

Short Reference for the Activator

Version 1.0

Please also review the detailed user manual, which you can find on the StartStick.

The Activator at a glance

Top of the Unit

Please place the Activator in front of you on the table with the Braille keyboard facing up. The two keys in the front center are the two space keys. The left space bar will be referred to as [SPCL] and the right space bar will be referred to as [SPCR]. In the case that both the left and the right space bar can be pressed, they are designated as [SPC].

Between the two spacebars is a small five-way function key that can be pressed to the right, left, up, down or center. This function key enables fast and convenient navigation both in internal mode and in connection with connected devices, such as a PC or cell phone. In this context, it functions like the arrow keys on a keyboard.

Behind the space bar are the 40 ergonomic Braille modules with integrated cursor routing keys. With the integrated cursor routing keys, hereafter called [CR] keys, the cursor can be placed directly at the text position of a specific Braille module.

To the left and right of each Braille module are three independent navigation keys labelled N followed by 1 through 6, according to the arrangement of the Braille dots. So top left N1, below N2 and N3, right N4, N5 and N6. They are embedded in the housing in such a way that they do not stand out from the Braille modules. The navigation keys have the following functions:

The left resp. right upper navigation key serves as a read key to move back in the text and will be called [N1] resp. [N4] in the following.

The lower left or right navigation key is used to read forwards and is referred to below as [N3] or [N6].

Above the Braille modules is the multifunctional 2-in-1 folding keyboard. This keyboard can be used in the following two ways:

When folded down, an 8-dot Braille keyboard is available. This allows characters to be entered using dot combinations in Braille. The keyboard is held in place by magnets, which means it cannot accidentally flip open when the Activator is being transported. The 8-dot Braille keyboard consists of 8 ergonomically arranged function keys. The function keys are used for Braille input and are designated as follows:

7 3 2 1 SPCC 4 5 6 8

In the center of the function keys there is a space bar (space key), hereafter called [SPCC]. In internal mode it functions as a space bar, in terminal mode, i.e. in connection with a terminal and a screen reader, it functions as a control key.

A support foot is attached to the upper left and right narrow side of the folding keyboard. By lifting both support feet and folding the keyboard backwards, a second keyboard, a

computer keyboard, can be used. This allows characters to be entered in the same way as on a PC.

Left side of the device

The round on/off button is used to switch the Activator on or off and to switch between the different modes of the Activator (menu mode, USB device, SmartDock, paired Bluetooth devices).

For detailed information on the functions of the on/off button, see below.

Behind it: 1 USB-C port for connecting the Activator to the PC or charging the device batteries.

Right side of the device

On the right side of the Activator are the contact surfaces for the SmartDock.

Functions of the on/off button

The on/off button on the left side of the device has several functions:

1. to switch on or wake up the Activator from sleep mode (standby), press it briefly.
2. to switch off the Activator, press and hold it for a little longer (one second).
3. to switch between the different channels while the Activator is on, press it briefly.
Sequence starting from the menu mode (which is also considered a channel):
 - a. USB device
 - b. SmartDock
 - c. Then follow all Bluetooth devices (the name of the Bluetooth device will be displayed).
 - d. Finally, menu mode again
4. to switch to SAVE mode, press and hold for 5 seconds. In SAVE mode, the Activator can only be operated as a Braille display.
5. to reset the Activator when it stops responding, press the power button for a very long time (10 seconds).

The SmartDock

The SmartDock is an additional hardware component that allows an iPhone to extend the functionality of the Activator many times over. Unlike a pure Bluetooth connection, where the Activator only acts as a control element for the iPhone, it can perform many additional functions with an iPhone connected via the SmartDock. (Only from iPhone 8 and from iOS 16). The prerequisite is that the iPhone used has been paired once via Bluetooth with the Activator or another Braille display.

Detailed information about the SmartDock, its functions and installation can be found in the detailed user manual on the StartStick.

The HelpTech+ App

Together with our specially developed iOS app HelpTech+, the Activator is enhanced with additional features and smart services, such as a Braille monitor that displays what is on the Braille display on the iPhone or the speech input service that allows you to dictate text into the Activator.

The prerequisite for using the HelpTech+ app is that the iPhone is connected to the Activator via the Lightning connector of the SmartDock. HelpTech+ cannot be used via a Bluetooth connection between the Activator and the iPhone.

