

# Orbit Reader 40™ Quick Start Guide (HT358-40)

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.

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## Special warning

Please note: a full copy of the manual is available on the SD card supplied with the Orbit Reader, however any developments in the instructions are kept up to date at the following link: [www.orbitresearch.com/support/ orbit-reader-40-support/](http://www.orbitresearch.com/support/%20orbit-reader-40-support/)

**Note:** It is important to upgrade your device to the most current firmware version. Please refer to the [Device Upgrade Procedure](https://redmine.aphtech.org/projects/tbd/wiki/User_Documentation#Device-Upgrade-Procedure) section of the User Manual for instructions.

Please note: Orbit Reader 40 menu items, except version numbers, are displayed using your choice of braille table. By default, this is Unified English Braille uncontracted grade one.

## General description

The Orbit Reader is a low-cost braille display and has the following features:

* a single line of 40 braille cells with pins which can represent both six and eight dot braille, in any language or for any subject.
* built-in braille translator converts plain text files to braille output for reading on the braille display and braille input can be back translated to plain text files readable on standard computers.
* can be used as a stand-alone device to read pre-loaded content on an SD card.
* can connect remotely via Bluetooth or USB to other devices including PCs and mobile devices to be used in conjunction with many popular screen readers.
* can be used as a simple text editor.
* also includes a clock, alarm, calendar and calculator.

## Introduction

This guide provides the basic instructions for using the Orbit Reader 40 Electronic Braille Display. For more information and the complete instructions, consult the Orbit Reader 40 User Guide included on the
SD card.

The Orbit Reader 40 is a unique 3-in-1 device that enables a blind or visually impaired user to read books and documents in braille, take notes and save them as braille or text files. It helps the user to easily access all the functions of a computer or smartphone such as web browsing, email and text messaging.

Reading materials that were previously available in braille embossed on paper can now be read on the compact and portable Orbit Reader 40. Thousands of books can be stored on the small memory cards, known as SD cards. Blind people who used to write notes using a slate and stylus or a Perkins Brailler can now type in braille with the Orbit Reader 40, which includes a similar 8-key braille keyboard and is much quieter and faster, as well as being fatigue-free. The notes are stored on the SD card and can be transferred to a computer or smartphone and read by anyone.

The Orbit Reader 40 produces braille symbols using 8 pins that can move up and down to produce braille dots and can show a line of 40 such symbols, also known as cells. Any text or braille content can be instantly displayed on the device, 40 symbols at a time and once you have read the first line of 40 symbols, you can move to the next line by pressing a button, known as the pan button.

## In the box[¶](#In-the-Box)

The following items are included in the package. Contact your distributor if anything is missing or damaged.

* Orbit Reader 40 unit
* Charger
* USB Cable (USB-A to USB Type C)
* SD Card with User Guide and content (installed in unit)
* Printed Quick Start Guide
* Braille Quick Start Guide

## Orientation of the device[¶](#Orientation)

The normal operating orientation of the device is with the space bar closest to you. Above the space bar is the line of braille cells. On the left and right side of the braille line are two buttons. These buttons are used to skip to the next or previous line of braille and are known as the pan keys.

Just above the line of braille cells and in the middle is the navigation pad. The navigation pad contains four directional arrow buttons (Up, Down, Left, Right) and the Select button.

On left and right side of navigation button are eight traditional braille input keys. Dots 7, 3, 2 and 1 are on the left and Dots 4, 5, 6, and 8 are on the right. These keys are used to type in braille and to enter commands. The navigation pad is used to move within a book or file and through menus. The small buttons located above each braille cell are cursor routing buttons, used to move the cursor to the desired location while editing.

On the right side of the device, from front to back, is the recessed Power button (front), USB Type-C (middle), and 3.5mm Audio Jack (back). On the left side of the device is the Standard USB A host port. At the back side of the device is the SD card slot.

## Charging the device[¶](#Charge-the-Device)

We recommend charging the device fully before or during first use. To charge the battery, plug the small end of the cable into the USB Type C port on the right side of the unit and insert the other end into the supplied charger or a USB port on a computer.

## Powering on and off[¶](#Powering-On-and-Off)

To turn on the device, press and hold the power button for 2 seconds. If the device is already on, pressing and holding the power button for 2 seconds will turn it off. If the device is running on batteries and you do nothing with it for 10 minutes, it goes to sleep automatically to conserve power. The device will activate all the dots momentarily to indicate power-on and power-off.

## Language settings[¶](#Selecting-and-Reading-Content)

Your Orbit Reader 40 comes with support for several languages and more can be loaded from the SD card as needed. You can select a language by pressing the Select button and one of the Dot keys together. The Select and Dot 1 keys will choose UEB Grade 1 (uncontracted) braille for reading and writing. All the messages and menus will also be shown in UEB Grade 1 (uncontracted). The Select and Dot 2 keys will choose UEB Grade 2 (contracted). The Select and Dot 3 keys will choose the BRF format,
which is independent of language. The Select and Dot 4 keys will choose the language you have loaded from the SD card. There are many other options that provide a lot of flexibility. Please refer to the User Guide for more details.

