with easy opening battery compartments.

As a general guide, you would use these models as a standard handheld magnifier. To check that you are holding the magnifier in the correct position, ensure the light is shining directly onto what you want to read or view.

There are four options to choose from including:

- **Okulux Mobil Plus** range – 10 year guarantee
- **Mobilux** range – new modern design
- **PowerMag+** range – low price
- **ATMAX one touch** range – automatic light.

## Okolux

The “Okolux” complete range offers the choice of three colour temperatures. At RNIB we currently offer 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.

### Okolux Mobil Plus illuminated handheld magnifier

Fitted with an aspheric lightweight lens and a handle that 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. Fitted with three “AAA” batteries. A base is also available which allows you to use the Okolux magnifier hands free (**MAG65 £24.08 £28.90**).

**Optional neck lanyard available separately (MAG25) £3.19.**

3.5x/10d rectangular lens with angled handle

4,500K MAG10 £51.65 £61.98

6,000K MAG11 £51.65 £61.98

5x/10d rectangular lens with straight handle

4,500K MAG12 £51.65 £61.98

6,000K MAG13 £51.65 £61.98

4,500K circular lens with straight handle

4x/12d MAG14 £47.26 £56.71

5x/16d MAG16 £46.05 £55.26

6x/20d MAG18 £44.45 £53.34

6,000K circular lens with straight handle

4x/12d MAG15 £47.26 £56.71

5x/16d MAG17 £46.05 £55.26

6x/20d MAG19 £44.45 £53.34



## Mobilux handheld magnifiers

These magnifiers, from Eschenbach, have the brightest LED light in our range and Aspheric lens. They are lightweight, with a lens that has an innovative Cera-tec® coating, making prolonged use more comfortable, great when you're reading menus, newspapers or print in books. Attachable filters enable you to choose the ideal colour of light to suit your vision requirements from a choice of two colours – yellow or orange.



3.5x/12d	rectangular lens	MAG66	£46.74	£56.09
4x/16d	circular lens	MAG67	£44.00	£52.80
5x/20d	circular lens	MAG68	£46.28	£55.54
6x/24d	circular lens	MAG77	£47.95	£57.54

## PowerMag+ illuminated handheld magnifier

Made by Schweizer, these magnifiers offer a lower cost alternative but are still fitted with a good quality aspheric lens. The on/off switch is dark blue to contrast with the white frame and they have a two year guarantee. Fitted with a bright white LED bulb which offers extra contrast and they are supplied with three "AAA" batteries. Each PowerMag+ is small and light enough to carry around and you can choose from an angled or straight handle.

Angle handle rectangular lens

3.5x/10d MAG20 £41.95 £50.34

Straight handle rectangular lens

3.5x/10d MAG21 £41.95 £50.34

Straight handle circular lens

4x/12d MAG22 £38.95 £46.74

5x/16d MAG23 £37.95 £45.54

6x/20d MAG24 £35.95 £43.14



## Coil ATMAX One touch magnifiers

This handheld magnifier has a bright LED light activated by simply holding the soft feel handle. When you put the magnifier down the light turns off so no need for fiddly switches. Small and lightweight you can carry it with you whilst on the go. This magnifier could be useful for someone with dementia or limited dexterity due to the automatic switch off of the light. Choice of two strengths, fitted with bi-aspheric lens and supplied with two "AA" batteries.



3x/9d	rectangular lens	MAG63	£45.00	£54.00
5x/16d	circular lens	MAG64	£45.00	£54.00

## Lanyard accessory to use with all handheld magnifiers

Gives you the option to attach to your magnifier and have it around your neck. For use with Okulux Mobil Plus, Mobil and ATMAX one touch magnifiers. Can also be used with the pocket magnifiers.

**MAG25** £3.19



## Stand magnifiers

There is a wide choice and different styles of stand magnifiers available. As with the handheld there are illuminated and non-illuminated options. It is important to find something that you feel comfortable using and the task you are using it for.

