

ChatterVox for People with Parkinson's

ChatterVox Voice Amplifiers are used daily by thousands of people in different situations who all suffer from Parkinson's Disease. There are two things that are required to hear and understand someone well, you need good volume and clarity. ChatterVox systems will give you immediate help by boosting your volume significantly. You don't have to wait for the effects, it can boost your volume immediately. The most popular ChatterVox for people with quiet speech is the Original ChatterVox Complete Plus, however some people prefer the lighter weight ChatterVox Mini Amplio. Either one will do an excellent job and help you be heard.

The ChatterVox was originally developed specifically for a man with Parkinson's Disease. Having muffled or a loss of speech volume can be devastating, especially for someone dealing with Parkinson's who is already dealing with other symptoms related to the disease. People with Parkinson's can get an immediate boost to their speech volume so they can be heard once again, from across a room or out at a noisy restaurant.

How does it work?

The ChatterVox is a light weight, comfortable, portable voice amplifier. You simply buckle the ChatterVox amplifier around your waist and attach one of our many microphones. Turn the ChatterVox "ON" and you will hear an immediate boost to your voice volume. Adjust the volume knob to your desired volume level. It really is that simple.

How is it powered?

The ChatterVox has built-in rechargeable batteries. Simply plug the ChatterVox in to the included charger overnight while you sleep and it is good to go for all day long use.

Where can it be used?

Everywhere! The ChatterVox can be used at home around the house so that family can hear you from across the room. It can be used outside. You can use it in the car. You can use it when you go out to a restaurant or shopping. Many people use the ChatterVox with a speakerphone so they can more easily be heard on the phone.

OK, what about the cost?

The ChatterVox system is available in different packages with different microphones to best fit the individual. Our most popular system costs less than \$300 US currency.

How does Parkinson Disease affect speech?

Approximately 75-90% of individuals with Parkinson disease (PD) have speech and voice disorders at some time in the course of their disease. The most common perceptual speech characteristics include reduced loudness, monopitch, hoarseness, a breathy voice quality and/or imprecise articulation. The exact cause of these speech symptoms is not clearly understood, but they may be related to the rigidity of movement,

slowness of movement and reduced amplitude of movement of individuals with PD. In addition, people with PD may not be aware that they are getting softer in their speech and more difficult to understand. These voice and speech symptoms can have a significantly negative impact on the quality of life. The presence of speech and voice disorders can effect communication at work, with family or with friends.

Testimonials:

“As a person with Parkinson’s, my speech has become weaker and more gravelly or hoarse sounding. At a recent meeting of the New England section of a American Parkinson’s Disease Association, I saw the ChatterVox on exhibit. I bought one and took it home to experiment with it. One of my hesitations is the feeling that I would look strange and receive an adverse reaction. To my surprise, this did not happen, although, most everyone was curious. I was frequently asked if I were a football coach or a radio announcer or conference organizer.

The system consists of a mic attached to the users head which connects by wire to a pouch worn around the waist. The pouch contains the speaker, battery and volume control. The position of the mic in relationship to the users mouth is very important. It has been designed to amplify the users speech and not that of others. The mic is connected to a flexible wire to the support to the head. Some practice is needed to reposition the mic each time the it is used.

I have found that it is useful most of the time on a day to day basis. It eliminated the problem of people asking me “What did you just say?”. Particularly useful applications I have found are:

- Ordering in a restaurant
- Shopping
- Arranging car servicing
- Getting instructions
- Teaching
- Communication while in a car

It is particularly useful when making presentations because the speaker can be heard throughout a typical classroom. Also, the system is portable so that the speaker can move around as the microphone remains in a fixed position in the front of the mouth.

I have been asked by people who have talked to me using the ChatterVox, to be sure to bring it when we get together again.

I have contrary to my expectations; I not have not had any adverse reactions to the ChatterVox. So far, it’s been a very positive experience and plan to continue using it.

It is a high quality amplifying system and has greatly improved my communications with others. Using a telephone on a speaker phone setting works out very well too.

I am planning to use it a great deal in the future.

(From Ernest, a retired Emeritus Professor at the University of Massachusetts)

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