

# Victor Reader Stratus12M DAISY player (DD62)

Thank you for purchasing from RNIB. In the unlikely event the item is unsuitable, please contact us within 14 days of receipt to obtain your returns number. To ensure your return goes smoothly, the item and all components must be in as new condition and packed in its original, undamaged packaging. For further details and guidance on returning faulty items, please see the Terms and conditions of sale and How to contact RNIB sections of this instruction manual.

Please retain these instructions for future reference. These instructions are also available in other formats.

**Contents**

[General description 3](#_Toc528923571)

[Items supplied with Victor Reader Stratus12M DAISY player 3](#_Toc528923572)

[Orientation 3](#_Toc528923573)

[Key Describer mode 5](#_Toc528923574)

[Getting started 5](#_Toc528923575)

[Charging the battery 5](#_Toc528923576)

[Powering on/off 6](#_Toc528923577)

[Inserting or ejecting a CD 6](#_Toc528923578)

[Inserting or removing the SD Card 7](#_Toc528923579)

[Inserting or removing the USB memory stick 7](#_Toc528923580)

[Basic controls 8](#_Toc528923581)

[Audio controls 8](#_Toc528923582)

[Play/Pause 8](#_Toc528923583)

[Rewind and Fast Forward 8](#_Toc528923584)

[Key Describer mode 8](#_Toc528923585)

[Sleep Mode and Time announcement 9](#_Toc528923586)

[Bookmarks 9](#_Toc528923587)

[Inserting a bookmark 9](#_Toc528923588)

[Inserting a highlight bookmark 10](#_Toc528923589)

[Going to a bookmark 10](#_Toc528923590)

[Deleting bookmarks 10](#_Toc528923591)

[Bookmark alerts 10](#_Toc528923592)

[Listening to music CDs 11](#_Toc528923593)

[Navigation 11](#_Toc528923594)

[Time Jump Navigation mode 12](#_Toc528923595)

[Page Jump 12](#_Toc528923596)

[Undo 12](#_Toc528923597)

[Text-to-speech (TTS) navigation levels 12](#_Toc528923598)

[Spell Mode for Text Bookshelf 13](#_Toc528923599)

[Advanced functions 13](#_Toc528923600)

[Copying books from CD to SD memory card 13](#_Toc528923601)

[Copying content using your computer 13](#_Toc528923602)

[$VRDTB folder 14](#_Toc528923603)

[$VRMusic folder 15](#_Toc528923604)

[$VROtherBooks folder 15](#_Toc528923605)

[$VRPodcasts folder 16](#_Toc528923606)

[$VRText folder 16](#_Toc528923607)

[Information Key 16](#_Toc528923608)

[Changing the TTS voice 17](#_Toc528923609)

[Bookshelf 17](#_Toc528923610)

[Listening to MP3 CD 17](#_Toc528923611)

[Functions 17](#_Toc528923612)

[Setting the date and time 18](#_Toc528923613)

[Skippable elements 19](#_Toc528923614)

[Menu settings 19](#_Toc528923615)

[SD card labelling 20](#_Toc528923616)

[Technical information 20](#_Toc528923617)

[Battery care 20](#_Toc528923618)

[Battery replacement 21](#_Toc528923619)

[Removing spent battery 21](#_Toc528923620)

[Inserting new battery 21](#_Toc528923621)

[Updating your Stratus DAISY player 22](#_Toc528923622)

[Technical specification 22](#_Toc528923623)

[FAQ's 23](#_Toc528923624)

[Book Navigation 23](#_Toc528923625)

[Battery and charging 24](#_Toc528923626)

[CDs 24](#_Toc528923627)

[General 26](#_Toc528923628)

[Important safety instructions 26](#_Toc528923629)

[Battery safety precautions 27](#_Toc528923630)

[Terms and Conditions of Sale 27](#_Toc528923631)

[How to contact RNIB 28](#_Toc528923632)

[RNIB Technology Team 28](#_Toc528923633)

[Why recycle? 28](#_Toc528923634)

[What is WEEE? 29](#_Toc528923635)

[How are we helping? 29](#_Toc528923636)

## General description

Victor Reader Stratus12M is a simple to use digital talking book player which allows you to easily read and navigate through the structure of a book. With simple to use functions, you can consult the table of contents, jump to a section, or return to a bookmark. The number keypad gives advanced navigation controls for complex books and is particularly useful when studying.

In addition to a talking book player, you can also play standard audio CDs and MP3 CDs to listen to your favourite music or commercial MP3 books. You can also listen to books, music and text files from SD and USB memory sticks. The built-in text-to-speech reader allows access to TXT and HTML files using a clear, realistic synthetic male or female voice.

## Items supplied with Victor Reader Stratus12M DAISY player

1 x Victor Reader Stratus12M DAISY player

1 x mains power cable

1 x DAISY audio instruction CD

## Orientation

Place the player in front of you with the **carrying handle** positioned on the bottom left. Above the handle in the top left corner is a **built-in speaker**. To the right of the handle and below the speaker are three keys aligned vertically. From top to bottom, they are the **Bookshelf key**, the **Bookmark Key** and the orange coloured **Eject Button**.

In the centre of the player, towards the top are three pairs of up and down keys. From left to right, these are the **Tone,** orange coloured **Volume** and **Speed** keys.

Beneath the Tone, Volume and Speed controls, in the centre of the player, you will find a number keypad laid out in four rows of three. The top row from left to right is **one, two** and **three.** The second row is **four, five, six**, third row is **seven, eight, nine** and the bottom row is **star, zero** and **hash**.

