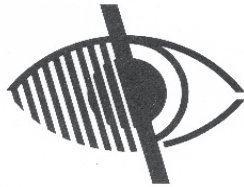


# **The Partially Sighted Society**



## **Information Sheet**

### **STAND MAGNIFIERS**

**If you have, or are going to have, a stand magnifier, it is very important that you look after it correctly. If your magnifier becomes badly scratched and dirty, or if it is not held at the correct distance from the page, it will be of little use to you and will probably end up discarded at the back of a drawer. To get the best out of your stand magnifier, just follow these few simple rules:-**

- **KEEP YOUR MAGNIFIER CLEAN**

**You do not need to buy an expensive cleaner, in fact, COIL (Britain's largest manufacturer of magnifiers) suggests that you use warm water with a little washing up liquid in it. Use a soft cloth to help remove any stubborn marks, then leave to dry naturally.**

- **PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE LENS**

**As most lenses are made from plastic rather than glass you have to be extra careful; plastic gets scratched easily if not looked after. When carrying your magnifier around, keep it in its case. If you do not have a case for it, why not make a pouch out of soft material to prevent damage to the lens.**

- **FIND THE CORRECT FOCUS**

**If a magnifier is held too close or too far away from the paper, the writing will look blurred. A magnifier which has its own stand takes the guess work out of focusing. Just LIE IT WITH ITS STAND FLAT ON THE PAGE.**

**It is a pity, but it is impossible to make a strong magnifier that can cover a large area. As magnifiers get stronger, so the lens gets smaller. To prevent light reflecting on the lens, and to see as many letters as possible, place your eye closer to the lens while still keeping the magnifier flat on the page. Make sure you have a firm surface such as a clipboard behind a newspaper or other "floppy" reading matter. This is particularly important with smaller and stronger lenses. At first it may feel unusual using a magnifier, but any new skill takes time to learn and with ten minutes practice each day it will soon become easy.**

### **• ILLUMINATED MAGNIFIERS**

**If your stand magnifier has its own light, make sure it is shining on the print and not into your eyes. A battery re-charger is worth considering if you are going to use your magnifier for long periods, as it works out cheaper in the long run. These are available from most large electrical shops and cost less than £10.**

**Some of the illuminated stand magnifiers are now supplied as a mains version using a transformer and the same standard bulb as is used in the battery version. Others use a special transformer and a Halogen bulb which gives a much brighter light, but both the transformer and replacement bulbs are more expensive. The latest versions have LED's (light Emitting Diodes) instead of bulbs. These give a brighter, whiter light and the LED's are longlasting and eliminate the task of buying and replacing bulbs. LED illumination is available powered by battery and mains transformers.**

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7/9 Bennetthorpe  
Doncaster  
DN2 6AA**