

Accessibility Issues with Graphing Calculators

Barrier Free Education at <http://barrier-free.arch.gatech.edu/Tools/calc.html> compares features and descriptions of calculators designed for people with disabilities. Although there are many scientific calculators that talk or enlarge characters, there are currently only a few graphing calculator options that are accessible for students who are blind.

Texas Instruments Products

Texas Instruments (TI) produces a number of products that can aid both teachers and special needs students with TI-graphing products. These would include the **ViewScreen** panels for various models, **TI-Presenter**, and **TI-Interactive**. Another product, the **TI-Navigator**, is currently in development.

View Screen

ViewScreen enlarges and projects the image of a calculator display so an entire class can view it. It may be used with any standard overhead projector. ViewScreen panels are included in the ViewScreen set or are available separately. TI-73, TI-80, TI-82, TI-83 and TI-83 Plus ViewScreen calculators use the same ViewScreen panel. The TI-86 ViewScreen calculator uses its own ViewScreen panel. TI-89 and TI-92 Plus calculators use the same ViewScreen panel.

<http://education.ti.com/product/accessory/vs/features/features.html>

Presenter

The TI-Presenter provides a video interface that connects directly with the video input of any conventional TV, VCR, or projector to create an engaging and interesting classroom when using a ViewScreen™ calculator.

<http://education.ti.com/product/accessory/presenter/features/features.html>

Interactive!

TI InterActive! is an integrated learning environment that enables high school and college teachers and students to easily investigate ideas in mathematics and science. Teachers and students can create interactive math and science documents. Documents may include formatted text, graphics, movies, and live integrated mathematics. These documents may be used for instruction, investigation, exploration, and communication. InterActive! includes mathematics tools used in classrooms. Features include:

- Word processor with integrated math system
- TI graphing calculator functionality
- Symbolic Computer Algebra System
- Integrated Web browser
- Data editor with spreadsheet
- Graphing Technology Connectivity

Teachers and students can utilize the software in combination with the TI-83, TI-83 Plus, CBL™ 2, CBR™, or as a stand-alone product.

TI refers inquiries about accessible calculators to a scientific calculator produced by Orbit Research based on the TI-34 that is a "talking" calculator for the visually impaired.

Scientific Calculators

Information about the Talking Scientific Calculator recommended by Texas Instruments is available at Orbit Research, including a downloadable brochure with specific information about the product.

<http://www.orbitresearch.com/>

Graphing Calculators

There is software called the Audio Accessible Graphing Calculator from ViewPlus Software. The ViewPlus Software Accessible Graphing Calculator (AGC) is a universally usable Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000 program that features a graphing calculator capable of displaying graphs or other sets of y vs x data both visually and audibly as a tone graph.

<http://www.viewplussoft.com/agc/>

There is a Graphing Calculator for the Power Mac by NuCalc. The graphing menu is standard on new Power MacIntoshes; the program "Graphing Calculator" is located under the Apple Menu. For those who own a regular 68K MacIntosh, the software is available to run the program. NuCalc is designed for fast MacIntoshes with at least a 68040 processor; however, it will run, albeit slowly, on a 68020.

<http://www.nucalc.com/FreeStuff.html>