

# Turn Dedicated AAC Devices Into High Powered Pencils and Computer Keyboards!!!!

(Original by Gretchen Hanser MS, OTR/L & Deanna Wagner MS/CCC-SLP, updated 9/2003 and 9/2011) -- (Omitted info RE: Serial Keys and AAC Keys -- used before WIN XP and Mac OSX)

## Why?

How many AAC users get to write without major motor issues limiting their ability to be involved in the writing process??? Dictation is OK, and sometimes the only thing, but when do these students get to create their own paper product??? Are we helping the AAC user to explore their language and develop motor memory on their AAC device when we give them something completely separate to enter text with on the computer (i.e. alternative keyboard)?? How about using their AAC device as the pencil? Here are some ideas for using the AAC device to input information into another computer (as another keyboard).

## How?

For DynaVox devices, you can use one of the following:

- **AccessIT Bluetooth®**  
Compatible Devices: [Maestro](#), [Vmax+](#), [V+](#), [Xpress](#), [EyeMax System](#)
- **AccessIT® IR**  
Compatible Devices: [Maestro](#), [Vmax+](#), [V+](#), [Xpress](#), [DynaWrite 2.0](#), [EyeMax System](#)
- **USB Cable**  
Compatible Devices: [Tango!](#)

For devices from Prentke Romich Company you can use:

- **Bluetooth Adapter from PRC**  
Compatible Devices: **ECO, ECO2, Vantage Lite, SpringBoard Lite\***  
\* SpringBoard Lite requires purchase of internal Bluetooth module
- **USB Cable**  
Compatible Devices: **ECO, ECO2, Vantage Lite, SpringBoard Lite**  
**Shipped with the device. For replacement, check the side of device for output ports, either USB printer cable or USB-mini (for cameras)**

**HINT For Group Instruction:** Connect the receiving computer into a projector or SmartBoard

**Applications:** Use for a variety of software that allows inserting text

- Word documents
- PowerPoint (label pictures, make lists)
- Social networking (e-mail, Facebook, etc.)
- Visual mapping software (e.g., Inspiration, Draft:Builder)

**Sharpen Some Pencils: Get Your DynaVox Ready to Write - using a wireless receiver to connect the device to the computer.**

**Setup Your V, Vmax, Maestro, Xpress** (Check DynaVox Knowledge Base!!)

**Adjust Settings In Input/Output Device Settings:**

1. Go to Setup Menu
2. Press Input/Output Device Settings
3. Check Alternate Output (Use Plus Speech or device stops speaking)
4. Press OK to close down Setup Menu

**Make an Alternate Output Button**

DynaVox Systems recommends that when you are NOT writing-Alternate Output should be turned OFF.

**Go To a Page where student is likely to begin writing from-visually locate a place for a new button.**

1. Press Modify Button
2. Select button to edit
3. Press Behaviors
4. Press "Search" and type "alternate output"
5. Add Turn ON Alternate Output to list of behaviors
6. Press OK to close all windows and Save changes
7. Repeat for an additional button to Turn OFF Alternate Output

**OK-Ready to Write???**

1. Plug the AccessIt Wireless Receiver (or Bluetooth) into the receiving computer
2. Open a document or other application with a text prompt (e.g., e-mail)
3. Go to the page with the Alternate Output ON Button on AAC device, and select.
4. As you use the communication device, notice that all buttons with a speaking behavior (e.g., "speak text" or "speak label" instantly transfer to the document. Text that was inserted into the message window will transfer when you speak the message.

**Can't afford a Receiver from Dynavox???**

Use the AAC device (Maestro, V, Vmax) to compose a message in the message window.

From the Setup Menu, choose File, then "Save message as..."

Now you can save the message as a .txt document and open it on another computer.

For the **Tango!** - just plug the USB cable that came with the device into the computer and into the side of the device. Select "keyboard" and the message window now types.

## Sharpen Some Pencils: Get Your ECO, Vantage, Vanguard or SpringBoard Ready to Write

You can use a **USB cable to connect the device to the computer**. Search the PRC Knowledge Base for these tips for your device:

You received a USB cable in the box with your device. If this cable has been lost, you can purchase a replacement cable at a local computer access store. This cable a USB to A TO B cable or a USB Printer cable for Vantage Plus, SpringBoard Plus. On newer devices, a smaller USB-mini cable is used.

1. Go to the Toolbox and open the **OUTPUT MENU**.
2. Set **Output** to **ON**.
3. Set Output Method to USB
4. Select OK to exit the Toolbox.

### **If you want to use a wireless connection:**

1. Plug the **Bluetooth Adapter** (available from PRC) into your computer's USB port.
2. Press the "switch" icon on the Bluetooth Adapter.
3. Select "Output Menu" from the Toolbox of your communication device.
4. Select the "Pair with BT Adapter" option.
5. Once "pairing" is complete, exit the **OUTPUT MENU** and go to your **SPELL** or **MINSPEAK®** overlay.
6. On your computer, open a new word processing document or any application that will accept typing.
7. Begin using your communication device.

The information you type, whether in **MINSPEAK®** or **SPELL** Mode will appear on your computer screen and you are ready to print or distribute your document!

### **Use the TOOLS activity row to turn Computer Output on/off**

If you want to compose messages ahead of time, use the Notebook feature (not available on SpringBoard). Open a notebook and compose your message. Connect cables (or Bluetooth Adapter). Open the word processor or other software on the receiving computer. Select "print notebook" or "speak notebook" on the PRC device from the Notebook activity row. The complete message will quickly send to the receiving computer. To send one sentence at a time, use "Speak Sentence" from the Notebook activity row.