The two, four, six and eight buttons are also used for **navigation** and have a raised curve on one edge to help identification. The number five button has a tactile dot on it and is also used as the **Information key**,which announces your current reading position and other information about your book and the player. The star button is also used to cancel an operation and the hash button to confirm.

The number seven button is used to access the menu. Press to enter the menu and use the up (two) and down (eight) navigation buttons to navigate through the menu and the left (four) and right (six) navigation keys to change the current menu item. Press the star button to exit the menu.

You can use the Bookshelf key in combination with the four Navigation keys to access the books you may have organised in different bookshelves. The Bookmark key is used to insert bookmarks to save important pages or paragraphs for future reference. There is an automatic bookmark placed at the start of every book, so that you can easily return to the very start of a title. The Eject key ejects CDs from the CD drive slot on the front.

To the right of the number keypad is the **Power key**, which is round and slightly recessed to prevent accidental pressing. The Power key is used to power the Stratus ON and OFF. Note that when the Stratus is off and you connect it to the power outlet, it will take a few moments before the Power key becomes operational. When switched on the Power key illuminates green, and when in charge mode glows orange. When switched off and not connected to the mains Power the key does not illuminate.

Beneath the keypad is the **Sleep key**. It is orange, crescent-shaped and has an LED indicator to its left. With a disc inserted, press it multiple times to set different time intervals after which the Stratus will automatically power off. The LED indicator will light orange when a sleep timer has been set. If you do not have a disc in the drive you can press this button to hear the time and date. Press and hold at any time to set the time and date.

Finally, below the Sleep Key, are three large buttons in a row, from left to right, these are the **Rewind**, orange-coloured **Play/Pause** and **Fast Forward** keys. The rewind key has a rounded, raised edge to the left and a flat end to the right. The forward key is the same but the other way around. The Play/pause button is square with a round recess in the middle.

On the right edge of the player, are three sockets and from left to right are: the round headphone socket, USB socket and SD card slot. The headphone jack could also be used to connect an external speaker.

On the front edge is the **CD-ROM slot drive** with a small lip below the slot to help orientate when inserting a CD.

Turn the unit so the back edge is facing towards you, with the carry handle positioned towards the top right. Located on this edge, slightly to the left of centre, is the **power input jack** to connect the player to an electrical outlet.

## Key Describer mode

When there is no CD inserted in the drive, the Stratus is automatically set to Key Describer mode. In this mode, whenever you press a key, a short description of its function is announced. This can be useful when learning how to use the player.

## Getting started

### Charging the battery

To charge your Stratus you will first need to assemble the power cord. The power cord is supplied in two parts: the power adaptor block and a figure 8 cable with a three pin plug. Simply plug in the figure 8 cable into the power adaptor block, the three pin plug into the wall and then the other cable from the power block into the back of the player.

When first receiving the player (or after replacing the battery or after an extended storage period), it is best to leave the player to charge overnight to ensure that the battery is fully charged and ready to use. Under regular circumstances, the battery takes up to four hours to recharge and will provide up to 10 hours of playtime for most DAISY books. Please note that you can use the Victor Reader Stratus while charging the battery. The battery will automatically recharge whenever the player is plugged to AC power.

If the player is on when you connect, you will hear a short chime confirming that power is connected. You will hear the chime again when disconnecting from the AC power outlet.

If the player is off when you connect, the power button will flash orange while charging. When the power button is orange and not flashing then the battery is fully charged.

**NOTE:** When the player is not connected to a power outlet, and staying in pause mode for more than 30 minutes, it will shut off automatically to save the battery.

### Powering on/off

To turn the player on, press and hold the Power key. You will hear a beep and shortly after, a welcome message.

To turn the player off, press and hold the Power key again. You will hear two beeps indicating the player is powering off. Note that when the Stratus is off and you connect it to the power outlet, it will take a few moments before the Power key becomes operational.

The Power button may glow or flash when:

* the player is active. The button is green regardless whether the battery is charging or not
* the player is off, plugged to AC power and recharging. The Power button is orange and flashing
* the player is off, plugged to AC power and not recharging. The Power button is amber and not flashing
* the player is off, not plugged to AC power. The Power button does not glow.

Battery status is listed as an option on the Information button (no 5) in the centre of the Navigation Keys.

### Inserting or ejecting a CD

With the power on, insert your CD in the slot above the lip, located on the front edge of the player. This lip has a small dip in the centre. Gently push the CD forward until it is about three quarters of the way into the slot. A motorised mechanism will pull the CD into the drive. After a few seconds, the Stratus will announce the title of the book. To begin listening, simply press the play button.

If you accidentally insert a CD upside down, it will be ejected after a brief time without damage. Do not force the CD into the slot as it can damage the player.

To eject a CD, simply press the Eject key, located in the bottom left corner. A motorised mechanism will gently eject the CD from the drive.

**NOTE:** The Eject key will only work when the Stratus is powered on.

If you remove a CD that you’ve been listening to and later insert it back into the same player, it will start playing from where you left off - not return to the start of the book.

### Inserting or removing the SD Card

Place the player in front of you with the handle on the left hand side. The SD card slot is near the centre along the right edge. Hold the SD card with the angled corner furthest away from you and the small ridges underneath facing downwards. In this orientation, hold it flat and slide easily until it clicks into place and remains flush against the edge of the player. If there is resistance or it doesn’t easily fit then check your orientation. Do not force it into the slot as this may damage your player and the card.

To remove, push the card in slightly till you hear the click and it will pop out far enough for you to be able to pull the card out. Make sure there isn’t a book playing when you pull out the SD card.