Internal menu structure of the Activator

- Editor:
New, Previous File, New directory
- iOS Apps:
Files, Safari, Mail, Word, HelpTech+, Edit.
- Smart Services:
News
- Clock:
Display date/time, Set Clock, Stopwatch
- Games:
BrailleHunt, Hangman
- Mass storage
- Braille sets:
Standard (internal), character sets 1 to 9, delete selection.
- Info:
Memory usage, battery statistics, keyboard layout, serial number, versions, maintenance info.
- Options

List of Key Combinations

The following list contains all important functions with their key combinations. The digits in the right column refer to Braille dots.

Navigating the Menu System

Function	Keys
One menu item to the left	N1/N4 or SPC+7 or SPC+1
One menu item to the right	N3/N6 or SPC+8 or SPC+4
First menu item within this level	SPC+1 2 3
Last menu item within this level	SPC+4 5 6
Move up one menu level	N2
Select or move down one menu level	N5
Toggle checkbox	SPC or N5 or CR keys
Select menu item directly	Hotkeys
Return to suspended Editor	SPC+1 2 3 4 5 6

Editor Functions

Function	Keys
Abort operations, cancel markings	N2
Read text	N1/N4 or N3/N6
Start automatic reading	SPC+N1/N4
Change automatic reading speed	N1/N4 oder N3/N6, if automatic reading is active
Manual scrolling	SPC
Halt automatic reading	CR keys
Automatic scrolling via ATC on/off	Chord A (SPC+1 7)
Delete character at cursor position	SPC+4 5
Backspace	Chord b (SPC+1 2)
Cursor to top of file (Home)	SPC+1 2 3
Cursor to end of file (End)	SPC+4 5 6
Cursor to beginning of line	SPC+1 3
Cursor to end of line	SPC+4 6
Cursor to beginning of next sentence	SPC+5
Cursor to beginning of previous sentence	SPC+2
Cursor to next word	SPC+6
Cursor to previous word	SPC+3
Move cursor left	SPC+7
Move cursor right	SPC+8
Move cursor one line up	SPC+1
Move cursor one line down	SPC+4
Direct cursor placement	Cursor Routing Keys
Mark beginning of block	SPC+N5 or press CR key twice at beginning of block
Cut block	Chord x (SPC+1 3 4 6)
Copy block	Chord c (SPC+1 4)
Delete block (without copying)	Chord X (SPC+1 3 4 6 7) or SPC+1 2
Paste block	Chord v (SPC+1 2 3 6)
Exchange mark and cursor	SPC+7 8
Toggle insert/overwrite mode	Chord i (SPC+2 4) insert mode is default
Set mark	N1/N4 + N3/N6
Jump to mark	Chord m (SPC+1 3 4)
Incremental forward search	Chord f (SPC+1 2 4)
Incremental backward search	Chord F (SPC+1 2 4 7)
Forward search and replace	Chord r (SPC+1 2 3 5)
Display character in ASCII	Chord D (SPC+1 4 5 7)
Insert current date	Chord d (SPC+1 4 5)
Insert current time	Chord t (SPC+2 3 4 5)
Save file (without closing it)	Chord s (SPC+2 3 4)
Open file from Editor	Chord o (SPC+1 3 5)
Open file in read-only mode	Chord O (SPC+1 3 5 7)
Switch to next file	SPC+5 6 8
Switch to previous file	SPC+2 3 7
Save and close file	Chord e (SPC+1 5)
Suspend Editor	SPC+1 2 3 4 5 6
Editor's Setup menu	Chord u (SPC+1 3 6)
Status display	Chord S (SPC+2 3 4 7)

Function	Keys
Switch to PC Mode	Chord p (SPC+1 2 3 4)
Help	Chord h (SPC+1 2 5)
DirectTransfer - transfer of the selected text area. If not marked, then transfer of the entire text	Chord E (SPC + 1 5 7)

Keys in Terminal Mode

Function	Keys
Return to menu	Hold down SPC+1 3 4 about half a second
Switch between Braille display and status module display	SPCL+SPCR
Ctrl	SPCC
Ctrl + letter e.g. c for copy	SPCC + letter e.g. SPCC + 1 3 for copy
ATC forwarding with all screen readers	SPC + 1 7 8

