



August 2009

**Brought to you by:**

**Visiting Nurses  
Association of the  
Inland Counties  
(VNAIC)**



**For more information  
about VNAIC contact us  
at 1-800-498-6242 or our  
web site at [vna-ic.org](http://vna-ic.org)**

## **Something Didn't Work for You? Tell Us.....**

The best intentioned and designed assistive devices and gadgets sometimes just don't work for everyone. Let us know if you have such an experience to share with others so they don't make the same mistake in making a bad purchase.

**Published by:**

The nonprofit Independent Living Partnership (ILP) - working for the rights of all to live independently in their own homes and communities.

Visit us at:  
[www.livingpartnership.org](http://www.livingpartnership.org)

## **Having Problems Dressing and Reaching?**



The **Medline Dressing and Reaching Kit** includes five useful tools that are perfect for anyone recovering from hip, knee or back surgery who cannot bend and needs help with dressing and reaching tasks. Included in the kit:

- One Scrubbies Long-Handled Sponge
- One Raptor Reacher
- One Long Shoehorn with a "T" Handle
- One Deluxe Sock and Stocking Aid
- One Dressing Stick

The Kit costs \$45.99 and is available from the CareGiver Partnership. Visit [www.caregiverpartnership.com](http://www.caregiverpartnership.com) or call 1-800-985-1353. Item #MDS1410.

## **These "Eyes" Can Help You Read the Web**

**WebEyes** is a software program that will help you read the Web with ease. It is designed for use with Internet Explorer, and you can adjust the type on any Web page to whatever size you want (up to 144 pt.) Click on the "Read Like a Book" icon and you can turn the page rather than scrolling down the document you are reading. You can change fonts, read with or without graphics, and even adjust the size of a form or box that you want to fill out. There is also a page counter feature that tells you where you are in your document. The WebEyes software is \$29.95 and is available at [www.enablemart.com](http://www.enablemart.com) or by calling 1-800-640-1999.



## Walking Cane Folds to Under a Foot

The **Comfort-Grip Folding Aluminum Cane** has a comfortable contour grip and comes with a handy carrying bag. The anodized aluminum shaft adjusts in height and locks in place from 33" to 37" in 1" increments. *Best yet:* It folds down to just 11" so you can easily pack it away when not using it. The cane will support up to 250 lbs and comes in black. Cost: \$26.99 at the CareGiver Partnership, [www.caregiverpartnership.com](http://www.caregiverpartnership.com), or call 1-800-985-1353.



## Take Your Shower Seat With You When Traveling

The **Moen Folding Mesh Shower Seat** is a comfortable and compact shower seat that weighs just 4 pounds and folds up to a compact size. It is made of quick-dry mesh material that cleans easily to resist mold and mildew, and it has non-slip rubber feet for added stability. A hand-held shower holder is included. The seat will support up to 250 pounds and it comes fully assembled. Available for \$60 at Elderlux—the Age Well Store. Visit [www.elderlux.com](http://www.elderlux.com), or call 1-888-537-5893. Item D200840A.

### Check Out The TOOLS Resource Center —

Our new TOOLS Resource Center features links to organizations, other Web sites and groups that can provide you with useful information and help with your questions about assistive technology, caregiving and independent living. Our web site also hosts a blog written by TOOLS editor Michael Carbine with news, updates and notes of interest, and a collection of back issues of the *TOOLS for Independence* newsletter. You can also take a survey and tell us how we can make TOOLS more helpful and useful for you. Visit us at [www.TOOLSforIndependence.org](http://www.TOOLSforIndependence.org).

## Multi-Language Glucose Readings

The **Advocate Redi-Code Talking Blood Glucose Meter Kit** welcomes you in English or Spanish, announces the room temperature, directs you to apply blood to the strip, and then announces the results (which are also displayed on the screen). It even plays music at the end of each session. Sighted assistance is required to initially program the meter. The meter uses two AAA batteries, which are included. It comes with a storage kit, user's manual, quick reference guide, ten lancets, ten strips, one control solution and one lancing device. The kit costs \$44.95 at Independent Living, [www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com), or by calling 1-800-537-2118. Item #235703.