**Please note:** SD cards have a sliding lock switch which prevents the contents of the card from being changed or deleted. This small switch is on the long edge without the angled corner. If the switch is closest to the ridges/contacts then it is unlocked. Move the switch gently towards the back of the card with a fingernail to lock.

### Inserting or removing the USB memory stick

Place the player in front of you with the handle on the left hand side. The USB slot is next to the SD Card slot on the right edge of the player. A USB memory stick can only be inserted one way but unfortunately on most memory sticks there isn't an easy way to tell the correct way up. Therefore the best way is to gently try to plug it in and if it doesn’t seem to fit turn it over and try the other way up. One way up it will immediately go in further than the other and this is the correct way so push all the way in.

Remove the USB memory stick by simply pulling it out. Make sure there isn’t a book playing when you pull out the USB stick.

## Basic controls

### Audio controls

Each of the Tone, Volume and Speed controls has an Up and Down key. There is a quiet beep to mark the upper and lower range of each control. If the book is not playing the Stratus will announce the setting position. For tone and speed there is also a beep to mark the normal or zero position. This indicates either a flat tone setting or normal speed setting. These controls are towards the top edge of the player and set out in pairs with Up at the top and Down underneath. The left hand pair is the tone, middle orange buttons are the volume controls and the right hand pair is the playback speed controls.

### Play/Pause

To start playing a book, press the Play/Pause key.

To stop playing a book, press the Play/Pause key again.

### Rewind and Fast Forward

The keys either side of the Play/Pause button, allow you to go backward or forward quickly (cue and review). You will hear the recording at a faster speed.

Press and hold the Rewind or Fast Forward key until you reach the desired spot. If you want to jump in larger intervals then the speed will accelerate the longer you hold the key down. The jumps start at one minute, two minutes then five minutes intervals. The Stratus will announce the cumulative time jump (one, two, five, 10, 15, 20 minutes and so on) and play a normal speed clip between each one. You can also press and release the Fast Forward and Rewind keys to jump five seconds forward or backward.

### Key Describer mode

Key Describer mode enables you to learn the layout of the player and the function of each button. With Key Describer mode active you can press any key to hear its function, but you will need to exit the mode to actually use the feature.

To use Key Describer mode simply turn the player on and remove the disc from the player if there is one by pressing the orange eject key towards the bottom left of the player. You will then be able to press any key and hear the function that button performs.

### Sleep Mode and Time announcement

With a disc inserted into the player press the Sleep button once to hear the time and date. Press the Sleep button again to enter the sleep mode.

The Sleep feature allows the Stratus to automatically shutdown after a set period of time: 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 45 minutes, 60 minutes, custom or off. This is particularly useful if you fall asleep after starting reading and spend time trying to find where you were in your book. Press Sleep multiple times to select your desired sleep time. You can set the sleep timer to a different amount by pressing Sleep timer button until it says "custom", then type in the number of minutes using the keypad and then press the hash button to confirm. The maximum time is 99 minutes.

To deactivate the Sleep function, press Sleep repeatedly until you reach the OFF option. When the sleep timer is active, an orange light located to the left of the Sleep button is turned ON. One minute before the timer shuts off the player you will hear a message informing you that one minute remains and the light will start flashing. When the timer expires, the player announces the shutdown and powers off without beeping.

## Bookmarks

The Bookmark key marks positions in the book so you can return to them later. There are two methods of entering a bookmark. A standard bookmark allows you to go back to that particular point and highlight bookmark lets you highlight a particular passage or section. Highlight bookmark is particularly useful in education to highlight important sections and to revisit when revising.

### Inserting a bookmark

Press the Bookmark key (the middle diamond shaped button on the left) until you hear "insert bookmark". You can either use the number keypad to allocate a number to the bookmark or press the confirm (hash) or Play/Pause button. It will then say "bookmark X inserted". If you do not type a bookmark number and simply confirm then it will allocate the next number in numerical order. ie. If you have two bookmarks and add another it will be allocated as bookmark three.

### Inserting a highlight bookmark

Similar to inserting a bookmark but you will need to set the start and end of your highlighted section. Navigate to the beginning of the passage you would like to highlight and press the Bookmark button until you hear "start highlight bookmark". Either enter a bookmark number or press the confirm button (hash). It will now say "start position set". You can now listen to the passage or use the navigation buttons to navigate to the end of the passage you want to highlight. When you are at the end of the passage you want to highlight press the bookmark key and it will announce "end highlight bookmark". Press the Confirm button to save the highlight bookmark. It will now announce "highlight bookmark X inserted".

### Going to a bookmark

Press the Bookmark key a number of times until you hear “Bookmark List” and press the Left (4) or Right (6) navigational keys to select the desired bookmark, then press the Play button to continue listening from that position. Press the Star button to cancel. When moving through the list of bookmarks, it will announce whether the bookmark is a standard bookmark or a highlight bookmark.

**NOTE:** The bookmark list always contains one bookmark for the beginning and end of the book. Bookmarks are listed by their position in the book not by the bookmark number.

### Deleting bookmarks

Press the Bookmark key until you hear "remove bookmark". Using the Left (4) and Right (6) navigation buttons to select the bookmark you would like to delete and press the hash button or Play/Pause to confirm. To cancel press the Star button.

**NOTE:** Bookmarks and current positions are always saved separately for each book. You can delete all bookmarks from a book by entering the bookmark number 99999 and then confirm (hash).

### Bookmark alerts

You can choose to be alerted when you pass over a previously set bookmark when listening. It will announce the bookmark number and continue playback. This is disabled by default. To enable this feature, press the number seven button to enter the menu. Press the Up (2) or Down (8) navigation buttons until you hear "bookmark alert" followed by its current state (default disabled). Press Left (4) or Right (6) to change to enable. Press the Confirm or Play button for these changes to take effect and then press the number seven button again to leave the menu.

