

# Hark Reader (HT406)

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.

## General description

Hark is an electronic text-to-speech device for people who are blind and for those with a visual impairment. Enjoy reading any printed material, such as letters, newspapers, and books, and hear them read aloud in a natural sounding voice.

## What's in the box

* Hark device
* Power supply / charger
* Keypad (optional) and keypad USB charging cable

## Orientation

Hark has four control buttons on the base**.**

**Pause/resume button** located on the front right side of the Hark base. Press this button while the Hark is reading to pause reading. Press it again to resume reading.

**Back button** located on the front left side of the Hark base. Press this button to repeat the previous sentence. Each press takes the reader back one sentence. Press it once to repeat the previous sentence, twice to go back two sentences and so on.

**Reading speed buttons** shaped as two semi-circles located on the right side of the base. The slowdown button is located closer to the front of the device. Press the slow down button to read slower. The speed up button, directly next to the slow down button, is closer to the back of the device. Press the speed up button to read faster.

**Volume control slider** located in the front centre of the device. Move the slider to the left to decrease the volume, and to the right to increase the volume.

## Getting started

### Powering up the device

Place the Hark onto a flat surface. Open the camera arm by lifting it up.

Plug the power adapter into an outlet and plug the other end into the Hark power port located on the left side of the base.

Press and hold power button located on the left side of the base for 3 seconds. You will hear some beeps, and soon after, the phrase “Place your document.” To power Hark off, press, and hold the power button for 3 seconds.

### How to read with the Hark

With the text facing up, place your document onto the base and make sure it is completely still. If needed, place the document towards an edge of the Hark to ensure that the text is not being blocked by your hands. Once the document has been placed, you will hear the shutter sound that a camera makes, and in a few seconds, Hark will begin reading your document aloud.

### Controlling Hark

* There are 3 methods to control Hark:
* Base Buttons
* Hand Gesture Controls
* Keypad (if optional keypad is included)

### Hand gesture control

Hand gesture is the easiest and most simple way to control Hark. Hand gesture controls are disabled by default. To enable, press the pause/resume button for 3 seconds.

To pause or resume reading: move your hand slowly just above the document from the left to the right.

To go back to a previous sentence: move your hand slowly just above the document from the right to the left. Repeat multiple times to reach desired sentence.

Please note that the above hand gestures work only when document is on the Hark base.

### Keypad controls

If optional keypad is included, Hark can be controlled by the keypad.

**Help Button:** This is the round button located in the centre of the keypad. Press the help button together with any other button to hear a description of the button and its function.

Press the button on its own to hear general help information.

**Pause / Resume Button:** This is the round button located on the top of the keypad in the centre of the arrow keys. This button will pause and resume reading.

**Arrow Buttons:** These are the four moon-shaped buttons located around Pause/Resume button.

**Spell Button:** This is the round button located to the right of the help button. Press the spell button to hear the spelling of the current word.

**Voice Button:** This is the round button located to the left of the help button. Press the voice button to change voice or language.

**Save Button:** This is the square button located on the lower left side of the keypad. Hold down the save button and one of the arrow buttons at the same time and the device will save the image and say, “image saved.” Up to four pages can be saved with one page designated to each arrow button.

**Recall Button:** This is the square button located on the lower right side of the keypad. Hold down the recall button and press one of the arrow buttons to read a previously saved page. The device will say “reading image” and then read the saved image.

**Note**: Keypad automatically turns off when it is attached behind Hark camera arm. Keep keypad attached in place when not in use. Remove keypad before using.

### Summary of commands

The table below consists of three columns and sixteen rows. The first column lists the commands. The second column lists the keys on the device. The third column lists the key on the keypad.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Command** | **Keys on device** | **Keys on keypad** |
| Pause or resume reading | Pause/resume button | Pause/resume button |
| Go back one sentence | Back button | See using keypad section |
| Increase reading speed | Speed up button |  |
| Decrease reading speed | Slow down button |  |
| Enable/disable gestures | Pause/resume button long press |  |
| Switch voice/language (alternate through all languages installed). See Note1. | Press pause/resume button and slow down button together for 3 seconds | Press voice button |
| Hear general help |  | Press and hold help button |
| Hear help of any button on the keypad |  | Press and hold help button, then press the button to hear help |
| Enable/disable read through columns.  See Note2. | Press speeds up and slow down buttons together  prior to placing a document | Press arrow left and arrow right buttons together |
| Spell current word |  | Press and hold spell button |
| Save current page into one of four memory slots |  | Press save button and one of arrow buttons. |
| Read page saved in one of four memory slots |  | Press recall button and one of arrow buttons. |
| Enter menu | Press back button and speed up button together for 3 seconds |  |
| Hear battery level (if battery is installed) | Press back button for 3 seconds |  |
| Enter menu | Press back button and speed up button together for 3 seconds |  |

When switching language you will hear the beep, then announcement of a new language. If page OCR is not complete, language cannot be switched until OCR finished. In that case you will hear beep and not the announcement.

Reading through columns is enabled for the next scanned page only.

### Using keypad navigation buttons

Optional keypad can be used for advanced navigation. Use arrow up and arrow down keys to select whether you want to navigate by character, word, sentence, or paragraph. Use the left and right arrow buttons to go backward and forward respectively.

## Menu

Press and hold back and speed up buttons together for 3 seconds to enter menu. The menu items are:

### Languages

List of available voices and languages. Each language/voice can be individually enabled and disabled.

### Settings

Enable or disable LED flash.

### About

Information about serial number and software version.

### Exit

### Menu navigation

The below table consists of two columns and five rows. The first column lists the commands. The second column lists the key on the device.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Command** | **Key on device** |
| Next menu item | Slow down button |
| Previous menu item | Speed up button |
| Select item | Pause/resume button |
| Go back to previous level/exit | Back button |

## Saving books with Hark

Hark allows you to save books or multi-page documents on a USB flash drive. In order to scan a book:

* Plug in USB flash drive to Hark USB port located on the right side of the base.
* Wait until “USB storage detected” announcement.
* Place first page of the book on Hark base. Wait until “Page saved” announcement. − Repeat previous steps for all the pages.
* After all desired pages are scanned, press Pause/Resume button. Hark will convert all scanned pages to text and MP3.

### Reading saved books with Hark

Hark allows you to read books previously saved to the USB flash drive. To read a saved book:

* Plug in USB flash drive to Hark USB port located on the right side of the base.
* Wait until “USB storage detected” announcement.
* Press Back and Speed up buttons together for 3 seconds to enter the menu.

Note: If USB flash drive is inserted, Hark will enter Book Reading Menu instead of Main Menu.

* Press Speed down button to scroll to desired book. Press Pause to enter the book.
* Press Speed down to scroll to desired page. − Press Pause to start reading the page.

Note: Although Hark has an option to convert all the saved books to text and MP3 formats (see chapter 10), it is not necessary to do that to read saved books with Hark.

## How to contact RNIB

Phone: 0303 123 9999

Email: shop@rnib.org.uk

Address: RNIB, Northminster House, Northminster, Peterborough PE1 1YN

Online Shop: shop.rnib.org.uk

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

RNIB Technology Team:

Telephone 0207 391 2280

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

RNIB Enterprises Limited (with registered number 0887094) is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of the Royal National Institute of Blind People ("RNIB"), a charity registered in England and Wales (226227), Scotland (SC039316) and Isle of Man (1226). RNIB Enterprises Limited covenants all its taxable profits to RNIB.

CE logo

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

UKCA logo.


This product is UKCA marked and fully complies with the relevant UK 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).

Date: February 2024.

© RNIB