



# Ability Newsletter

## Product and Service News

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## PHONE SWITCH

### *One headset for phone and computer*

There is now available a method of using one headset microphone to control both the telephone and a computer voice recognition system. This opens up new employment opportunities for people with impaired hand function.

The base of the system is the switcher unit by GNN Netcom. This provides the switching capability. However the switch itself is not accessible for people with impaired hand function. For this reason we have developed an attachment that enables a single switch to be used in place of the built-in switch.

The cost of the complete unit, including the GNN Netcom switcher, is \$520.



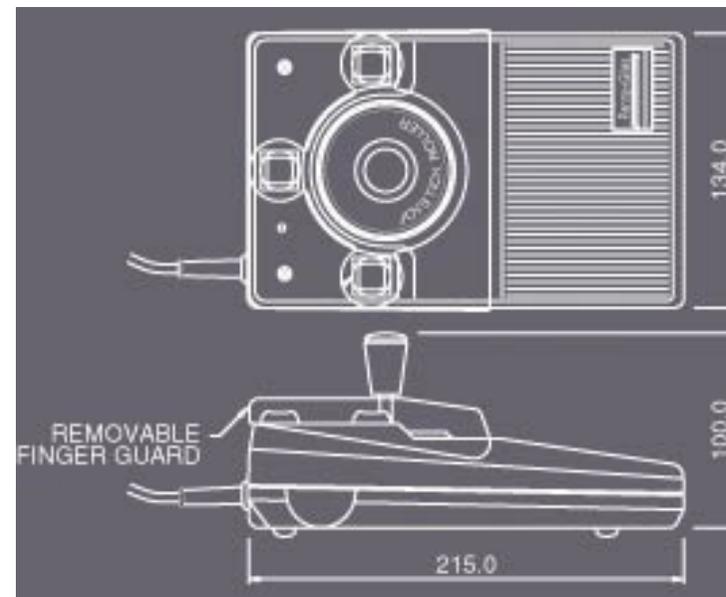
## *Roller II Trackerball and Joystick*

Penny & Giles have released the Roller II range of their popular Trackerball and Joystick devices. They are designed to run on PS/2 or USB computers, and will auto-detect to either version, depending on the host computer.

Both have coloured buttons and colour coded switch sockets. Optional handles include a spongy foam ball or a T-bar.



*Penny & Giles Roller II*



## *Palm keyboards*

Keyboard attachments can help transform the Palm Pilot into a note-taking option. Various keyboards are available, as shown in the information below.



*Belkin PDA Keyboard for Palm (\$139)*



*Logitech Foldaway Keyboard for Palm (\$159)*



Also interesting is this Belkin PDA USB Adapter, which converts the serial connection on your Palm Docking Station to a USB connection to your PC or Mac. It sells for \$59.

## Dictation Buddy

Dictation Buddy is a Windows based program that records your voice from a microphone or telephone connection and saves the recording as a compressed sound file that you can play, edit, send, or publish.

Dictation Buddy can be used to transcribe a recording or to record phone conversations from a single phone or in call-centre environments.

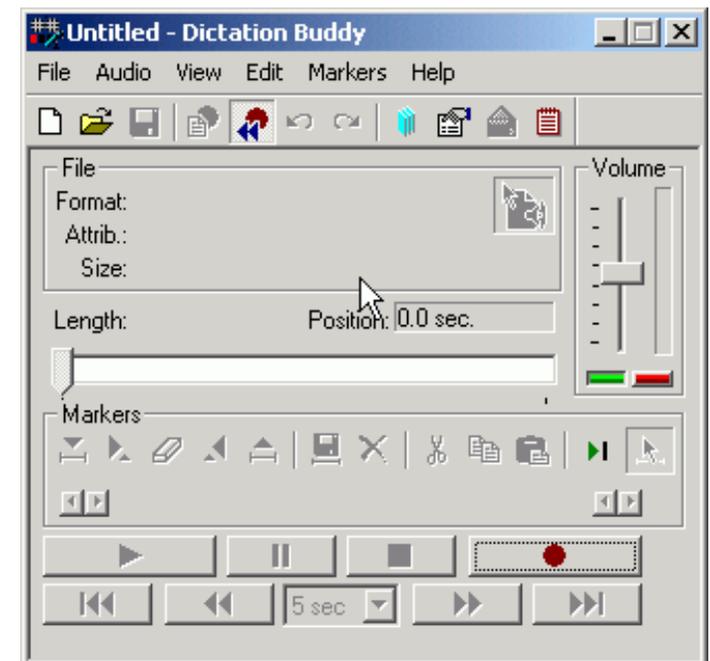
The main features of Dictation Buddy include:

