

# SURVEY OF READING STANDS

Dr J. M. Gill

Many partially sighted people need to be very close to the material they are reading. Reading stands can greatly improve comfort by presenting the material at an appropriate height and angle. For the purposes of this survey, when a manufacturer has a UK agent, this is the address given. Many of the stands, particularly those made by Luxo Lamper (UK agent Malt Keyboard Ltd), are available from a number of suppliers who have given them a wide variety of names and model numbers.

This survey does not include overbed tables, which can be tilted for reading. Information on these tables can be obtained from Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS (Tel: 01-602 2491).

Table 1 is a summary of the main characteristics of the stands which are commercially available. The information in this article has been supplied by the manufacturers or their agents, and the author has not verified the accuracy of their claims.

## Equipment available

**American Foundation for the Blind**, 15 West 16th Street, New York, New York 10011, USA. Tel: 212-620 2172.

*Model:* Nielson Low Vision Book Holder LPS7500

*Description:* Sturdy reading stand which can be leant against for writing, pivots to left or right, folds flat for storage.

*Price:* \$32.50, plus \$4.00 handling charge.

*Model:* MC327

*Description:* Permits one to read in a supine position and frees hands. Elastic vertical and horizontal straps hold material to aluminium adjustable support frame. Knob adjusts for height and inclination. Size 20 x 30 x 0.6cm. Folds for easy storage.

*Price:* \$24.95, plus \$3.35 handling charge.

**American Printing House for the Blind**, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, PO Box 6085, Louisville, Kentucky 40206-0085, USA.

*Model:* 1-0322

*Description:* Desk-top reading stand (45 x 60cm). Can be positioned to 65, 55, 45, 35 and 25 degrees; page clamps.

*Price:* \$44.00.

Unireader from DanAnglia Systems Ltd



**Table 1: Reading stands**

Manufacturer	Model	Table-top	Holds books	Adjustable angle	Adjustable height	Can read in a supine position	Folds for storage	Price range
AFB	LPS7500	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
AFB	MC327	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
APH	1-0322	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Classwood	Bookrest	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
DanAnglia	Unireader	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Duffield	Craig Davis	*	*	*	*	*	*	A
Duffield	Floor stand	*	*	*	*	*	*	A
Hand Loom	Wingfield	*	*	*	*	*	*	B
Heyden		*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Hohner	124/1	*	*	*	*	*	*	D
ILA	044999	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Joncure		*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Llewellyn	6F/322/1	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Llewellyn	6L/02/1	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Luna	8664	*	*	*	*	*	*	B
M & M	Visodesk	*	*	*	*	*	*	B
Malt	601	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Malt	605, 606	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Malt	607, 608	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Moorhouse		*	*	*	*	*	*	D
New Concept	Universal	*	*	*	*	*	*	D
Nomeq	Readeasy	*	*	*	*	*	*	D
Parabook		*	*	*	*	*	*	D
Pira	Art 516	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
R.A.T.	Music stand	*	*	*	*	*	*	B
Replogle	Easy-Read	*	*	*	*	*	*	D
T.H.E.		*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Vanpoules	9423	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Walfin	Francombe	*	*	*	*	*	*	C
Westra	W80-L3	*	*	*	*	*	*	A
Westra	W80-L4	*	*	*	*	*	*	A
Worcester		*	*	*	*	*	*	D

A — very high; B — high; C — medium; D — low.

**Classwood Ltd**, 41 Oldbury Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 5NB. Tel: 0684 294270.

*Description:* Small wooden bookrest which can be folded when not in use. Needs a flat surface to stand on.

*Price:* £1.99, plus VAT.

**DanAnglia Systems Ltd**, Unit 7, Cuckoo Oak, Halesfield 18, Telford, Salop. Tel: 0952 582617.

*Model:* Unireader

*Description:* Book holder made from transparent acrylic with metal stand, height and angle adjustable. Stand can be used in a sitting, standing or lying position. Weight 6.4kg.

