

ALT-Chat

ALT-Chat is the newest member of the ChatPC family -- ALT-Chat brings all the exciting features of the ChatPC to a brilliant 7" dynamic display.

This compact communication device measures just 7.3" x 7.3" x 1.8", weighs only 2 lbs. 8 oz., and is available in three colors.

ALT-Chat offers all of the communication features of the PDA based ChatPC products. For individuals using symbols to communicate, this includes the ability to use photos or choose from the 10,000+ symbols that are included with the ALT-Chat. It allows maximum flexibility for customizing the appearance and size of the



buttons and the number of buttons on a page. A number of pre-stored vocabulary page sets are included to meet the communication needs of a wide variety of individuals. Communicators who spell will appreciate features such as word and letter prediction, abbreviation/expansion and grammar buttons.

ALT-Chat provides both digitized (recorded) and synthesized (computer generated) speech. A choice between three voice synthesizers allows the speech output to meet the needs and lifestyle of the individual. NeoSpeech offers high quality voice synthesis in American English. Loquendo offers speech synthesis in six different languages, while DECTalk offers the classic voices of AAC, including a child's voice.

The hardware platform for the ALT-Chat is Prentke Romich Company's Springboard Lite. This robust device has a brilliant 7" color display, switch access ports, excellent audio quality and other features you expect on a full featured, dedicated communication device.

Scanning

In addition to touch screen access, ALT-Chat has a full complement of visual and auditory scanning capabilities. The user interface allows one to easily adjust various timing aspects, scanning patterns and switch input options to take advantage of each individual's unique capabilities.

PalmChat Improvement

Nancy Inman M.A.T., CCC-SLP and Janet Lehr M.S., CCC-SLP, the developers of PalmChat, have taken advantage of ALT-Chat's larger screen to make their popular vocabulary program even more powerful. The 7" display has allowed them to increase the number of buttons on each page by 20% and still allow easy access. Improved page layouts have made more vocabulary available with less navigation. A new QWERTY keyboard has been added to improve spelling and word prediction capabilities.

Language Capabilities

ALT-Chat meets the language and vocabulary needs of a wide variety of individuals.

For the beginning communicator, you can customize pages with photos of the child's friends and environment. Messages can be recorded or spoken through the voice synthesizer. Buttons can be made as large or as small as you like.

ALT-Chat Plus also provides for the needs of those who have more sophisticated communication needs. A number of page sets are included for various language levels and applications. PalmChat provides the power to create sentences 'on-the-fly'. Spelling keyboards and word prediction give ultimate flexibility for individuals who are literate. The small size and unique features of the ALT-Chat™ allow this device to serve the needs of ambulatory individuals as their communication needs evolve.

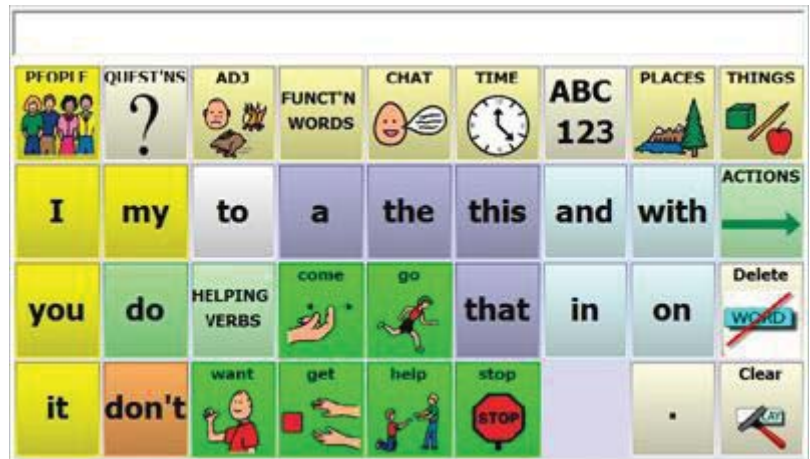
Voices

With ALT-Chat, you can choose one of three speech synthesizers. Loquendo has set the standard in the European Telecom community and is now available for the ALT-Chat. Loquendo provides speech synthesis in a number of different languages. Simply by choosing different voices from a menu, ALT-Chat will pronounce words in US English, UK English, French, Spanish, German or Italian. NeoSpeech is only available in American English, but has a very natural and easy-to-understand voice. DecTalk is also still available as an option for those who prefer the classic voice of AAC. Although all speech options offer both male and female voices, only DecTalk offers a child voice.

Customizing the ALT-Chat:

While a variety of vocabulary files, or page sets, are provided with the ALT-Chat, you will want to make modifications and add additional vocabulary for the specific needs of the person using the device. The size, color, background, symbol, font, label, message and action of each button can be customized for one's individual needs. You can adjust the number of buttons on a page, the size of the speech display bar, and many other features to meet the unique needs of each individual.

You can easily customize and add vocabulary on the ALT-Chat unit itself. In addition, software is included which allows editing and customizing on a Windows computer. This program also provides an easy means of importing photos and other graphics to be used as symbols on the ALT-Chat device. Cables and instructions are included for downloading the vocabulary to the ALT-Chat.



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