

Switch Types & Mounting Options




The following document provides four categories of switch types. Each switch category is organized with an image, the common name, some features, and who would benefit from the switch type. This document also provides similar information for switch plates and mounting arm options. This is by no means an exhaustive list of switch and mounting options. Please reach out to your local Assistive Technology lending library or Tobii Dynavox Solutions Consultant for more information and options.

Switch Types


Mechanical Switches

Switch Image	Switch Name	Features	Beneficial for switch users who:
	Buddy Button	Auditory & tactile feedback provided Available in a variety of colors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are new to switch access • need tactile and auditory feedback from switch
	Jelly Bean	Durable 2.5-inch target area Wired connection Uses Universal Mounting Plate	


	Big Buddy Button	<p>4.5 or 5-inch target area</p> <p>Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>Durable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need more surface area to activate the switch than the regular buddy button • have visual impairments
	Big Red	<p>Auditory & tactile feedback provided</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Uses a Universal Mounting Plate</p>	
	Specs Switch	<p>1 3/8-inch target area</p> <p>Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>Can be worn</p> <p>Most often used as a mounted switch</p> <p>Space saving flush base</p> <p>Strap base (strap included)</p> <p>Auditory & tactile feedback provided</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Uses a Universal Mounting Plate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can use a buddy button but has greater control allowing use of a smaller switch • requires the switch to be mounted

	<p>Micro Light Switch</p>	<p>1.7x0.5-inch target area</p> <p>Requires a light touch</p> <p>Auditory & tactile feedback provided</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Uses Micro Light Plate for mounting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have difficulty applying pressure • have limited movement to activate
	<p>Pillow Switch</p>	<p>3.3-inch target area</p> <p>Smooth & soft surface</p> <p>Auditory & tactile feedback provided</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Uses Velcro or safety pin for mounting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swat at the switch • focus on sensation of hitting switch • are overly forceful or injures self when hitting switch • are sensory avers to touching a switch • utilize head or cheek activation
	<p>Blue2 Switch</p>	<p>Provide single or dual switch access</p> <p>Rechargeable battery</p> <p>Two external switch jacks</p> <p>Bluetooth connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a device that is compatible with Bluetooth connection


	<p>BIGmack</p>	<p>5-inch target area</p> <p>Records a message up to 2 minutes</p> <p>Can connect to a toy or appliance</p> <p>Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>Battery operated</p> <p>Uses a Universal Mounting Plate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have visual impairments • have physical disabilities that require a large target area
	<p>Wobble Switch</p>	<p>Activated by moving a 4-inch black flexible arm</p> <p>Move 360 degrees; the arm automatically returns to its original position</p> <p>Tactile & auditory feedback provided</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Can be mounted on a flat surface without a plate</p> <p>Uses a Wobble Switch Mounting plate when connecting to mounting arms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are overly forceful or injures self when hitting switch • have difficulty applying pressure
	<p>Grasp Switch</p>	<p>3 inches long x 1.4 inches wide tube-shaped switch</p> <p>Activated with squeeze or pinch</p> <p>Must be able to release the grip quickly</p> <p>Wired connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have strong grasp control but limited fine motor control in fingers and hands

		Uses a Grasp Mini Joystick Plate for mounting	
	Mini Joystick with Push	<p>Activated by moving joystick in four directions</p> <p>Can activate by pressing down</p> <p>Tactile & auditory feedback provided</p> <p>Wired connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has limited fine motor control in fingers and hands




Proximity Switches


Switch Image	Switch Name	Features	Beneficial for switch users that:
	<p>Big or Little Candy Corn Switch</p>	<p>Available in different sizes Big: 3.5-inch wide target area Little: 1.9-inch wide target area</p> <p>Highly sensitive</p> <p>Does not require a physical touch</p> <p>Can use a wave motion to activate</p> <p>Can come in close proximity to activate</p> <p>Auditory & visual feedback is optional</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Internal magnet for mounting</p> <p>Can also use Universal Mounting Plate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have difficulty applying pressure • have limited movement to activate