*Price:* £37.69, includes VAT and carriage.

**Duffield Medical Equipment Ltd**, Mill House, Tamworth Street, Duffield, Derbyshire. Tel: 0332 842357.

*Model:* Craig Davis reading aid

*Description:* Combines overhead reading/writing aid and mirror for the supine patient. Screw fixing to tubular frame bed; wall brackets extra.

*Price:* £174.60, plus VAT.

*Model:* Duffield Floor-Mounted Reading Aid

*Description:* Similar to Craig Davis with improved book holding methods. Can be moved from bed to bed.

*Price:* £118, plus VAT.

**Hand Loom Centre**, 38 Dalewood Road, Petts Wood, Kent. Tel: Orpington 22908.

*Model:* Wingfield

*Description:* Bed frame and desk clips onto head of bed and adjusts in height and angle.

*Prices:* Large frame £59, large desk (40 × 50cm) £30, small frame £51.50, small desk (30 × 45cm) £27.05.

**Heyden & Son Ltd**, Spectrum House, Hillview Gardens, London NW4 2JQ. Tel: 01-203 5171.

*Description:* Heavyweight steel copyholder with rubber feet to prevent furniture marks and scratches. A magnetic paper holder keeps several sheets or notes in position. The bottom shelf holds small books or pads.

*Price:* £18, plus VAT.

**M. Hohner Ltd**, 39-45 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR. Tel: 01-733 4411/4.

*Model:* 124/1

*Description:* Small table bookrest in metal and plastic.

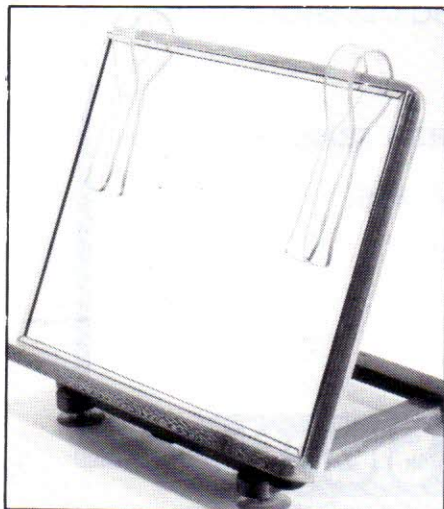
*Price:* £1.95.

**Independent Living Aids Inc**, 11 Commercial Court, Plainview, New York 11803, USA. Tel: 516-681 8288.

*Model:* 044999

*Description:* Versatile bookstand which adjusts up and down, side to side, tilts to various angles. Permits reading in a supine position. Hardwood top (45 × 30cm) with a lip. Elastic vertical and horizontal straps hold reading material securely. Sturdy

The Joncare reading stand



aluminium adjustable support frame. Plastic knob for adjusting height and inclination. Folds to compact 7.5cm width for storage. Weight 2kg.

*Price:* \$24.50.

**Joncare (Meadjess Ltd)**, Radley Road Industrial Estate, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Tel: 0235 28120.

*Description:* Folding table bookrest with suction feet and Perspex page clips. Size 37.5 × 30cm.

*Price:* £16.28, plus VAT.

**Llewellyn & Co Ltd**, Carlton Works, Carlton Street, Liverpool L3 7ED. Tel: 051-236 5311.

*Model:* Able Table 6F/322/1

*Description:* 30 × 45cm wide top with one lipped edge to hold books and magazines, with three elastic straps to hold pages open even when reading upside down. Angle can be changed through 180 degrees, table top height can be varied from 20 to 45cm. Weight 2kg.