## Listening to music CDs

The Left and Right navigation arrows (4 and 6) are used to skip backwards and forwards through the tracks. Playback is continuous; at the end of the current file it will switch to the next track and will stop at the end of the last track.

You can press the Information button to hear the following information: Number of tracks, Total playtime, Time elapsed, Playing Time remaining, Number of Bookmarks, Battery or Power Cord operation.

When listening to music you can randomise the tracks by pressing the nine button.

## Navigation

In the centre of the player is the number keypad and the two, four, six and eight buttons are used as navigation keys to navigate your way through a book between chapters, topics or paragraphs. DAISY is a quick and useful way of quickly getting to a specific section of a complex book or even TV and radio guide (available from RNIB).

Press the Up (2) or Down (8) key to find out how many levels your book has. The levels toggle through if you press the key repeatedly. Level one is the biggest section of information, so using a DAISY TV guide as an example, Level one would be the days of a week. Level two would be TV channels. Level three would be the day split into four sections: morning (6am to 12 noon), afternoon (12 noon to 6pm), evening (6pm to midnight) and night (midnight to 6am). Level four would be each programme within this time slot. You then use the Left (4) and Right (6) keys to skip through the content. This makes it very easy to navigate to 7pm on a Wednesday night to hear the synopsis and timing of your favourite programme. A wide selection of DAISY titles is available from RNIB.

Many books are structured into chapters, pages, topics (cookbooks), paragraphs and phrases. Different books are structured in different ways so are dependent on the producer.

### Time Jump Navigation mode

Time Jump navigation can be activated using the Up (2) or Down (8) keys.

Press the Up or Down key to select the navigation level, until the Stratus announces "Time Jump" followed by the jump interval. Press the Left (4) or Right (6) key to move by the required time interval.

### Page Jump

Select the Page Navigation element by pressing the Up (2) or Down (8) key until you hear "Page". When you have selected the navigation level "page" you can skip page by page by pressing the Left and Right arrow keys.

You can also move in 10-page jumps to quickly reach a specific page. Press and hold the Back or Forward key and you will hear the Stratus skip backward or forward in 10-page jumps.

**Please note:** Some DAISY titles may not have page numbers included so this option may not be available with all titles. If your book does not offer page navigation then the "Page" element will not be announced when you press the Up/Down keys.

### Undo

The UNDO function allows you to reverse an unwanted move if you accidentally press the Left (4) or Right (6) navigation keys. For example, if you accidentally press the Right arrow and jump to the next book element you can press the Left arrow to undo the move and return to where you were. Similarly, you can press the Right arrow to reverse an accidental move made with the Left arrow.

**Note:** To undo an unwanted action, you must press the opposite button within 10 seconds of the action.

### Text-to-speech (TTS) navigation levels

Built-in synthetic text-to-speech software will access text based documents and read them out to you. File formats to use with text-to-speech are explained later in these instructions. When you are listening to a document and using the text-to-speech mode there will be additional text navigation levels added to the Up/Down key in addition to heading levels and page. These include the text levels: screen, paragraph, line, sentence, word, spell and character.

Note that if you search in a text then a Search level is added to allow next or previous search. Screen and line levels are defined arbitrarily as 25 lines per screen and a maximum of 80 characters per line. As with other navigation levels, you move between elements of the selected level using the Left/Right keys. Note that the Screen level will only be available when no pages are defined in the book.

### Spell Mode for Text Bookshelf

Spell mode can be selected using the Up/Down keys in a text document. The Spell mode can be found between the Word and Character navigation levels. Use the Left/Right keys to move word by word. The Stratus will announce the word and spell it. Note that capital letters are indicated and that words will be spelled at normal speed, regardless of TTS speed setting.

## Advanced functions

### Copying books from CD to SD memory card

You can copy DAISY books from a CD to an SD card by pressing the number three button. The Stratus will prompt you to press the Play/Pause button to confirm or any other button to cancel. After confirming you want to copy, the Stratus will begin copying and announce the progress periodically as a percentage. On average it will take around three minutes to copy a book. When copying is complete you will be able to listen to the book directly from the SD card. If you have a Victor Reader Stream portable DAISY player you can also listen to the book by simply inserting the SD card into your Stream.

### Copying content using your computer

In order to use many of the features you will need to organise your files carefully so that content will be easy to find when using your player.

Copy folders and files onto an SD card or USB stick and listen to them in a linear order and skip through the files until you find the one you want.

However, if you have a larger library or listen to a variety of different content then you will need to use the Bookshelf feature. In order to use this you will need to store you files in specific folders so that the player can recognise and organise it. At the root level of your drive (SD card or USB stick) you will need to use the following folders (Stratus will ignore any folders which do not have files within):

* $VRDTB
* $VRMusic
* $VROtherBooks
* $VRPodcasts
* $VRText.

Once you have set up these folders, you’ll be able to organise your content within each of these folders using your computer. For example, copy your DAISY books into a sub folder within $VRDTB, music into folders within $VRMusic and text files into $VRText.

**Please Note: Stratus12M may create further "$VR" folders containing system files. Please do not delete these folders as you may lose bookmarks, playlists and other user preferences.**

Navigate through the bookshelves by pressing the Bookshelf key multiple times. Each press will move you through the list of "$VR" folders. When you have selected the required bookshelf, move along that bookshelf using the Left and Right navigation keys. The player will read out the names of each file within that bookshelf. The Bookshelf list is circular so will start again once it has reached the end.