- Automatic sound activation features mean that recording starts when audio sounds are detected
- Automatic "save" facilities mean that sound files are automatically saved when a conversation ends.
- Ability to edit your recording
- OLE support that allows you to imbed your recording in other files such as Microsoft Word documents
- Direct sending of your recording via email
- Easy to use audio wizard to help you select the best recording parameters

To use Dictation Buddy, you need the following:

- an IBM compatible computer,
- a sound card,
- a device such as a microphone, to allow for sound input,
- Microsoft Windows 95, 98, Me, NT 4.0, 2000 or XP.

Dictation Buddy is shareware and can be downloaded from <http://www.highcriteria.com/products.htm>



# LUCY Keyboard

The LUCY keyboard is a great option for those who rely on head movement for text entry. Very small head movements are transmitted via a laser pen to the LUCY. Its keyboard is arranged in a frequency of use layout. Laser receptors on the keys receive the laser beam and transfer the chosen letter into the computer. Dwell time and other functions can be customised.

Mouse movements can also be controlled through the LUCY, with a special cable.

No software is required to run the LUCY. It plugs into the PS2 port on the computer.

In comparison with an on-screen keyboard, the LUCY has the advantage of not taking up valuable space on your screen. It also requires smaller head movements. However it also costs more (around \$3000). It is available from Ability Technology. Please call us if you wish to discuss the LUCY in relation to other input methods based on head movement.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	Esc
j	b	f	r	u	v	x	*	-	+	Fun
k	c	o	e	h	w	y	7 Home	8 ↑	9 PgUp	
p	l	a	□	t	s	z	4 ←	5	6 →	
q	m	d	n	i	g	←	1 End	2 ↓	3 PgDn	Mac
←		<	>	?	;	;	-	+	⌂	⌂
Shift	Caps	Ctrl	Alt	Scr	Bsp	Ins	Del	Num	Alt Gr	Rep
∞	○	△	□	○	♥	○	□	△	○	∞

Note that the LUCY can also be controlled by a joystick, mouse, trackball, single switch, two switches or five switches.

It can also be used with a voice output device to speak text (via a built-in 2 line LCD display). In this case it functions as a stand alone device.

The layout for the LUCY keyboard



# News

## ***Albury Expo - May 24 and 25***

Another reminder that Ability representatives will be attending the IDEAS Expo in Albury on 24-25 May 2002. We will be offering a day of **free assessments** on Thursday 23 May, the day before the Expo. Bookings are still available, so please contact Abilitytech for details.

## ***South Coast and Tablelands***

Our next country trip "roadshow" will be in September 2002 and will cover the south coast and southern tablelands. If you live in these areas and would like to take advantage of our services, then please contact our office. The exact itinerary has yet to be finalised.

## ***Tidbits***

\* Graeme's thesis has now made it to the second draft. He reports that it is becoming harder and harder to read it! It is due in in July 2002.

\* Alan is expected to be out of hospital and back at work by the end of May.

\* The Ability office ("Ability House") has received a fresh coat of paint and is now being called upon to host a range of special events as well as our home automation centre.

Our best wishes,

*The Abilitytech team.*

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