

Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTVs)



For more than forty years CCTVs have proven to be powerful tools for many people with low vision. Also known as video magnifiers, they enable users to read a variety of material, even the finest of print, far more quickly and efficiently than with optical magnifiers. With practice, they can also facilitate writing, and even handiwork, such as sewing or drawing.

Most simply described, a CCTV unit combines a powerful magnifying camera with a video monitor. This combination allows the user to view material at a variety of magnification levels, from very low to extremely high.

CCTVs have several advantages

- The zoom lens allows for rapid, significant changes in magnification.
- A variety of contrast options are available, such as reverse contrast (white letters on black) or black letters on yellow, that sometimes make reading easier, and less fatiguing on the eyes.
- Not having to hold on to a lens makes handwriting far more practical.
- Much higher levels of magnification are possible than with optical magnifiers, with a much larger field of view.
- A moveable viewing tray, known as an XY table, allows the user to easily move the image without changing head or eye position.

CCTVs now come in several basic designs

Desktop, or “in-line” CCTVs

These all-in-one units have large LCD flatscreens, ranging from 19” to 24” and provide the highest levels of magnification with the greatest field of view. Most come with a built in X/Y table. Other, more compact units provide easier portability for travelers, business-people, or students.

Desktop units are strongly preferred for reading longer materials, such as newspapers or books. They are also far more effective for handwriting, filling out checks and forms, viewing photographs, or doing handiwork.

Camera-only CCTVs

A variation on the desktop design, these allow the user to plug the CCTV camera into a desktop or laptop computer, or sometimes a television screen.

Handheld portable CCTVs

These handheld units, not much larger than a cell phone, operate similarly to a traditional handheld magnifier, with a small camera positioned directly behind a small screen, usually about 3.5" to 5" in size. While not providing as much magnification or field as a desktop unit, handheld CCTVs allow the user to take some of the power of their desktop unit with them when they're on the go. These units also tend to have several contrast options, three or four levels of magnification, and the ability to temporarily freeze the image in place. People most typically use these for activities such as reading grocery store labels, menus, or prescription bottles, or scanning their mail.

For many people, CCTVs are a very valuable tool. They provide a range of magnification that will allow users to continue using them for many years even as their vision continues to change. Most machines come with a two to three year warranty. Through the years, we have found the machines that we carry to be very durable and reliable with little need for repair.

The CCTVs available at SightConnection can be viewed on our website, www.SightConnection.com.

CCTVs available through SightConnection are competitively priced and all net proceeds from these sales go to support our programs and services.

SightConnection has a CCTV rental program and coordinates consignment sales of used CCTVs. The availability of units varies and is usually quite limited.

For more information, product literature, or a personal demonstration, please contact our agency. Please note that CCTV demonstrations typically take a half hour or more and require an appointment.

To set up an appointment or to make inquiries if you are interested in our rental or consignment programs, please contact us at 800-458-4888, or 206-525-5556.

Our mission

“Enhancing the ability of people with vision loss to lead active, independent lives.”

Programs and services

- Low vision rehabilitation
- Low vision clinic
- Instruction in independent living skills
- Professional counseling
- Safe travel and orientation training
- Education, information and referral services
- Assistive Technology resources
- Adaptive aids specialty store

Agency and store contact information

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Agency website

www.SightConnection.org

Agency hours

Monday-Friday
8:30 am-5:00 pm

Store website

www.SightConnection.com

Store hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 am-5:00 pm



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