Unmasking the Mask
(and other voice writing equipment)
Facilitated by Becky Young
CSR, RPR, RCP, RCP-M, CLVS

Total Access Captioning
www.totalaccesscaptioning.com
totalaccesscaptioning@gmail.com
Office 405-470-4404   Cell 405-740-6833
Disclaimer

I’m just the Facilitator. Let’s share!!!
Who are your cohorts?

1. Mask only?
2. Headset only?
3. Both?
4. Neither?
Vintage Mask (aka Moose Mask)
Is anyone still using these?
Masks
How Many Names Are There?
I'm Confused!

Stenomask
Steno Mask
Sylencer
Smart Mic
Classic
Steno SR
Mini Mask
Talk Tech Mask
Steno SR
SR Pro
SR-Pro 1
Pro 1

SR-1
SR-Pro 2
Pro 2
SR-2
Dragon Stenomask
Martel Mask
SM200
SM100
AudioScribe Mask
Wireless Mask
Accuspeak
Masks
Manufacturers

Talk Technologies
https://talktech.com/

Martel
http://www.martelelectronics.com/

AudioScribe (AccuSpeak)
https://audioscribe.com/
https://audioscribe.com/portfolio-item/accuspeak/

Other manufacturers I may not be aware of? These can be purchased from various sites and businesses, but these links are for the manufacturers.
Masks
What’s in the Future?

HushMe
http://gethushme.com/
Down the Pike
For Mobile Phones

MuteMike
A USB mic made for Karaoke
Talk Technologies

Steno SR Pro-2
New style, smaller & lighter
Dual mics
SmartMic microphone
Enhanced sound-proofing

Steno SR Pro-1
New style, smaller & lighter
Single mic
SmartMic microphone
Enhanced sound-proofing

Steno SR
New style, smaller & lighter
Single mic
SmartMic microphone
(adjustable)
Less sound-proofing material

Classic Sylencer (SM100 & SM200)
Older style
SmartMic microphone
Still available but phasing out
Talk Technologies
NEW Facepiece

Talk Technologies

Facepieces

Mouth-only Facepiece

Over-Nose Facepiece

Reversed Over-Nose Facepiece
Martel Stenomask
Several Names according to the plug(s)

MM-18 Steno Mini Mask (for computers & handheld recorders) stenomask
$179.00

Revolutionary Dragon Stenomask for Voice Recognition
$299.99

Wireless Stenomask
-$699.99

Martel Stenomask
Several Names according to the plug(s)

Dragon Mask
1 or 2 microphones
USB sound card is built in
Breathing holes bottom front

Wireless Stenomask
Was a special request, no longer in production

Martel Mouthpieces

Silicon mouthpiece that comes standard with all Martel masks

Full face mouthpiece is an accessory product

Leather mousepiece is soft and cushiony. Website says it makes a better seal. Have seen folks adapt this to the TalkTech.
“The **AccuSpeak dictation mask** was designed by The AudioScribe Corporation after eight years of repairing other dictation masks. It was specifically designed to add strengths where other masks often needed repairs. These advancements improve the reliability and sound quality of our masks. The AccuSpeak mask uses a ventilation tube that facilitates a constant flow of air. Some of the other masks available on the market rely on valves that can fail or ventilation holes that can whistle; both allowing sound to escape, or worse – make more sound. Another way we have minimized mask sound is to point the ventilation tube downward toward the floor and not forward into the room.”
AudioScribe

AccuSpeak mask photo shows it without a seal. The purchaser gets their choice of one seal. Seals are also sold separately.

AudioScribe has a unique gel seal.

Seals - [https://audioscribe.com/portfolio-item/mask-seals/](https://audioscribe.com/portfolio-item/mask-seals/)
Types of Audio Plugs

Common size 1/8”
Mono (left) vs. Stereo (right)

2.5 mm mono
3.5 mm 1/8” mono
3.5 mm 1/8” stereo
6.35 mm ¼” stereo

XLR plug
For some recorders
Additional Sites to Purchase Masks

E-Verbatim

Advantage Software
https://www.eclipsecat.com/catalog/audio

Amazon (carries Talk Technologies)

Start Stop Dictation
https://www.startstop.com/talktech-sylencer-speechmask/

VoxRite
https://www.voxrite.com/shop/

eBay – might find used masks for students, but would recommend getting new.
https://www.ebay.com/i/132663238664?chn=ps – found a wireless one for sale there
Let’s Swap
Try a different brand mouthpiece on your mask

Let’s face it, not one size fits all. Reporters may have a favorite mouthpiece that doesn’t come with their preferred mask. It may take a bit of manipulation, but you can get most any mouthpiece to fit most masks.

“Debbie Villien This is what I do: cut the top part of the TT facepiece off so you have a tad over 1/2 inch left of the bottom part which fits onto the mask. (either one works, the regular or over the nose facepiece) Place that on the mask, then maneuver/work the SoftSeal on..it definitely takes some effort, and possibly some choice words I have mine cut so you can't see the grey of the facepiece once the SoftSeal is on. I don't want too much extra, I think it makes it more secure. I've been doing this since the original TalkTech came out, and I've never had a problem with them coming loose. I also pinch the top part of the SoftSeal where my nose is, and stitch it a few times, so I can breathe. I put moleskin around mine for comfort/so it doesn't make me sweat. I'll post a couple of pics in a minute (please excuse the makeup, This is an older one that I took apart for a demonstration) Last pic is some else’s version of putting a padded mask on a TT.
Let’s Swap

Rubber TT mouthpiece on a Martel mask.