Fixed Key Functions on Computer Keyboard

Function	Key/Key Combinations
Cursor to top of file	Ctrl+Pos1
Cursor to end of file	Ctrl+End
Toggle between insert and overwrite	Insert
Delete current character	Delete
Delete character left of cursor	Backspace
Set beginning of block	Ctrl+Enter
Copy block	Ctrl+c
Cut block	Ctrl+x
Delete block (without copying)	Ctrl+X or Backspace
Paste block	Ctrl+v
Exchange mark and cursor	Ctrl+Tab
Status display	Ctrl+S
Incremental forward search	Ctrl+f
Incremental backward search	Ctrl+F
Forward search and replace	Ctrl+r
ESC function	ESC
Navigation	Arrow keys
Cursor to previous word	Ctrl+Cursor left
Cursor to next word	Ctrl+Cursor right
Cursor to previous sentence	Ctrl+Cursor up
Cursor to next sentence	Ctrl+Cursor down
Cursor to beginning of line	Pos1
Cursor to end of line	End
Set mark	Ctrl+M
Jump to mark	Ctrl+m
Switch to next file	Alt+Tab
Switch to previous file	Alt+Shift+Tab
Suspend Editor	Ctrl+Space
Save file (without closing it)	Ctrl+s
Save and close file	Ctrl+e
Help	Ctrl+h

Function	Key/Key Combinations
Editor's Setup menu	Ctrl+u
Switch to Terminal Mode	Ctrl+t
Display character in ASCII	Ctrl+D
Open file from Editor	Ctrl+o
Insert current date	Ctrl+d
Insert current time	Ctrl+t

Assignment of the screen reader function

The following table shows the assignment of the screen reader function for JAWS. In the detailed user manual you will also find the tables for VoiceOver, as well as the complete table for JAWS.

Control Key/Braille Dot	Function
[7]	Activate PC cursor tracking.
[3]	Display the first line in the window (title).
[2]	Move the Braille display to the left.
[1]	Move the Braille display section one line up without changing the horizontal position.
[SPCL]	If there is any text to the left of the Braille display section, it moves to the left, if not, it moves one line up and moves the cursor.
[SPCR]	If there is any text to the right of the Braille display section, it moves to the right, if not, it moves one line down and moves the cursor.
[4]	Move the Braille display section one line down without changing the horizontal position.
[5]	Move the Braille display to the right.
[6]	Display the last line in the window.
[8]	Drag the JAWS cursor to the PC cursor and activate the JAWS cursor.
[N1/N4]	If there is any text to the left of the Braille display section, it moves to the left, if not, it moves one line up.
[N3/N6]	If there is any text to the right of the Braille display section, it moves to the right, if not, it moves one line down.
[SPCL + SPCR]	Toggle status modules on and off.
[7 8]	Switch between structured mode, section output and speech output.
[3 8]	Change cursor representation (dots 7 and 8, all 8 dots, blinking and non-blinking).
[2 8]	Toggle between 6/8 dot Braille.
[1 8] or [N1+N6]	Handy Tech configuration dialog (starting from Handy Tech JAWS Driver version 3.x)
[4 8]	Toggle between focused text on Braille display/same text as on screen.
[5 8]	Activate the JAWS cursor.
[2 3]	Beginning of line
[5 6]	End of line
[1 2 3]	Top of file
[4 5 6]	End of file

Control Key/Braille Dot	Function
[3 6 7]	Speech interruption on/off
[3 6 7 8]	Output task bar
[N2]	Tab
[N5]	Shift + Tab
[N2 + N5]	Enter
[SPC + 1 2 7]	Toggle Braille input on/off
[SPC + 1 7]	Toggle ATC on/off
[SPC + 1 2 3]	Toggle ATC reading protocol on/off
[SPCL + 1 2 3 7]	If there is any text to the left of the Braille display section, it moves to the left, if not, it moves one line up.
[SPCR + 4 5 6 8]	If there is any text to the right of the Braille display section, it moves to the right, if not, it moves one line down.
[SPCL + SPCR + 1 2 3 7]	Move the Braille display section one line up.
[SPCL + SPCR + 4 5 6 8]	Move the Braille display section one line down.