If you have an SD card and a USB memory stick inserted into your player, it will amalgamate the content from both and the bookshelves will be made up of the books contained across all media.

### $VRDTB folder

This folder is for DAISY books only. Create sub folders with the names of your DAISY books and then copy your DAISY content into your folders. Many DAISY books have files which have the same name, so in order to ensure you do not overwrite files from another book you need to use folders to separate them. DAISY books are made up of a number of files formats including MP3, SMIL, HTML as well as some others. Please copy all the files to ensure the book will play.

Once you have copied your files onto your SD card or USB stick, plug it in and start listening. Press the bookshelf button to scroll through until you hear "Talking books". It will then read out the number of books you have on each of the storage devices starting with the CD then the SD card and finally the USB memory stick. Press Left or Right to scroll through your books and then press play to start listening to that book. Please read the section on navigation for detailed instructions on navigating through your DAISY books.

### $VRMusic folder

This folder is for music files, copy folders or just files into this folder. With this method you will not be able to navigate directly through these folders, you will however, be able to skip through your tracks one by one. For example, if you have two folders called Beatles and Rolling Stones when you press play it will play the first track from the Beatles folder. To play the tracks in the Rolling Stones folder you will need to skip through the Beatles folder until you get to the first track in the Rolling Stones folder.

If you have a large music collection then you will need to download the [Humanware Companion software](http://www.humanware.com/en-united_kingdom/support/humanware_companion) from the Humanware website:

[http://www.humanware.com/en-united\_kingdom/support/humanware\_  
companion](http://www.humanware.com/en-united_kingdom/support/humanware_companion)

By using the Companion software you will be able you to create playlists for each of your folders, or for a number of folders. When listening, you can press the Bookshelf button until you hear "Music", followed by the number of playlists and the name of the first one in the list. Press left or right to skip through the playlists and press play to start listening. As well as playlists you have the option to listen to all music and this is listed as the first playlist "One All Music".

### $VROtherBooks folder

This folder is for any other audio books which are not DAISY books. Create sub folders with the names of audio books then copy content into your folders. If you have single file audio books then you do not need to make a folder for them, simply copy the files into this folder and they will be listed alongside any folders.

Once you have copied your files onto your SD card or USB stick, plug it in and start listening. Press the Bookshelf button to scroll through until you hear "Other books". It will then read out the number of other books you have on each of the storage devices starting with the CD then the SD card and finally the USB memory stick. Press Left or Right to scroll through your books and then press play to start listening to that book.

### $VRPodcasts folder

Simply copy Podcasts into this folder. Press the Bookshelf button to scroll through until you hear "Podcasts". The number of Podcasts within the folder will be announced and then it will read the name of the first file. Simply press Play to listen to the file or press the left or right arrows to move through the list of files. If you organise your Podcasts into different folders it will read the name of the folder first then the file name.

### $VRText folder

Copy text documents (TXT), word documents (DOC), and HTML, BRA, BRF, DOCX, RTF, and SES3 files here. The Stratus12M will see each file as a separate book. Press the Bookshelf button to scroll through until you hear "Text files". It will announce how many documents you have stored in this folder and read out the name of the first one in the list. If you have stored books within a folder then it will list the name of the folder first, then the name of the file.

Reading position and bookmarks are saved separately for each book (file). Playback stops at the end of each book (file).

**Please note:** If your braille file (.brf) is not playing correctly, check that you have selected the correct braille translation table in the configuration menu (Press and hold Information).

## Information Key

With a book inserted into the player you can hear certain information relating to that book. In the centre of the four navigation buttons is the Information key (5). Press to hear your current reading position (time lapsed) and other book information. Some books have more information than others and this may include:

* book Title
* current page number (if available)
* playtime elapsed and playtime remaining
* number of books on the CD
* number of pages in the current book (if available)
* total playtime of the book.

Press and hold the Information key to hear more technical information regarding player language, whether the player is operating on battery or AC power, current battery level, software version, model, number of user authorisation keys, and serial number. Note that the serial number can also be found in the battery compartment.

## Changing the TTS voice

When using the text-to-speech feature you can change the voice by pressing and holding the number seven button to toggle between either the male or female voice.

## Bookshelf

If a CD has multiple titles recorded onto it, then the Bookshelf key (top button to right of carry handle) will access the book list. The navigation keys Left (4) and Right (6) allow you to move from title to title to choose the book you want. Confirm your book choice with the Play/Pause key and it will start to play.

## Listening to MP3 CD

**NOTE:** Folders and files are used for MP3 CDs only.

### Functions

**Navigation:** The Left (4) and Right (6) arrows are used to switch to the previous or the next file in the same folder. When the current file is the first or the last file of a folder, Left/Right arrows will switch to the last or the first file of the previous or the next folder respectively.

You can navigate to different folders on the CD by pressing the Up (2) or Down (8) arrow until you hear "folder". You can then choose the folder by pressing the left and right arrows. **Please note:** the folder names are not read out and are numbered in alphabetical order.

Once you have selected the folder you can use the down arrow to navigate to a particular track or press play to play the first track in the folder.

**Please note:** the file names are not read out and are numbered in alphabetical order.

Playback is continuous; at the end of the current file it will switch to the next file and will stop at the end of the last file in the file list. Press the Information key for detailed information about your CD.

## Setting the date and time

To set the date and time, press and hold the Sleep key until you hear the menu prompt, then use the Up (2) and Down (8) arrows to navigate the menu. When on the menu item of your choice, press the Right (6) arrow to enter that given menu and hear the submenu.

