

Which Magnifier is Best for Me?

The easiest and most reliable way to choose the right magnifier is a visit to an eye care physician or a low vision professional. When this is not possible, consult the following charts and information.

Basic Definitions

Power

A unit of measurement for magnifiers, represented by X. Higher power indicates a stronger magnifier, e.g. 3X is stronger than 2X.

Diopter

Standard unit of measurement for lenses. Represented by D. Typically, every 4 diopters equals 1X, e.g. +8D = 2X.

Picking Magnification	
Magnifier Power	Text Magnified at Power
no magnification	mags
2X standard	mags
3X standard	mags
4X standard	mags

Types of Magnifiers

Hand Held/Pocket Lens

These magnifiers are small and portable. User must be able to hold magnifier steady. Includes pendant magnifiers.

Stand Lens

Magnifiers that sit directly on top of the surface being magnified. As stand magnifiers increase in strength, the distance needed between user's eye and the magnifier lens decreases. These are a portable option when hand held magnifiers do not work.

Dome

Clear dome shaped magnifiers that must be placed directly on top of item being magnified. Dome magnifiers gather light from the surrounding area.

Video

Very powerful—video magnifiers, also known as CCTVs, can magnify up to 60 times. Magnify in full color or black and white, depending on the model. Some can reverse contrast, making white black and black white. Work well for reading, writing and other small activities. Some are portable, most are not.

Types of Magnifiers, continued...

Hands free

Includes magnifiers worn on your head like a head lamp and magnifiers that attach to your eyeglasses.

Telescopes

Telescopic magnifiers are used for distance viewing. Can be hand-held or mounted to your glasses.

Considerations for Lens Magnifiers

Because they are highly curved, strong magnifying lenses are smaller than weaker lenses. This means you will be able to see less surface area through them; when reading a newspaper through a very strong lens you may see only a few letters at a time.

Strong lenses also have decreased focal distances. This means you will need to hold them both closer to your eye and closer to the object you are viewing.

This guide brought to you by SightConnection.com!

SightConnection... bringing you essential adaptive aids at a fair price!

SightConnection is a division of Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted, a not for profit vision rehabilitation agency serving the greater Seattle area.

address: Our walk in location, open M-F, 9am to 5pm!

SightConnection
9709 NE 3rd Ave #100
Seattle, WA 98115-2027

phone: (206) 525-5556 or (800) 458-4888

fax: (206) 525-0422

email: csbstore@csbps.com

web: www.sightconnection.com

