

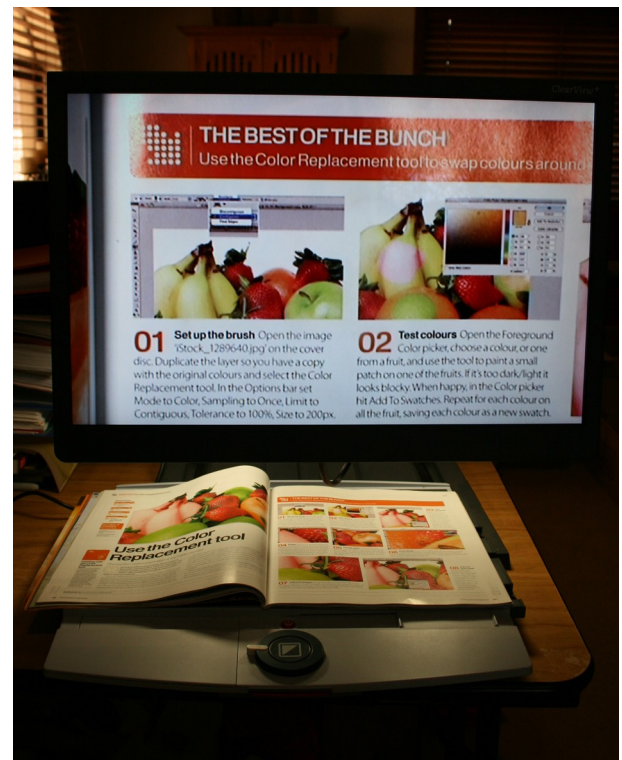
# Video Magnifiers

## WHAT IS A VIDEO MAGNIFIER?

A video magnifier or closed-circuit television (CCTV) system uses a stand-mounted or handheld video camera to project a magnified image onto a video monitor, a television (TV) screen, or a computer monitor.

## POTENTIAL USES OF A CCTV

A CCTV can be used for reading any printed material (books, documents, magazines and newspapers) and is especially helpful when you need to read instructions on medicine bottles, check an invoice or your bank statement. Other uses are for hobbies when you need magnification for your knitting, crochet or stamp collection and for important jobs like removing splinters from fingers and checking



Clearview CCTV from Quantum Technology is a stand mounted CCTV.

out the gemstones in your new engagement ring!

## HOW MUCH DOES A CCTV COST?

Some schools and other organisations, such as Vision Australia, have CCTVs which they will lend to users.

If you want to buy a new CCTV, however, this will

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cost you between \$2790 (Australian Independence Products) and \$7000.00, depending on the size and the features. Sometimes the manufacturers will have reconditioned ones which are cheaper.

## **CHOOSING YOUR CCTV**

Your decision as to which brand or model of a CCTV to buy will be governed by your personal needs. Decide what you want your CCTV to do for you and then talk to suppliers and explain what you want.

For example, if you need a portable CCTV for school or work, you need one which is light enough to carry about easily, which can be easily set up in new locations and which can fit into a backpack or carry case.

Talk to friends who already have a CCTV and also seek information from agencies in the field, such as your

State's blindness agencies. The Albinism Fellowship of Australia has an online forum where you can ask advice from members.

<http://albinismaustralia.org/>



Clearview CCTV from Quantum Technology, ideal for written work

**Vision Australia** is a good place to start when looking for information about CCTVs for your schoolchild or for yourself. Because it is not a sales-oriented organisation, it can give advice without applying

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any pressure to buy a certain product.

Phone: 1300 84 74 66

Email:

info@visionaustralia.org

### **WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK A SUPPLIER?**

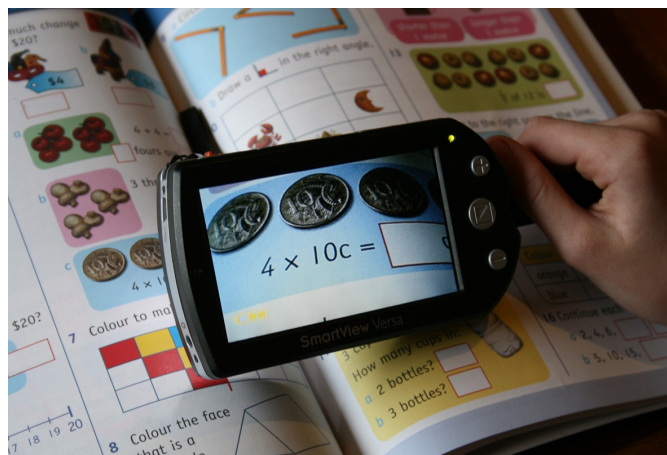
The following list suggests some of the questions to consider when deciding what CCTV to buy. The list is not exhaustive and you may be able to think of other questions relevant to your own needs:

1. How does it handle colour? And can you change it from black on white, to white on black?
2. Is it simple to use?
3. How well does it cope with instructions on curved surfaces, such as medicine bottles?
4. Does it give good reproduction of photographs and illustrations?
5. Do you need it for reading text only, or for viewing illustrations?
6. Can you use it for help with activities such as knitting; removing splinters etc.?
7. Can the tray (where you place your reading material) be locked?
8. Is the size of the tray big enough for your needs?
9. What size screens are available?
10. Do you need a full colour model or only black and white?
11. Does the machine give the option of viewing black on white, white on black or other colour combinations?
12. Are the controls easy to use and conveniently placed?
13. If you need one which is portable, is it easy to move from place to place?
14. If portable, can it be connected to a laptop?

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15. Does the tray reflect too much light – causing glare?
16. Is it easy to view material when raised above the surface of the tray?
17. Can the screen be angled i.e. turned to the side if needed to be used in conjunction with a computer?
18. Is simple maintenance, such as changing light globes, easy to do?
19. Can the height of the machine be easily adjusted?
20. Does the machine give the level of magnification you need?
21. Does it come with clear operating instructions?
22. Is there good after-sales service?
23. Can you take the model home for a free-trial period?
24. Is the information provided up-to-date?
25. If you buy one from overseas, through eBay

for instance, will it work in an Australian setting e.g. can you change the adaptor plug?



Hand Held CCTV,  
Smartview Versa.

## **SUPPLIERS OF CCTVs**

### The **Blind Citizens**

**Australia** website has links to the websites of agencies and suppliers of assistive equipment.

Phone: (03) 9654 1400

Toll Free Number: 1800 033 660

Email: [bca@bca.org.au](mailto:bca@bca.org.au)

### **Quantum Technology**

Phone (02) 8844 9888

Email:

[info@quantumrlv.com.au](mailto:info@quantumrlv.com.au)

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## **Humanware**

Phone 02 9686 2600

E-mail:

[au.sales@humanware.com](mailto:au.sales@humanware.com)

## **Optek Systems**

Phone 02 9680 0600

Mobile 0409 228 941

Email:

[opteksystems@bigpond.com](mailto:opteksystems@bigpond.com)

## **Pacific Vision**

Phone: 1800 859 594

Email:

[jon@pacificvision.com.au](mailto:jon@pacificvision.com.au)

## **Australian Independence Products**

Phone (03) 9874 6336

Mobile: (0408) 603-292

## **FUNDING AND SUPPORT**

This is a list of some of the organisations which AFA members have found helpful.

## **Vision Australia**

Provides assistance for those needing aids in the workplace.

1300 84 74 66

[info@visionaustralia.org](mailto:info@visionaustralia.org)

## **Job Access**

Provides details for job seekers and employees to access a range of services and support.

Phone: 1800 464 800

## **Vision Education Service (Western Australia)**

Provides statewide support to students with vision impairment enrolled in both public and private schools.

Phone: (08) 9426 7122

## **South Australian School for Vision Impaired**

**(SASVI)** is a state wide service which supports students in mainstream pre-schools and schools throughout the state, in DECS, Catholic Education and Independent Systems.

Phone: 61 8 8277 5255

Email:

[admin@sasvi.sa.edu.au](mailto:admin@sasvi.sa.edu.au)

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## **Can Do 4 Kids**

(South Australia)

A service to provide computer hardware and software along with any other technology used to assist clients in education and daily living.

Phone: (08) 8298 0901

## **Royal Society for the Blind** (South Australia)

Has an Equipment Scheme has to assist legally blind South Australian clients of the RSB who need financial assistance to purchase essential equipment.

Phone: 08 8232 4777

## **EnableNSW**

Has an Aids and Equipment Program (also known as PADP) which is a NSW Government initiative to assist eligible residents of NSW, who have a life-long or long-term disability, to live and participate within their community by providing appropriate equipment, aids and appliances.

Phone: 1800 362253)

E-mail: Enable

@hss.health.nsw.gov.au

## **NSW Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care** (DADHC)

Family Assistance Fund: Small amounts of discretionary funding are provided to families to help them address needs that cannot be met through the standard range of services, are not available from other funding sources, or would otherwise be unaffordable.

Phone: (02) 8270 2000

Email:

info@dadhc.nsw.gov.au

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Groups such as such as Rotary, Lions and Legacy, and philanthropic societies can be approached for funding for personal CCTVs.

## **SCHOOLS**

Schools will often help fund a student's CCTV

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which is used at school;  
also they can help parents  
access funding for CCTVs

which their students want  
to use at home.

*The information in this document was compiled by Zillah Williams from  
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