Wrist sweat band on TT with over-nose turned upside down.
Customizing

Outside:
• Muffle Mitt – 1 or 2 muffle mitts
• Socks
• Auto sound dampening
• Faux leather
• Bubble wrap
• Black self-adhering bandage wrap

Inside:
• Shamwow (lightly glue layers)
• Nursing pads (use & toss)
• Straws to extend breathing holes
• Press n Seal over mic

Mouthpiece:
• Molefoam
• NVRA mask liners

Disclaimer: No specific recommendations. Alter at your own risk!
Muffle Mitts

2 sizes:
  Talk Tech Classic (old style)
  Talk Tech Steno SR (new style, eVerbatim & VoxRite, others may have)
  Martel & Accuspeak

Many sites that sell masks also sell muffle mitts - won’t list all here

Doubled up!
Shamwow

clean, change & dry frequently
Hands-Free

Hands-Free Mask stand by Voc Edit

Hands-Free Stand by Talk Tech

Hands-Free Strap by Talk Tech
https://talktech.com/shop/stenomask-store/hands-free-strap/

Hands-Free Strap by Denise Carroll Halasey
https://www.etsy.com/listing/506283419/handsfree-gadget

Look what I made. I tried the band for hands-free and it was just too uncomfortable for me. Then I tried the monitor clamp and attaching the mask with Vibrio. The clamp did not stay in place whenever I applied any pressure forward on the mask, and the bondable thingy didn’t stay in place either. So I saw this desk lamp with a large clamp and a really sturdy bandy thingy. Attached the lamp under the lamp part and with Vibrio, then wrapped with electrical tape and put a “specially-cut sock” around the whole thing. Works great. I can really lean into it and move my hands to work on computer at the same time. Poured the lamp at $29.99. It is battery-operated so no electric cords. The lamp was $29.99.

Get creative and make your own!
Hands-Free

Donna Miller,
donna@donnamillerccr.com
Carrying Cases

Talk Tech Case
USB Sound Adapters

Sound pods can be purchased from a variety of websites, but for ease, just showing from Amazon. Some have dual inputs for microphone and headset. Some have an extender to move the plug device away from your computer.

A Few Name Brands:
- Andrea
- Pure Audio
- Creative
- SoundBlaster
- SpeechMatic
- Buddy
Headsets

Decide if you want: 
1. Microphone only
2. Integrated Headset & Microphone


https://www.headsets.com/computer/usb/

https://www.headsets.com/headset/deskmate-dual-ear-for-your-computer-usb-call-control/

Voc Edit V-Mic

Recording 2\textsuperscript{nd} audio source to CAT

To record the audio from a computer (not the room), it needs to have the sound come from a \textit{microphone input}. You need to take what you hear on your headset and figure out how to turn that into a microphone input. Our \#1 audio mic input to our computer is the headset microphone that you speak into for Dragon. But that’s not what you want to record; you want the speaker’s voice. Makes it so easy to spot-check right where you want to. I personally prefer using two computers.

**SCENARIO 1 – Using 2 Computers**

1. The first computer has Dragon and CAT software. The meeting or class audio is coming from the second computer. You will need to split or duplicate the audio from Computer \#2 out so you can listen from one and send the other one to your CAT computer. I like a Boostaroo because it not only gives me an extra “out” audio port, but you can also boost the sound in case you have a soft-spoken presenter [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00FZZ8N5O/](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00FZZ8N5O/)
2. Using a male-to-male audio cable, plug one end into the Bostaroo (or splitter) and plug the other into a sound pod. It will be simpler if you use a sound pod of a different brand than you do for Dragon, so it is easily identifiable which is which. Plug that sound pod USB into an available port on your computer. Your software will now recognize that you have two different microphones.
Recording 2nd Audio Source to CAT

SCENARIO 2 – Using 1 Computer

You will need to set up Windows have two audio outputs from your volume mixer. Generally you tell your computer you want to listen from your speakers or a headset, not both. For this to work, you need to listen from two audio outputs, called a “Stereo Mix” by Windows. (This doesn’t apply if you get your sound from a second computer.) Here’s two YouTube videos explaining how to do that.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zvezLmCDBI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV46UXLsVW4&index=1&t=50s&list=LLyEvZX64_52MbVRTWy67mBA

Once you have the dual audio output set up, you then would plug the 3.5mm male/male cable
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B001O5J47U/_encoding=UTF8?coliid=I2TE3ZQR6L113P&colid=L1ANDCN19YRZ&psc=0 into your computer where you’d plug in regular analog headphones. Picture #1 shows my cheapo headphones - that's where you put one end of the male cable. The other end of the 3.5mm cable goes into a USB sound pod and plug that in, which your software will then recognize as microphone #2. (Picture #2 shows those 2 pieces). Ideally it should be a different brand than the other sound pod you are using.

The end result is that you have 2 audio in and 2 audio out. That's a lot of stuff going on for one computer, but it's doable with a powerful computer.
Miscellaneous

Boostaroo
Audio Splitter
Audio Extension Cable
Audio Adapters

Amazon Public List:  http://a.co/h5Y3jpz  Called Voice Writers Wish List
That's All!

It's Swap Time

THANKS!!!

QR Barcode link to Total Access Captioning

QR Barcode link to download PowerPoint