### 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.

## Rectangular lens

3x/8d      MAG34    £59.95      £71.94



## Circular lens

4x/12d    MAG35    £47.95      £57.54

5x/16d    MAG36    £44.95      £53.94

6x/20d    MAG37    £43.95      £52.74



## 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 10cm x 7.5cm

3x/8d      4,500K    MAG26    £74.40      £89.28

3x/8d      6,000K    MAG27    £74.40      £89.28



## Circular lens – 4,500K

4x/12d    7cm      MAG28    £55.00      £66.00

5x/16d    6cm      MAG30    £52.70      £63.24

6x/20d    5.5cm    MAG32    £51.90      £62.28



## Circular lens – 6,000K

4x/12d    7cm      MAG29    £55.00      £66.00

5x/16d    6cm      MAG31    £52.70      £63.24

6x/20d    5.5cm    MAG33    £51.90      £62.28

## Powerlux illuminated stand magnifier

An alternative style to the traditional stand magnifiers and winner of two design awards. Made by Eschenbach, the large round lens diameter combined with an ergonomic design provides the user with a relaxed hand position (both left and right handed) makes for maximum reading comfort and exceptional ease of use. Due to the space between the lens and surface, there is room to write underneath so could be idea for using on crosswords etc.

The illumination is provided by two LEDs positioned opposite each other for pin point illumination of the reading material and after 30 minutes of non-use the product will switch itself off to prolong the battery life.

3.5x	MAG69	£72.95	£87.54
5x	MAG57	£68.50	£82.20



## Illuminated Twin Lux LED stand magnifier 4.5x/14d

With two lightweight rectangular 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, slide 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 4.5x/14d rectangular lens 10cm x 7.5cm in size and in two colour temperatures, 4,500K or 6,000K. Supplied with three "AA" batteries.

4,500K	MAG40	£115.00	£138.00
6,000K	MAG41	£115.00	£138.00



## 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 (10cm x 7.5cm) with anti-scratch coating.

MAG55	£64.95	£77.94
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## 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 6cm diameter bi-convex lens. Two year guarantee.



**MAG56 £19.95 £23.94**

## Non-illuminated 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 10cm x 5cm MAG38 £45.00 £54.00**  
**3x/8d 7.5cm x 5cm MAG39 £37.60 £45.12**



## 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 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.

## Illuminated dome magnifier 3x/12d

Eschenbach’s new MENASlux is the world’s first 3x LED illuminated dome magnifier. With its unique lens design it offers maximum image quality. The lightweight super flat design also offers a large field of view and can be used with or without the built-in LED light. Supplied with one “AA” battery.



**MAG76 £82.95 £99.54**

## Dome magnifiers 1.8x

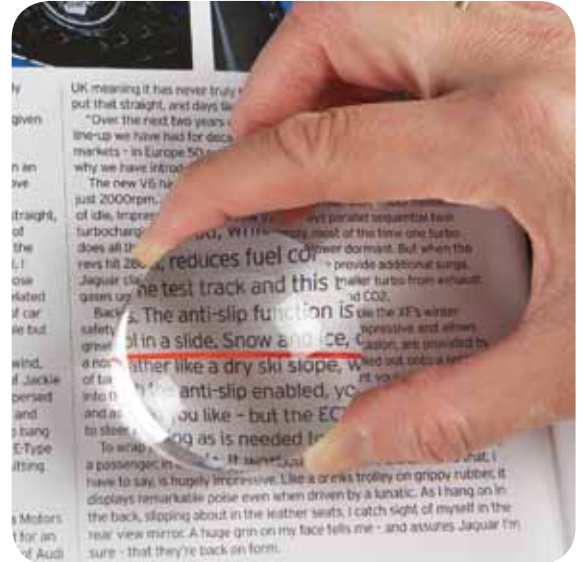
High quality non-illuminated optical plastic domes of 5cm, 6.5cm, 8cm and 9.5cm diameter which either have a plain lens, or include with a red guide line to help with reading.