Membrane Switches

Switch Image	Switch Name	Features	Beneficial for switch users that:
	Plate Switch	<p>3.15 x 3.15-inch or 1.85 x 1.85-inch activation area</p> <p>Low profile</p> <p>Can use a slide movement to activate</p> <p>Requires light pressure</p> <p>Sealed surface to protect from moisture</p> <p>Available in a variety of colors</p> <p>No feedback</p> <p>Wired connection</p> <p>Universal Mounting Plate needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have difficulty applying pressure • are unable to lift hand, finger or foot to activate a traditional switch • need larger activation surface available with a larger sized switch • are distracted by audible clicks
	Pal Pad	<p>4.5 x 6-inch) or 2.5 x 4-inch activation area</p> <p>See feature list above</p>	

Specialty Switches



Switch Image	Switch Name	Features	Beneficial for switch users that:
	Twitch Switch	<p>Activated by a subtle muscle movement (i.e.: an eye brow lift, a wrinkle of the forehead, or an isolated muscle contraction)</p> <p>Uses sensors on the skin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use any other type of switch due to limited control of typical switch sites have control of isolated muscle movement
	EMG Switch	<p>Activated by the electrical impulses from muscle contractions, including minimal and indiscernible muscle activity</p> <p>Requires placement of three sensors, two active and one control sensor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use any other type of switch due to limited muscle movement or control of typical switch sites for those who have limited muscle activity
	Sip/Puff Switch	Activated with breath from the mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use any other type of switch due to limited control of typical switch sites

	<p>Sound Switch</p>	<p>Activated with a clap or whisper Very sensitive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cannot use any other type of switch due to limited control of typical switch sites• able to vocalize to activate switch
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Mounting Options




Mounting Plates

Image	Name	Features
 A black, cylindrical mounting plate with a threaded hole on the left side and a flat base on the right side.	Wobble Switch Mounting Plate	Connects your Wobble switch to a mounting arm
 A black, triangular mounting plate with a circular hole in the center, a smaller circular hole at the top, and a circular hole at the bottom. It is accompanied by a small black screw and a black washer.	Universal Mounting Plate	Used to connect most switches with a flat base to a mounting arm
 A black, cylindrical mounting plate with a flat top surface and a base that has four rounded, protruding feet.	Micro Light Mounting Plate	Connects the Micro Light switch to a mounting arm

	<p>Grasp & Mini Joystick Mounting Plate</p>	<p>Connects your Grasp or Mini Joystick switch to a mounting arm</p>
	<p>Pneumatic Switch Plate</p>	<p>Connect your Pneumatic switch to a mounting arm</p>

Mounting Arms

Image	Name	Features	Compatible with:
	<p>Tabletop Suction Mount Arm</p>	<p>Mounts to a smooth surface Two suction cups Pivoting arm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Mounting Plate • Wobble Switch Mounting Plate • Micro Light Mounting Plate

	<p>Latitude with Super Clamp</p>	<p>Mounts to 2-inch table edge or tubing</p> <p>High rigidity</p> <p>20-inch reach</p> <p>Can hold up to 7 lbs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Mounting Plate • Wobble Switch Mounting Plate • Micro Light Mounting Plate • Grasp & Mini Joystick Plate • Pneumatic Switch Plate
	<p>Hover with Super Clamp</p>	<p>Light & strong - Made with carbon fiber</p> <p>Mounts to 2-inch table edge or tubing</p> <p>Medium rigidity</p> <p>24-inch reach</p> <p>Can hold up to 5 lbs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Mounting Plate • Wobble Switch Mounting Plate • Micro Light Mounting Plate
	<p>Gooseneck with Super Clamp</p>	<p>Mounts to 2-inch table edge or tubing</p> <p>Low rigidity</p> <p>19-inch reach</p> <p>Can hold up to 1 lb.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Mounting Plate • Wobble Switch Mounting Plate • Micro Light Mounting Plate

	<p>Friction Knob UMS with Super Clamp</p>	<p>Mounts to 2-inch table edge or tubing</p> <p>Medium rigidity</p> <p>20.5 reach</p> <p>Can hold up to 5 lbs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Mounting Plate • Wobble Switch Mounting Plate • Micro Light Mounting Plate
	<p>Magic Arm with friction knob or lever</p>	<p>Mounts to 2-inch table edge or tubing</p> <p>20.5-inch reach</p> <p>Holds up to 5lbs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Mounting Plate • Micro Light Mounting Plate

Images for this document were collected from goboardmaker.com, ablenetinc.com, and enablingdevices.com.