The Right (6) and Left (4) arrows are used to navigate between submenus. Use the Up (2) and Down (8) arrows to navigate the possible settings for each submenu item. Use the Right arrow to confirm your selection and move to the next submenu. When you reach the last submenu, press the Right arrow to confirm your settings and return you to the menu. At this point, press Sleep to exit. You can also exit without saving changes at any point by pressing any other key.

List of menus and submenus

Set Time: Hour, Minute

Set Date: Year, Month, Day

Set Advanced Time Settings: 12h/24h format, Daylight saving setting

The daylight saving setting is a quick way to manually adjust your clock forward or back one hour. You can manually select Standard Time or Daylight Saving Time in the Advanced Time Setting submenu.

**Note:** This setting does not make the player automatically change the time at the predetermined date twice a year.

Example:

If you wish to modify the month follow these steps:

1. press and hold Sleep key until you hear the menu prompt
2. press the Down (8) arrow once to reach the Set Date menu
3. press the Right (6) arrow twice to reach the Month submenu
4. press the Up (2) or Down (8) arrow multiple times until you reach the correct month
5. press Right (6) arrow to move to the next submenu (day).

If you do not wish to modify the day, press the Right (6) arrow again to reach the end of the Set Date menu, at which point any settings made in the Set Date menu will be saved.

## Skippable elements

Some DAISY books may contain additional information which is not part of the main body of text and you can choose which parts are ignored so that your listening is not interrupted. This includes footnotes, page numbers, production notes and sidebar. However, you may need this additional information and within the menu you can choose which elements are ignored and which ones are read out.

To change which elements are skipped, press the number seven button twice until you hear "skip, all, play". Using the Up (2) and Down (8) navigation arrows you can move between:

* footnote
* page number
* producer note
* sidebar
* all.

You can toggle between skip and play with each of these elements by pressing Left (4) or Right (6) on the navigation keys. Several elements can also be set to on-demand so when the item occurs in your book, it will read out the element such as "footnote" and you can recall the footnote by pressing the hash button. The Stratus remembers five skipped elements. Simply press the hash button again and again to go back through the last five skipped elements.

To return to the main body of the text simply press the Star button. Please note on-demand option is not available for page and line number elements.

## Menu settings

There are several advanced features you can adjust within the menu. Press the number seven button to enter the menu and press the Up (2) or Down (8) navigational buttons to move between each option. Most of the options have just two options; enable and disable. Use the Left (4) and Right (6) navigational buttons to toggle the current option. Press the Hash button again to exit the menu.

Loop - enable this setting to automatically loop back to the start when you reach the end of the book or album. (Default disabled)

Time jump - choose from one, five, ten and thirty minute time jumps (default one minute)

Key beeps - enable or disable (default enabled)

Sleep messages - enable or disable (default enabled) - when using the sleep timer and this setting is enabled, it will announce that it is about to go to sleep one minute before.

Bookmark alert - enable or disable (default enable)

## SD card labelling

Attaching print or braille labels to SD cards is not possible as it can damage the player. To help you identify SD cards, the Stratus supports an optional voice label. At the root of the SD card, create a txt file called "$VRLabel.txt". Use Windows Notepad or similar program to create the file. In the file named "$VRLabel.txt" write your SD card label.

**Please note:** your label cannot exceed 50 characters. The player will ignore any characters after the first 50 in the label file.

Whenever you insert the card or turn the player on, it will look for this label file. If found, Stratus will announce your label contents.

This label file is optional. If you do not require an auto-announcing label for your SD card there is no need to set it up. This label has nothing to do with the label that you see when viewing the SD card Properties in Windows.

## Technical information

### Battery care

The battery is rated for approximately 300 recharge cycles. Under normal conditions the fully charged battery can last up to 10 hours for continuous play of DAISY books. However, the battery playtime may be reduced in the following cases:

* if the battery is charged for less than four hours
* extensive use of book navigation commands
* non-DAISY CDs take more power and play for about three hours on battery power
* high volume level or high speed reading.

However, the player will recharge regardless of whether it is on or off.

## Battery replacement

Contact RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999 for advice on how to obtain replacement batteries.

### Removing spent battery

Place the Stratus in front of you on a table or flat surface. Turn the player upside-down so you have the underside of the device facing you. Position the player so that the carry handle is facing away from you. The battery is near the carry handle opening, there are two sliding tabs with three tactile ridges. The battery is next to these two sliding tabs. To open the battery cover, simultaneously push the two sliding tabs away from each other using your thumbs. The battery cover should pop up, allowing you to remove the battery, by pulling it up and away by putting your finger in the semi-circular recess between the two tabs.

### Inserting new battery

Victor Reader Stratus batteries are designed to be mistake-proof, meaning that they can only be inserted one way.

To properly insert it into the compartment, first place the battery flat in front of you. The battery is rectangular. One of the two large surfaces has a label, this is the bottom surface. Two of the four lateral sides are completely flat, the other two lateral sides have tabs and connectors. One has a single semi-circular tab, in the middle, extending from the top surface of the battery. The opposite side has a connector in middle and two tabs on either side of it.

To install the battery, insert the side with the two tabs and connector which should fit into their corresponding openings. The semi-circular tab on the other end of the battery should go into where the semi-circular recess is positioned, in between the two ridged tabs on the base of the player. Press down to lock the battery into place.

**NOTE:** a new battery is usually at 50% of its full capacity.

## Updating your Stratus DAISY player

Updates may be released from time to time to update the Stratus software.