*TOOLS for Independence™ . . . THIS ISSUE is brought to you courtesy of the  
VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION OF THE INLAND COUNTIES (VNAIC)*





## Blind Spots Are Never a Problem When You Drive

NASCAR racers and even police officers use them, and now you can use the **All-View Driving Mirror** to eliminate dangerous blind spots when you are driving. The mirror is 15-1/2 inches wide so it gives you seamless rear and side visibility, with distortion-free and anti-glare

features. And it easily snaps onto your vehicle's factory installed rearview mirror, so no tools are required. It is available for \$59.95 at Gold Violin, [www.goldviolin.com](http://www.goldviolin.com), or call 1-877-648-8400. Item #90397.

## Now You Can Thread Needles With Ease



The **Infila Automatic Needle Threader** works with large or thin needles and does the difficult threading for you. Simply lay the thread between the center section and one of the posts, place the head of the needle into the post (one for small, the other for large), move the handle toward the post and in the wink of an eye, your needle is threaded! A simple push-button operation lets you do single or double threading. Cost: \$3.95 Available at [www.activeforever.com](http://www.activeforever.com) or by calling 1-800-377-8033. Item #A18023.

## Start Your Car An Easy and Painless Way

This key turner device works with almost all car keys, even those with plastic covers. It provides extra leverage, and it can be used for car door and trunk as well as your regular home keys. The device holds one to two keys with plastic heads, and up to four regular (without plastic) keys. It measures 3" x 1" x 5/8", and the keys fold in when its not being used so you can easily carry it in your pocket or purse. Cost: \$14.95, from Aids for Arthritis, [www.aidsforarthritis.com](http://www.aidsforarthritis.com), or by calling 1-800-654-0707. Item #C19.



**Tell Us What You Need — Or How You Improvised to Make Your Life Easier. E-Mail YOUR ideas to us at [Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org](mailto:Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org) or send them to us at the address listed on page 4.**

## Wake Up Alarm—In Spanish or English

The **Talking Alarm Clock** is a basic functioning clock in a classy silver tone case. And you can set it to speak in either Spanish or English.

The clock has a snooze feature and the alarm can be set to beep, crow or produce a

cuckoo sound. You can also set the clock to chime on the hour. Note that when it is set to the Spanish-speaking feature, it speaks in military time. The clock uses two AA batteries which are not included. It is \$9.00 at the Independent Living store, [www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com), or by calling 1-800-537-2118. Item #247097.



### ***TOOLS for Independence™***

Volume 1, Issue 5

Editor: Michael Carbine

Associate Editor: Ray Mastalish

Managing Editor: Richard Smith

E-Mail: [Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org](mailto:Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org)  
951-653-0740 Ext. 23

6235 River Crest Drive, Suite C  
Riverside, CA 92507-0758

*TOOLS for Independence™* is published monthly by the Independent Living Partnership, 6235 River Crest Drive, Suite C, Riverside, CA 92507-0758. The Partnership is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation organized for the purpose of improving or preserving the independence and dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, their caregivers and families. The education programs of the Partnership are supported by sponsorships, grants, and the charitable contributions of individuals and organizations.

#### **NOTICE**

***TOOLS for Independence™ and VNAIC do not endorse or assume responsibility for any products referenced in this publication and are responsible only for the information presented.***

This newsletter is distributed to you courtesy of the Visiting Nurses Association of the Inland Counties (VNAIC) in cooperation with the Independent Living Partnership. VNAIC is the only non-profit in-home nursing and hospice provider agency serving Riverside County and the Inland Empire.



***TOOLS for Independence™***

**6235 River Crest Drive, Suite C  
Riverside, CA 92507-0758**