

MegaBee™

electronic hand-held writing tablet

Manual

Operating Instructions

MegaBee writing tablet is designed to provide an easy and frequent means of communication between a user who is unable to speak and write clearly (the 'writer') and a carer, friend or nurse (the 'reader').

As characters are defined by the writer; the reader is able to key them in and construct words which are displayed on a small screen.

This manual is in two sections: Basic use and advanced features. The basic use section is all you need to know to rapidly establish communication. The advanced features describe certain functions for reviewing text, adjusting the screen and enabling MegaBee to interface with computers so the communication can be extended.

Using MegaBee

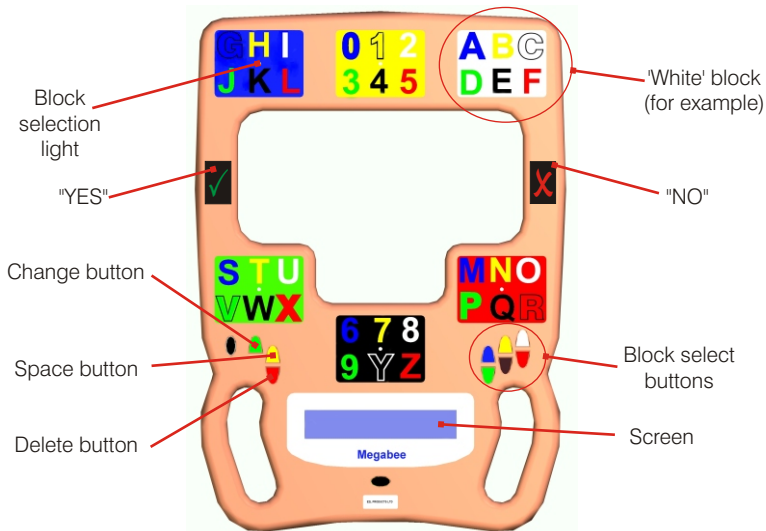
Hold the MegaBee in two hands and look at each other through the space in the centre of the unit. In this situation the eye movement of the writer can easily be followed. The thumbs of each hand should be comfortably poised above the buttons.

Power up the unit using the ON/OFF switch. All the lights will flicker once and the text 'MegaBee' will appear on the display.

Display

ON/OFF button





To select a character requires a sequential interaction between reader and writer as they look at each other through the device. The process can be summarised as:

- 1) Writer: Look at the letter or number and blink
- 2) Reader: Confirm the selection by saying the colour of the block
- 3) Reader: Press the corresponding 'block' button (it will light up)
- 4) Writer: Look at the block which is the colour of the letter just selected
- 5) Reader: Press the corresponding 'block' button
- 6) The character appears on the screen

Step '2' can be omitted when the reader and writer become more adept. An alternative confirmation method, such as looking up or at the 'YES' symbol, can be used if the writer finds blinking difficult.

An example

If the word 'hot' were to be spelt the process would be:

WRITER

Look at the letter 'h' and blink

'h' is yellow so now look at the yellow block and blink

'h' appears on the display

Look at the letter 'o' and blink

'o' is white so now look at the white block and blink

'o' appears on the display

Look at the letter 't' and blink

't' is yellow so now look at the yellow block and blink

't' appears on the display

READER

('h' is the yellow letter in the blue block)
Say "blue" and press the blue button.
The blue block selection light comes on.

Press the yellow button

('o' is the white letter in the red block)
Say "red" and press the red button.
The red block selection light comes on.

Press the white button

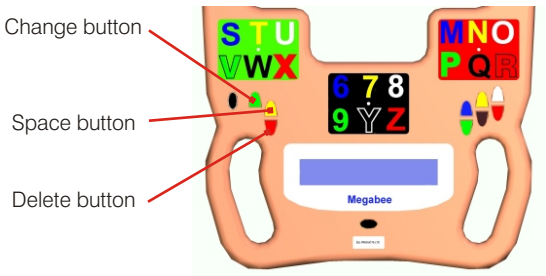
('t' is the yellow letter in the green block)
Say "green" and press the green button.
The green block selection light comes on.

Press the yellow button

The word 'HOT' is now be displayed on the reader's and writer's screens

Mistakes, Spaces and Delete

Three different methods of communication are needed for operations other than character input.