The software update is a .UPG file downloaded from HumanWare's website, Humanware.com

To update your Stratus:

* burn the .UPG file onto a CD
* connect the Stratus to a power outlet
* power on the player and insert the CD
* the update will start and report the new version number that is being installed. An installation progress message will be heard every 10 seconds
* after the update is done, the player will power off
* the CD will be automatically ejected the next time the Stratus is powered on.

## Technical specification

Dimensions without cover: 22 x 21.6 x 4.8cm (8.7 x 8.5 x 1.9 in.)

Dimensions with cover: 22.8 x 22.2 x 5.1cm (9 x 8.7 x 2 in.)

Weight: 0.95 kg (2.1lbs) with battery

DAISY Formats Supported: DAISY 2.0 and 2.0.2

DAISY NISO Z39.86 2002 and Z39.86 2005

Battery type: Rechargeable Li-Polymer battery. 8.4 volts 1650 mAh

Charging time: 4 hours

Operating time: 10 hours for continuous play of DAISY MP3 book

Power Supply: The supplied power adapter meets power requirements only for the country in which it was sold. Check with your dealer for alternate power adapters used for other countries.

Coding Algorithms: AAC, AMR-WB+, FLAC, MP3, Ogg Vorbis, Speex, WAV

Power jack: 2.5 mm (interior)/ 5.5 mm (exterior)

Earphone jacks: 3.5 mm

Equipment Classification (IEC 601-1)

Type of Protection: Class 1

Applied Parts: None

Sterilization Method: Not intended for sterilization

Enclosure Degree of Protection: IP20

The equipment is not AP or APG category

Mode of Operation: Continuous

Environmental

Operating Temperature 10 to 40º C

Transport & Storage Temperature -20 to 60º C

Operating Humidity 20% to 80% (RH)

Transport & Storage Humidity 10% to 95% (RH)

Operating Altitude -200 to 2000 m

Transport & Storage Altitude -200 to 12 000 m

Transport & Storage Barometric Pressure 70-103 kPa

## FAQ's

### Book Navigation

#### Why does Victor Reader Stratus not always announce the same DAISY levels when I press the Up and Down keys?

The Up and Down keys cycle through the DAISY navigation levels provided by the producer of the book. Not all DAISY books have the same navigation levels. For example, there may only be one level of navigation (often used for chapters). In this case, the Up and Down keys will announce only "level 1" and "phrase". A phrase level is always included. The Stratus can only navigate at the levels provided by the book producer. Also, the phrase jump is not the same for each book. Some producers may include a phrase mark for a single sentence while others may mark-up phrase as an arbitrary time jump. Older converted cassette books may have a phrase that is the entire side of one cassette. For books with little or no DAISY navigation marks, you will need to navigate with the Fast forward and Rewind keys, to the left and right of the Play button.

#### How do I know what DAISY navigation levels are available in my book?

The Up and Down keys will cycle through the levels of navigation available in the book. Many book producers include a section at the beginning of the book that describes what the DAISY levels correspond to in that book. Check with your book producer if you are unsure of the book’s navigation features.

#### How do I quickly jump to the start or end of a book?

Victor Reader Stratus has automatic bookmarks for the beginning or end of the book. Press the Bookmark key until you hear the Stratus announce, "Bookmark List". Then press the Left arrow key until you hear, "beginning of book". The beginning of book is always to the left of the first user bookmark. Similarly, to reach the end of the book press the Right arrow in the bookmark list until you hear "end of book". The end of book is always to the right of the last user bookmark. If you have not set any bookmarks then you need only press the Left arrow key once in the bookmark list to reach the beginning of the book or press the Right arrow once to reach the end.

### Battery and charging

#### Can I damage my battery if I leave the power cord connected for a long time?

No. However, if you are not going to use your Victor Reader Stratus for a long time such as being away on vacation it is best to disconnect it from the power mains to avoid potential damage from power surges.

#### Can I replace my battery?

Yes. Replacement batteries are available.

#### How many times can I recharge my battery before it requires replacement?

The battery is rated for 300 charge/discharge cycles. After that it will still recharge but its capacity to retain a charge will decrease. When the battery no longer maintains a charge it should be replaced.

#### What precautions should be taken if I am not planning to use the player for an extensive period of time?

For a period of time exceeding three months, it is best to remove the battery from the player. The player and batteries should be kept within a temperature of -20 to 35 degrees Celsius and humidity levels between five and 90% without condensation.

### CDs

#### What should I do if my CD is stuck and will not eject?

First, try turning off your player and then turning it back on and then pressing eject. If the On/Off key appears to not be working (no beep is heard when you press it) then hold the On/Off key down for 10 seconds, then release it. Then hold down the Eject key while you again press the On/Off key. Continue to hold the Eject key until you hear, "Welcome to Victor Reader". Victor Reader Stratus should then eject the CD.

#### Can I damage my Stratus if I insert the CD upside down?

No. The Stratus will simply eject the CD.

#### Why does my Stratus make whining or chirpy sounds every couple of minutes?

This is the normal sound of the CD-ROM drive while the player is reading information from the CD. For DAISY CD books, after the CD is read it will spin down to save power and become silent for several minutes until it needs to be read again. Pressing navigation keys or jumping to a bookmark will also cause the CD to spin-up in order to be repositioned to the new location.

#### What should I do if my CD skips or stops playing?

Poor quality CDs or those with fingerprints or scratches will often not play properly or not play at all. Eject the CD. Try cleaning it using a soft lint free cloth or CD cleaning cloth, which can be purchased at most stores that sell CDs. Do not use paper towel or tissues which can scratch. Clean the surface of the CD from the middle towards the outer edge in straight lines. Do not use a circular motion. If the CD still does not play, it should be inspected for scratches. Scratched CDs should be returned to the supplier for replacement.

