

Dec-Aid Instructions



Introduction

Congratulations on purchasing the Dec-Aid™ communication aid by Adaptation, Inc. To ensure successful operation of the Dec-Aid, please read and follow these operating instructions.

Your Dec-Aid includes the following:

- (1) Dec-Aid communication device
- (2) Two Pal Pad™ adaptive switches
- (1) Instruction Manual

Each Dec-Aid was designed with these important features:

- * Lightweight, yet rugged and durable construction
- * Capacity for up to ten 6-second messages
- * Pal Pads are rugged and moisture resistant (- colors will vary, additional switches available.)
- * Battery powered (four AAA batteries, not included) for safety and convenience
- * Long battery life
- * External speaker jack

Preview

Your Dec-Aid™ has the capacity to digitally record up to ten 6-second messages, which are activated by any adaptive switches* or Adaptation's [Pal Pads](#). Located on the right side of the device are ten jacks which allow up to ten external switches to be connected to the Dec-Aid. Additional Pal Pads are available from Adaptation. Although there are ten jacks for ten possible switches, you need only insert the number of switches you intend to use. As your messaging needs grow, more switches can be added. The Dec-Aid is well suited for use among

multiple users. One person can use, for example, messages 1 through 5 and another can use messages 6 through 10. Or one person could use, say, messages 1, 2 and 3 for a morning activity, 4, 5 and 6 for an afternoon activity and 7, 8 and 9 for a social activity. Moving the Pal Pads around is easier than rerecording messages. An external speaker jack is provided on the top edge of the Dec-Aid for connection to an external speaker source.

***The Dec-Aid is NOT compatible with Taction Pads**

Operating your Dec-Aid

Battery Installation

1. Check to ensure that your Dec-Aid is turned off by rotating the VOLUME/POWER knob until the click is felt.
2. With the device lying face down, open the rear battery compartment cover by removing the single Phillips head screw.
3. Properly insert four AAA size batteries. (Inside the battery compartment are "+" and "-" symbols that indicate the proper polarities).
4. Replace the battery compartment cover and secure it with the single Phillips head screw (taking care not to overtighten).

Adaptivation recommends using only Alkaline AAA batteries to ensure long battery life and consistent device operation.

Recording a message

1. Plug a Pal Pad into jack number ONE and turn on the power by rotating the VOLUME/POWER knob to mid-position.
2. Slide the RECORD/PLAY switch on the end of the Dec-Aid to the REC position.
3. Press down on the Pal Pad and speak your message clearly, about 12 inches away, into the front of the Dec-Aid holding the switch until the message is finished. The message is automatically limited to a maximum of six seconds.
4. Upon releasing the Pal Pad, you should hear an automatic playback of the message verifying what you just recorded. If you do not hear the message, rerecord the message again, insuring you are in RECORD mode, the batteries are fresh and properly installed, and the volume is turned up.
5. When finished recording, slide the RECORD/PLAY switch to the PLAY position. Press and release the Pal Pad and your message will play back.
6. To record and play addition messages repeat steps 1 - 5 with additional Pal Pads or other adaptive switches plugged into other jacks.

Basic Operation

1. Mount your Dec-Aid and the Pal Pads as appropriate for your situation. The Dec-Aid's light weight, 10 oz. with batteries, makes it more convenient to mount it than other, heavier communication aids.
2. Insert the desired number of Pal Pads or other adaptive switches into jacks on the right side of the Dec-Aid.
3. Record the appropriate messages as directed in the "Recording a Message" section.
4. A message is activated by pressing on the appropriate Pal Pad.
5. Due to its low power consumption, the Dec-Aid can be left on for extended periods without worry about rapidly discharging the batteries. When inactive, the unit is sleeping and powers-up when a switch is pressed. With normal use, a set of four alkaline batteries will last about six months.

Troubleshooting

Problem: When I record a message, all I hear upon releasing the Pal Pad is a clicking noise.

Solution: Rerecord the message ensuring that while you are talking into the Dec-Aid you are pressing the Pal Pad. If you inadvertently bump the Pal Pad while in Record mode the Dec-Aid will record sound for a split second which sounds like a clicking noise when you play it back.

Problem: My Dec-Aid seems to have quit working. It makes no noise when turned on and a Pal Pad is pressed.

Solution: Check the condition of the batteries. They may be too weak to function or may be improperly installed. Check to ensure the volume is turned up.

-Turn the Dec-Aid off, completely remove the batteries and wait 20 seconds before reinstalling them. Turn the Dec-Aid on and try recording and playing back a message again.

-Try plugging the Pal Pad into a different jack.

- Try another Pal Pad or other adaptive switch.

-If none of these work, the Dec- Aid may need servicing. Contact Adaptivation for further assistance.

Problem: When the messages play back, they seem to be very distorted.

Solution: Your batteries may be low. Check and replace the batteries if necessary.

-Adjust the volume to a lower level.

-Rerecord the messages in a quieter environment. Background noise may be affecting the recording.

Problem: Although the Dec-Aid appears to be working, when I press one of the Pal Pads there is no response.

Solution: Check to see if the Pal Pad is properly inserted into a message jack (right side of Dec-Aid). If it is, remove the switch and insert it into another message jack to test its operation. If it still doesn't work, the switch may be damaged or defective. If the Pal Pad works, then there may be a problem with the Dec-Aid. Contact Adaptivation for further assistance.

Problem: The Dec-Aid doesn't record or play back messages when I use Adaptivation's Taction Pads.

Solution: To make the Dec-Aid as affordable as it is, the sensing circuitry necessary to make Taction Pads work was not included in the design of the Dec-Aid. Therefore, Taction Pads do not work with the Dec-Aid. To use Taction Pads with your Dec-Aid, you must first plug the Taction Pad into a LinkSwitch by Adaptivation, then plug the LinkSwitch into the Dec-Aid.