Wrong initial block selection

The writer looks directly at the reader and blinks twice. This means that the selected block is wrong and should be re-selected. The reader should press the 'Change' button to return to block selection mode.

Spaces

To insert a space, the writer looks directly at the reader and blinks once. The reader presses the 'space' button and a space is inserted in the text.

Delete

To delete a character, the writer looks directly at the reader and closes their eye for a longer period (say half a second). The reader presses the 'delete' button and the last character is removed from the screen.

Battery low warning and charging

MegaBee is intended to be charged overnight on a regular basis using the battery charger provided. No other charger will be suitable for this purpose and would probably cause damage to the unit.

If the battery is running low when in use, a white square block will appear as a cursor on the screen indicating that charging is recommended. MegaBee can still be used for about 5 minutes after this warning has appeared. If the unit is still in use after this warning period the display will say 'CHARGE BATTERY NOW' and, if no action is taken, the unit will switch itself off after another minute.

To charge the battery insert the power supply into a mains socket and connect the MegaBee via the small connector. MegaBee can be used whilst charging without problem.

When MegaBee is charging a green flashing light will be seen in the 'green' block. This indicates a fast charging cycle is in process. When the unit completes this cycle (after about an hour) the green light becomes steady and this indicates a slow trickle charge cycle has begun. A steady light can be interpreted as sufficient charging has occurred for a day's use.

Power Saving features

In order to save power MegaBee automatically turns off certain features if they have not been used for some time. If Bluetooth is not being used then selecting 'inactive' in the menu will extend the normal battery life considerably.

After 10s of inactivity the backlight is turned off. This dims the screen but does not lose any of the characters written. The backlight (if active) automatically switches back on as soon as a key is pressed.

After a period of inactivity the whole unit switches off (see TIMEOUT in the next section). To resume use the ON/OFF button needs to be pressed.

Other Functions and computer interfacing

There are other functions available to the reader which aids and extends the use of MegaBee. These are all accessed by means of the 'function' button which evokes a number of screen options; the other three left hand buttons then become UP, DOWN and ENTER for these menu items. Pressing ENTER selects a submenu; UP/DOWN gives the options

For all functions involved with computer interfacing please refer to the Help File on the CD included with your MegaBee.

FUNCTION button

ENTER button

UP button

DOWN button



Contrast

Press UP/DOWN to change the contrast;
Press EXIT to return to the FUNCTION menu

Backlight

Press UP/DOWN to turn the backlight on or off; press EXIT to return to the FUNCTION menu.
Turning the backlight off is useful in daylight or brightly lit places.

Bluetooth

Press UP/DOWN to turn the Bluetooth connection on or off; press EXIT to return to the FUNCTION menu. Bluetooth allows MegaBee to communicate with a computer. If you are not using Bluetooth facilities then setting to 'off' will extend battery life. (Refer to the PChelp file on the CD)

Scroll Mode

Press UP/DOWN selects scroll mode; if 'active' is selected then all the writing during that session can be examined by scrolling through the screens. Pressing the UP/DOWN keys then scrolls through the text. Pressing ENTER will return to the FUNCTION menu. You cannot add characters when in scroll mode.

Download

Press UP/DOWN to send all the writing so far to the PC. Bluetooth must be active for this control to work, and the PC must have its Bluetooth link established (Refer to the PChelp file on the CD). Pressing ENTER will return to the FUNCTION menu.

Clear Memory

Press UP/DOWN to clear all the characters typed so far. Essentially this is a 'start again' function. Pressing ENTER will return to the FUNCTION menu.

Vocabulary

Press UP/DOWN so the display becomes 'ACTIVE' allows a user defined vocabulary to be loaded into the MegaBee's memory. Pressing ENTER will return to the FUNCTION menu. (Refer to the PChelp file on the CD)

Timeout

Press UP/DOWN to change the timeout interval. This is the time MegaBee can remain unused before it turns off. For frequent communication 1 or 2 minutes is useful as it extends battery life. For computer communication 5 minutes is reasonable. Maximum timeout is 15 minutes. Pressing ENTER will return to the FUNCTION menu.

Exit

Returns to normal operation. Pressing the FUNCTION button also achieves this.

*All documentation and software can be downloaded from
www.megabee.net*



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