#### Do I need to clean the CD drive or laser reading lens?

No. The type of drive used in the Stratus players does not require cleaning.

#### May I attach a braille or other label to the CD?

No. The label can adversely affect the balance of the CD as it spins at high speed. Also, if the label should come loose inside the player it will very likely damage the CD-ROM drive. If you receive a CD with Braille or other non-manufacturer’s label, you should remove it.

#### Why do I sometimes hear the message, "Please wait", when I press a key even though there is a CD loaded?

This may happen if you press keys too soon after inserting the CD or turning on the player. Victor Reader Stratus requires some time to scan the disc and load the DAISY CD navigation information. After turning your player on or inserting a CD, you should wait until Victor Reader Stratus announces the book title before you press any keys. If this is for an extended period then turn the player off.

#### What does the message, "No book on disc" mean?

This is the message Victor Reader Stratus issues if it does not recognise the type of CD. Victor Reader Stratus can only play DAISY, MP3 or audio CDs.

#### What does the message, "Audio format not supported" mean?

The CD has audio files that Victor Reader Stratus recognises but the files are formatted in a way that is incompatible with the Victor Reader Stratus software. You should notify technical support.

#### Can I damage my Victor Reader Stratus by playing a scratched CD?

No. The CD reading lens does not come in contact with the CD surface so it will not be damaged if the CD is scratched. It will also not be subject to wear from repeated plays as with cassette players.

### General

#### What should I do if the On/Off key is not working?

If no beep is heard when you press the On/Off key first ensure the player is plugged into the AC power source. If the On/Off key is still not working, press and hold it down for 10 seconds. This will reset the player. Then press it again and Victor Reader should beep and start normally.

#### Can the internal Victor Reader Stratus software be updated?

Yes. When upgrades to the software are available, customers are able to install the new software by simply inserting a special upgrade CD into the player, which automatically refreshes its internal software program. The upgrade CD may be obtained from customer support, directly downloaded from the website, or from selected dealers.

#### Should I delete bookmarks to save memory space?

No. Victor Reader Stratus can store over 1,500 bookmarks spread over many books. Even if you exceed this large number Stratus will replace the bookmarks that were used the least often. So, you only need to delete bookmarks if you do not want them.

## Important safety instructions

Follow all warnings, cautions, and instructions marked on the product. Carefully read the instructions described in this user guide prior to using the Stratus. Only use or store the Stratus on stable and solid surfaces. Keep away from water or high humidity. Do not submerge. Only use cables provided with the Stratus.

Refer all servicing of this product to qualified service personnel. Do not attempt to service it yourself, as opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltage points or other risks.

## Battery safety precautions

* Do not use or leave the battery near heat source and fire. Do not store in high temperatures.
* Only use the Stratus power adapter to charge the battery.
* Do not disassemble or modify the battery.
* Do not short circuit the terminals.
* Do not immerse the battery in water, do not allow it to get wet.
* Do not strike or throw the battery.
* Do not pierce or strike the battery with sharp objects or a hammer.
* Do not solder the battery.
* Do not reverse the positive and negative terminals.
* Do not use the battery for purposes other than those intended by manufacturer.
* Do not use the battery with primary battery or batteries of different capacities or brands.

If the battery leaks and liquid gets into the eyes, do not rub eyes. Instead, rinse the eyes with clean running water and seek immediate medical attention to prevent injury. If the battery leaks and comes into contact with skin, immediately rinse area with clean running water to prevent injury.

## Terms and Conditions of Sale

If you have not purchased the Victor Reader Stratus12M directly from RNIB, please contact your retailer in the first instance.

This product is guaranteed from manufacturing faults for two years from the date of purchase.

For all returns and repairs contact RNIB first to get a returns authorisation number to help us deal efficiently with your product return.

You can request full terms and conditions from RNIB or view them online.

Registered Charity No. 226227

## How to contact RNIB

Phone: 0303 123 9999

Email: shop@rnib.org.uk

Address: RNIB, Midgate House, Midgate, Peterborough PE1 1TN

Online Shop: shop.rnib.org.uk

Email for international customers: [exports@rnib.org.uk](mailto:exports@rnib.org.uk)

### RNIB Technology Team

Telephone 0207 391 2280

Email [tfl@rnib.org.uk](mailto:tfl@rnib.org.uk)

CE logo.

This product is CE marked and fully complies with all relevant CE legislation.



Please do not throw items marked with this symbol in your bin. Recycle your electricals and electronic devices **free** at your local recycling centre. Search for your nearest recycling centre by visiting [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com).

### Why recycle?

Unwanted electrical equipment is the UK’s fastest growing type of waste.

Many electrical items can be repaired or recycled, saving natural resources and the environment. If you do not recycle, electrical equipment will end up in landfill where hazardous substances will leak out and cause soil and water contamination – harming wildlife and human health.

RNIB are proud to support your local authority in providing local recycling facilities for electrical equipment.

To remind you that old electrical equipment can be recycled, it is now marked with the crossed-out wheeled bin symbol. Please do not throw any electrical equipment (including those marked with this symbol) in your bin.

### What is WEEE?

The Waste Electrical or Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive requires countries to maximise separate collection and environmentally friendly processing of these items.

### How are we helping?

In the UK, distributors including retailers must provide a system which allows all customers buying new electrical equipment the opportunity to recycle their old items free of charge. As a responsible retailer, we have met the requirements placed on us by financially supporting the national network of WEEE recycling centres established by local authorities. This is achieved through membership of the national Distributor Take-back scheme (DTS).

Revised October 2018