With red line

5cm	MAG43R	£31.40	£37.68
6.5cm	MAG44R	£42.24	£50.69
8cm	MAG45R	£56.57	£67.88
9.5cm	MAG46R	£79.02	£94.82

Plain lens

5cm	MAG43	£24.50	£29.40
6.5cm	MAG44	£37.18	£44.62
8cm	MAG45	£51.55	£61.86
9.5cm	MAG46	£73.98	£88.78



## Bar magnifiers

Bar magnifiers are semi-cylindrical lenses, 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 is easier to track along a line of text.

High quality acrylic bar magnifier that enables you to read a line at a time. Available in two rectangular lengths: 22cm at 1.5x and 16.5cm at 2x.



1.5x with red line 22cm x 3.2cm	MAG48	£19.00	£22.80
Protective bag	MAG48BAG	£12.02	£14.42
2x no red line 16.5cm x 2cm	MAG47	£11.58	£13.90
Protective bag	MAG47BAG	£8.47	£10.16



## Illuminated magnifier on adjustable arms

These lights with low level magnification have been designed to be useful for performing fine detail tasks and hobbies such as sewing, knitting, model making and other activities). Choice of three designs.

### Magnifying table light 1.75x

This handy task light provides light from a 12 watt tube fitted around a 4-inch diameter magnifying lens. The lens also has a smaller integrated lens of four times. The adjustable arm ensures you always get the light and magnification angled correctly.

**MAG59 £39.95**



### Magnifier on adjustable arm 1.75x

This magnifier light has been designed to be useful for performing fine detail tasks and hobbies (such as sewing, knitting, model making). With a limited level of magnification it is suitable for people with reasonable vision. This Daylight™ magnifying lamp has a slim head design offering a clear viewing area and is fitted with a 22 watt full spectrum Naturalight™ tube and supplied with a clamp for easy fitting to the edge of a table/worktop.

**MAG58 £39.95**



### Slim-line magnifying light 1.75x – 2.25x

Bright 22 watt, low heat and flicker-free Daylight™ tube (100 watt equivalent). Comes with two easy-change 13cm (5 inch) glass magnifying lenses (1.75x and 2.25x magnification). Mains powered with on/off switch on the cable (2m long) and supplied with a table clamp.

**MAG60 £78.00**



## Pocket magnifiers

### Folding Pocket magnifiers

There is a choice of non-illuminated and illuminated and both are perfect for taking out with you for spot reading, especially for reading labels if you are out shopping or looking at a menu etc. Optional lanyard (**MAG25 £3.19**) for putting round your neck is also available and sold separately.

### Ergo non-illuminated pocket magnifiers

Aspheric lightweight lens with a protective plastic cover which also acts as the handle. There is a choice of two colours dark blue or red in either 4x or 5x magnification.

**All priced £17.46 £20.95.**

4x/12d	Blue	MAG49BLUE
4x/12d	Red	MAG49RED
5x/16d	Blue	MAG50BLUE
5x/16d	Red	MAG50RED



### Folding non-illuminated pocket magnifiers

These magnifiers are smaller in size than the Ergo-pocket and the leatherette cover also acts as the handle when in use. Choice of two colours black or red in 3.5x and 6x magnification.

3.5x/10d	MAG51BLACK	£15.39	£18.47
6x/20d	MAG51RED	£11.58	£13.90

### Illuminated pocket magnifier

These credit size sliding pocket magnifiers are great for taking out with you as they are compact and have a built in LED light to offer extra contrast while using. Supplied with 2x three volt lithium batteries.

3x/8d silver case	MAG70	£29.95	£35.94
4x/16d blue case	MAG71	£32.95	£39.54



### Pendant magnifier

A small gold-coloured pendant magnifier attached to a long necklace chain that fits easily over your head and therefore does not require a clasp.

6x/20d 4cm	MAG54	£35.34	£42.41
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# 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.

### Useful products to help with reading

To find out more information or to order visit our online shop [rnib.org.uk/shop](https://www.rnib.org.uk/shop) or contact our Helpline on 0303 123 9999.

## 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)**

### Local societies for visually impaired people

A network of local charities throughout the UK who provide a range of local services including social activities, product advice and training. They may also be able to provide advice and information on lighting. To find your nearest organisation telephone **020 8417 0942** or visit **[visionary.org.uk](http://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.