## Reading[¶](#Selecting-and-Reading-Content)

The Orbit Reader 40 comes with an inserted SD card containing the User Guide and translated braille material already on it. If the SD card is removed or there is no SD card present when the unit is turned on, the Orbit Reader 40 displays “SD card [no media]”. To insert a card into the slot, make sure its contact fingers are facing down and gently push it in until you hear or feel a click. To remove a card, press and release it.

When you first power the device on, the display shows the name of the first file or folder on the SD card. You can scroll through the list of files using the Up and Down Arrow buttons on the navigation keypad.

To open a file in the list for reading, press the Select key. To read a file, use the panning buttons to move forward or back through the contents forty characters at a time. To exit from reading a file and return to the list of files and folders, press the Dot 7 key.

## Creating and editing files[¶](#Entering-and-Exiting-Menus)

To create a new file, press the space bar and the dot keys for the letter ‘N’ (Dots 1 3 4 5). You will notice that dots 7 and 8 (the two dots at the bottom) in the first cell will start blinking. This is known as the cursor and shows the position at which the text you type will be inserted. Start typing using the Dot 1 thorough Dot 6 keys. Choose the language you would like to type in, using the Select and Dots 1 through 4 keys.

To edit a file you are reading, press the space bar and the dot keys for the letter ‘E’ (Dot 1 5).

To exit the Editor, press the ‘Select’ key twice. The cursor disappears and returns you to the file you were reading. If you had created a new file, the editor automatically names the file with the first 40 characters of the file. You can rename the file if you like.

## Setting preferences

The Orbit reader 40 offers several options which are accessed through the menu. This allows you to do things such as checking the battery status, configuring the way braille is displayed, etc.

* To see the menu, press the Select and Up arrow key.
* To move through the menu items, press Up or Down Arrow keys.
* To see the options for an item in the menu, press Right or Left Arrow keys.
* To select or unselect an option, press the Select key.
* To close the Menu, press the Dot 7 key.

## Connecting to a computer or smartphone

The Orbit Reader 40 can connect to computers and mobile devices to access all of their functions and features using braille. The connection can be either through USB or Bluetooth. The access to the computer or mobile device’s features is through a software program called a Screen Reader. This software is available for all platforms including Android, iOS, Windows, Mac OS, Chrome, and Amazon FireOS and has been fully tested to operate seamlessly with the Orbit Reader 40. For further details, please refer to the User Guide.

## Where to access braille content

When using the Orbit in Stand-Alone mode there are multiple sources of files that are transcribed into high quality braille. Below are some examples:

* **RNIB Reading Services** offers professionally transcribed braille titles.
* [National Library Service](https://nlsbard.loc.gov/) (NLS) provides professionally transcribed, formatted files through the Web Braille project.
* [National Braille Press](http://www.nbp.org/) (NBP) produces braille books, textbooks, tests, and information for adults and children.
* [Louis Database](http://louis.aph.org/pages/about.aspx) lists titles produced by over 160 organizations.
* [American Printing House for the Blind](http://www.aph.org/) (APH) transcribes textbooks
for K-12 students.

## Automatic Translation

In addition to professionally transcribed titles, you may also use dynamic translation to obtain braille.

Automatically translated braille may be appropriate for some forms
of reading.

* [Bookshare®](http://bookshare.org/) dynamically generates braille formatted files from the titles in its library.
* **Sugamya Pustakalaya** is India’s first and largest collection of accessible books. Users can access a collection of over 328,900 books, maintain their individual reading shelves online and download books in chosen formats.
* [NFB-NEWSLINE®](http://nfbnewslineonline.org/) is a free audio information service, providing downloadable braille files of up-to-the-minute content from over 400 national, international, and state newspapers.

## Translating braille

* The Orbit Reader 40 features built-in forward and reverse braille translation. This is controlled by the profile selected from the menu.
* [BrailleBlaster™](http://brailleblaster.org/) is a full-featured transcription software package for creating quality formatted braille.
* [DAISY™ Pipeline](http://www.daisy.org/project/pipeline) provides a comprehensive solution for converting text documents into accessible formats.
* [Send to Braille](http://tech.aph.org/lt) is a shortcut that adds braille to the Windows® Send To menu, which can convert files on your computer into unformatted BRF (Braille Ready Format) files.

## Further Information[¶](#Further-Information)

For the latest information, specifications, troubleshooting tips, software upgrade instructions, care and use information, warranty information,
and more detailed instructions, visit the Orbit Reader 40 support webpage at: <http://www.orbitresearch.com/support/orbit-reader-40-support/> or contact us at techsupport@orbitresearch.com

## 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](http://www.shop.rnib.org.uk/)

Email for international customers: exports@rnib.org.uk

## RNIB Technology Team

Telephone 0207 391 2280

Email tfl@rnib.org.uk

## Terms and conditions of sale

This product is guaranteed from manufacturing faults for 12 months from the date of purchase. If you have any issues with the product and you did not purchase directly from RNIB then please contact your retailer in the
first instance.

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.

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This product is CE marked and fully complies with all applicable
EU 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).

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