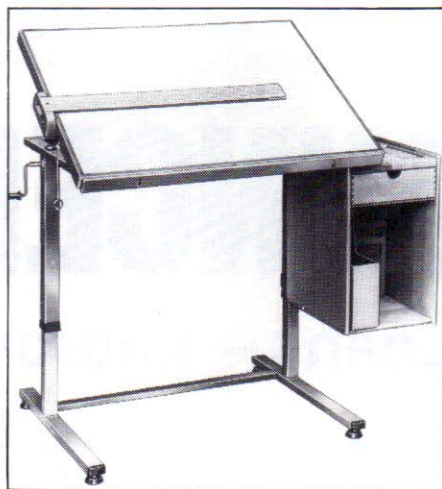
*Price:* £21.50, plus carriage and VAT.

*Model:* 6L/02/1

*Description:* Suction pads hold the folding bookrest on any smooth surface. Angle can be altered.

*Price:* £21.70, plus carriage and VAT.

Table top reading stand from Luna AB



**Luna AB**, Fack, S-441 80 Alingsas, Sweden. Tel: 46 322 730 00.

*Model:* 8664-0307

*Description:* Sturdy table-top reading stand, adjustable in angle but not height.

*Price:* 1050.00 Swedish Kroner.

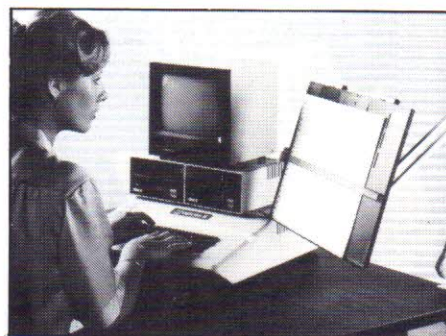
**Mailing and Mechanisation Ltd**, 83 Copers Cope Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1NR. Tel: 01-658 2233.

*Model:* Visodesk Copyholder

*Description:* Copyholder which can be positioned above a typewriter. Incorporates bar magnifier and foot control.

*Price:* £105-£155, plus postage and VAT. Price according to model — either drop line bar or continuous action.

**Malt Keyboard Ltd**, 262 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7NW. Tel: 0865 50043.



Superholder Model 606 from Malt Keyboard Ltd

*Model:* Superholder 601

*Description:* Copyholder with clamp base on arm (85cm) with A4 plate size and load capacity of 0.45kg. Magnifying line finder is available as an extra. Also available with other stands such as a round base for resting on table tops and a floor-mounted trolley stand.

*Price:* £22.50, plus VAT.

*Model:* Superholder 605 (A4) and 606 (A3)

*Description:* Similar to 601 except there is a tension control knob which increases the load capacity to 1.4kg (605) and 1.1kg (606).

*Prices:* £30 and £39.50, plus VAT.

*Model:* Superholder 607 (A4) and 608 (A3)

*Description:* Heavy-based free-standing copyholder with 15cm arm, weight 1.6kg.

*Price:* £19.50 and £28.50, plus VAT.

**R. Moorhouse**, 30 New Road, Moortown, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3AU. Tel: 04254 2983.

*Description:* Newspaper holder made from lightweight cane.

*Price:* £3, plus carriage.

**New Concept**, 14 St George's Street, Winchester, Hants. Tel: 0962 65996.

*Model:* Universal Bookrest

*Description:* Sturdy adjustable all-metal bookrest with variable angle settings. Felt non-scratch base and adjustable page holder. Folds flat for storage.

*Price:* £2.95.

**Nomeq**, 17 Ludlow Hill Road, Melton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6HD. Tel: 0602 234251.

*Model:* Readeasy

*Description:* Lightweight aluminium adjustable folding bookrest (45 × 40cm) supports books and magazines.

*Price:* £8.60.

**Parabook Leisure Services**, Robin Top, Mill Street, Great Harwood, Lancashire. Tel: 0254 886220.

*Description:* Metal stand which folds flat; holds books up to 30cm and magazines.

*Price:* £5 plus VAT and p&p.

**Pira Ltd**, 10 Hoxton Square, London N1 6NU. Tel: 01-739 7865.

*Model:* Art. 516

