

Help for the Handicapped



DESCRIPTIVE

E550

TELEPHONE
APPARATUS

Special apparatus has been designed to help handicapped people, and details are given below of the devices most frequently needed. The Post Office will be glad to try to find ways of helping to overcome other forms of disablement, and if there is a special need it is best to get in touch with the local Telephone Manager to see what can be done.

AMPLIFYING TELEPHONE HANDSET



The amplifying handset helps customers who cannot hear very well and find difficulty in using a telephone. It is used with the modern telephone in place of the usual handset. The appearance is the same except for a small thumb-wheel volume control on the side of the earpiece. The sound in the earpiece is boosted by a transistorised amplifier inside the handset. The loudness can be regulated to suit the user

by turning the volume control. The handset can be used without any amplification if required.

Normally the amplifier receives its power from the exchange line or extension line to which it is connected, but if this is not possible light-weight batteries are fitted inside the telephone, without extra charge. The handsets can be supplied in black, two-tone grey, and ivory to match the modern telephone.

FAINT-SPEECH AMPLIFIER

This apparatus is available for people suffering from throat conditions causing partial loss of voice, and amplifies the speech in the outgoing direction. It is a transistorised amplifier without batteries, housed in an elephant-grey case 5" by 6½" by 2".

It can be fitted in any convenient position. The level of amplification is adjusted to suit the customer's needs by the engineer who fits it.

Any changes that may be necessary later are made by the engineer.

The amplifier is used with a modern telephone fitted with 'on' and 'off' press-buttons to switch the amplifier in to or out of use. The 'on' button is automatically released when the handset is replaced at the end of a call, to ensure that the amplifier is switched off. This avoids an uncomfortably loud sound in the ear of the person at the other end, if the next user of the telephone speaks with normal voice.



SENDER No.1

This apparatus can be supplied for use by people suffering from disablement or illness which prevents them from using a telephone dial. It is housed in a grey metal box 6" by 4" by 3", and is connected to the telephone by a flexible cord. It can stand on the table beside the telephone or can be fitted in any other position most convenient for the user, e.g. fastened to a wall. Power is provided by dry batteries occupying a space 4½" by 2¾" by 3¼", and these

can be kept in any suitable nearby position.

After the handset is lifted and dialling tone is received, a momentary pressure on a large sensitive button on top of the box calls the exchange operator. The user then asks for 'special assistance' and the number, and the operator puts the call through. The telephone is also equipped with a dial, and can be used in the normal way.

The Sender No. 1 can be used in conjunction

with one of the range of loudspeaking telephones described in a separate leaflet. These telephones contain an amplifier, a loudspeaker, and a sensitive microphone designed to allow the user to carry on a telephone conversation without holding a handset.

LARGE DIAL-NUMBER RING

People with poor eyesight sometimes have difficulty in reading the numbers on the plate underneath the dial in some types of telephone, and a special number ring is available, which fits round the dial of the ordinary telephone. The modern telephone, shown on the opposite page, has a large dial ring incorporated in the design. There is a single additional payment of £1 for this type of telephone.

MARKED DIAL FOR BLIND PERSONS

To make it easier for blind persons to dial numbers on the automatic telephone system, the telephone can be fitted with a dial having special marks on the outside edge against numbers four and seven.

MODIFICATIONS TO SWITCH- BOARDS FOR BLIND OPERATORS

Certain standard modifications can be made to some types of Post Office PMBX switchboards so that they can be operated by a suitably trained blind person.

The modifications have been agreed between the Post Office, the National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's and are made free of charge. The purpose is to make the scope for employing blind switchboard operators as wide as possible. If other non-standard modifications are required an extra charge is made. The Telephone Manager's advice should be sought before arrangements are made for a blind person to operate a Post Office switchboard.

**Rental and connexion charges
are quoted in the preface sheet**

**THE TELEPHONE MANAGER
WILL GLADLY SUPPLY
ANY FURTHER INFORMATION**